

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 350

By: Senators Gilmore, B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE FUNDING FOR STATE-SUPPORTED MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCES; TO CREATE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCES; TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES OF DRUG TASK FORCE EMPLOYEES, THE DRUG TASK FORCE COORDINATOR, AND DRUG TASK FORCE COORDINATOR EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COORDINATOR - MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCES APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - DRUG TASK FORCE COORDINATOR. There is hereby established for the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
		No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	DRUG TASK FORCE COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS12
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DRUG TASK FORCE COORDINATOR. There is hereby appropriated, to the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator - Drug Task Force Coordinator for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$180,000
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	72,000
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	75,000
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	2,000
	(C) PROF. FEES	0
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$329,000</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCE. There is hereby established for the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	DRUG TASK FORCE COMMANDER	20	GRADE GS11
(2)	DRUG TASK FORCE SUPERVISING AGENT	20	GRADE GS09
(3)	DRUG TASK FORCE AGENT	60	GRADE GS09
(4)	DRUG TASK FORCE ADMIN. ASST.	<u>20</u>	GRADE GS06
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	120	

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and

operating expenses of the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator - Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,032,400
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	3,212,960
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	2,821,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$14,066,360</u>

SECTION 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SALARIES. The salaries of the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force agents and employees shall be consistent with that established by the state pay plan for the appropriate grade of each position.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. LEAVE BENEFITS. Drug Task Force agents and employees who convert from county or grant funded employment to state employment and are employed prior to the effective date of this legislation shall have their length of service with the county recognized for purposes of accrual rates for sick leave and annual leave.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUNDING OF

EXPENSES AND ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL DRUG TASK FORCE. Each Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force shall continue to bear the responsibility and expense of providing, at the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force expense the following at sufficient levels for operation:

(1) The cost of facilities, equipment supplies, and other office expenses for the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force.

(2) The Drug Task Force shall provide compensation of additional personnel and expenses within the Drug Task Force which are not covered by this Act.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUNDS. The funds designated by this Act shall not be subject to the provisions of Ark. Code Ann. §12-17-102 (b)(2).

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly, in the transition to a state-funded Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force system, to provide an appropriate and adequate level of Drug Enforcement Activity through Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces in all areas of the state. It is recognized by the General Assembly that in many areas of the state resources have not been available to support Drug Enforcement at the necessary level. With the transition of funding of Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces to state funding; it is not the intent of the General Assembly to adversely affect those districts whose system has been working well or to implement a system which is too inflexible to respond to the needs of each judicial district or task force area. Therefore, the Prosecution Coordination Commission is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the maintenance of a system which equitably serves all areas of the state by providing statewide coordination of drug enforcement with law enforcement agencies statewide.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,

2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 10. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 11. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 12. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.