

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/7/25

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 71

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS, THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS, JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE OFFICERS AND DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE OFFICERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS - COURT PERSONNEL APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Trial Court Administrators for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	Q226C	TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR	<u>127</u>	GRADE SGS08



MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES 127

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, Trial Court Administrator Substitutes expenses and Trial Court Administrators expenses of the Trial Court Administrators of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$7,610,945
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,754,074
(03)	TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES	175,000
(04)	TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR SUBSTITUTES	<u>175,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$10,715,019</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	Q227C	COURT REPORTER	<u>127</u>	GRADE SGS09
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	127	

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, expenses allowance, indigent transcripts and court reporter substitutes of the Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,335,221
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,920,440
(03) EXPENSES ALLOWANCE	350,000
(04) INDIGENT TRANSCRIPTS	600,000
(05) COURT REPORTER SUBSTITUTES	<u>375,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$12,580,661</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for reimbursement of a portion of the salaries of full-time juvenile probation and intake officers in accordance with Arkansas Code 16-13-327 and Arkansas Code 16-13-328 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2025-2026</u>
(01) JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS	<u><u>\$4,618,100</u></u>

SECTION 6. REGULAR SALARIES - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item <u>No.</u>	Class <u>Code Title</u>	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year <u>2025-2026</u>
(1)	Q231C DRUG COURT JUV PROB & INTAKE OFF	<u>13</u>	GRADE SGS08
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	13	

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services for the Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers and

operating expenses for risk assessment and behavioral screenings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$718,242
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	267,941
(03) ASSESSMENT-SCREENINGS EXPENSES	<u>87,500</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,073,683</u>

SECTION 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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.

*/s/Joint Budget Committee*