

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

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4

As Engrossed: S4/23/26

A Bill

SENATE BILL 77

5 By: Senator C. Tucker
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
11 EDUCATION - EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION DIVISION - STATE
12 MATCHING FUNDS FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE
13 MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,
14 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

17 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
18 EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION DIVISION
19 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
20 YEAR.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE MEMBERSHIP DUES
27 STATE MATCHING. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of
28 Education, to be payable from the Educational Television Fund Account, for
29 state matching funds to provide for the payment of annual membership dues to
30 the Public Broadcasting Service of the Department of Education - Educational
31 Television Division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:
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ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) PAYMENT OF ANNUAL PBS MEMBERSHIP DUES	<u>\$550,000</u>



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2 SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
3 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PUBLIC
4 BROADCASTING SERVICE MEMBERSHIP DUES - MATCHING FUNDS.

5 (a) The funds appropriated in this act for state matching of private
6 donations to the Educational Television Division or the Arkansas TV
7 Foundation for the payment of membership dues to the Public Broadcasting
8 Service shall be paid on a one-to-one state-to-private-donation matching
9 basis.

10 (b)(1) Before the matching funds described under subsection (a) of this
11 section are disbursed to the Public Broadcasting Service, the division shall
12 certify to the Secretary of the Department of Education the amount of the
13 private donations.

14 (2) Private donations received by the division or the Arkansas TV
15 Foundation for the purpose of paying the Public Broadcasting Service
16 membership dues are eligible for certification under subdivision (b)(1).

17 (c)(1) The division shall certify private donations under subsection (b) of
18 this section on December 31, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

19 (2) A state matching payment shall be paid on each of the dates in
20 subdivision (c)(1) of this section following the certification of eligible
21 private donations up to the amount appropriated in this act.

22 (d) Any balance remaining in the subfund of the Educational Television Fund
23 Account for state matching funds for the payment of membership dues for the
24 Public Broadcasting Service at the end of the fiscal year shall be returned
25 to the General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund.

26 (e) The provisions of this section shall expire on June 30, 2027.
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28 SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
29 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
30 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
31 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
32 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
33 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
34 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
35 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
36 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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2 SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
3 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
4 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
5 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
6 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
7 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
8 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
9 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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11 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
12 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
13 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
14 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
15 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
16 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
17 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
18 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
19 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
20 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
21 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

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23 /s/C. Tucker
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