

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4
5 By: Senator C. Tucker
6
7

A Bill

SENATE BILL 77

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.

Subtitle

18 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
19 EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION DIVISION
20 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
21 YEAR.

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

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:

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. FUNDING
4 TRANSFER. Immediately upon the effective date of this act, the Chief Fiscal
5 Officer of the State shall transfer on his or her books and those of the
6 Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State the sum of five hundred fifty
7 thousand dollars (\$550,000) from the General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund
8 to a subfund of the Educational Television Fund Account to be used
9 exclusively for state matching funds for the payment of annual membership
10 dues to the Public Broadcasting Service as a one-to-one state-to-private-
11 donation match.

12
13 SECTION 3. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
14 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PUBLIC
15 BROADCASTING SERVICE MEMBERSHIP DUES - MATCHING FUNDS.

16 (a) The funds appropriated in this act for state matching of private
17 donations to the Educational Television Division or the Arkansas TV
18 Foundation for the payment of membership dues to the Public Broadcasting
19 Service shall be paid on a one-to-one state-to-private-donation matching
20 basis.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) The provisions of this section shall expire on June 30, 2027.

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3 SECTION 4. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
4 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
5 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
6 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
7 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
8 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
9 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
10 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
11 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.
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13 SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
14 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
15 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
16 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
17 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
18 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
19 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
20 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
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22 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
23 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
24 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
25 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
26 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
27 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
28 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
29 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
30 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
31 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
32 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.
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