

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 14

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	Q249U	AGFC DIRECTOR	1	\$170,437
(2)	Q250U	AGFC CHIEF OF STAFF	1	\$136,703
(3)	Q251U	AGFC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	3	\$135,253
(4)	Q255U	AGFC CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	\$132,292
(5)	Q252U	AGFC VETERINARIAN	1	\$130,050
(6)	Q256U	AGFC COLONEL	1	\$128,282



(7)	Q266U	AGFC IT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$127,986
(8)	Q371U	AGFC CHIEF OF HUMAN RESOURCES	1	\$125,049
(9)	Q370U	AGFC CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	\$125,049
(10)	Q254U	AGFC GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$125,049
(11)	Q404U	AGFC LIEUTENANT COLONEL	1	\$121,923
(12)	Q375U	AGFC CHIEF OF FISHERIES	1	\$121,321
(13)	Q374U	AGFC CHIEF OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	1	\$121,321
(14)	Q373U	AGFC CHIEF OF EDUCATION	1	\$121,321
(15)	Q372U	AGFC CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1	\$121,321
(16)	Q393U	AGFC DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$117,593
(17)	Q392U	AGFC CONTROLLER	1	\$117,593
(18)	Q381U	AGFC CHIEF OF RESEARCH	1	\$117,593
(19)	Q380U	AGFC CHIEF OF SHOOTING SPORTS	1	\$117,593
(20)	Q379U	AGFC CHIEF OF PRIVATE LANDS MGMT	1	\$117,593
(21)	Q378U	AGFC CHIEF OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDTN	1	\$117,593
(22)	Q377U	AGFC CHIEF OF GIS	1	\$117,593
(23)	Q376U	AGFC CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	\$117,593
(24)	Q261U	AGFC MAJOR	3	\$115,563
(25)	Q265U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD	1	\$113,591
(26)	Q258U	AGFC GIS LEAD	1	\$113,591
(27)		AGFC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POOL	13	\$113,591
	Q383U	AGFC IT SECURITY SPECIALIST		\$113,591
	Q382U	AGFC IT DATA SCIENTIST		\$113,591
	Q384U	AGFC IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR		\$113,591
	Q386U	AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP SPEC		\$98,718
	Q385U	AGFC IT DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR		\$98,718
	Q283U	AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP ANALYST		\$95,269
	Q387U	AGFC IT PROJECT MANAGER		\$95,269
	Q388U	AGFC IT NETWORK SUPPORT ANALYST		\$95,269
	Q389U	AGFC IT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST		\$95,269
	Q410U	AGFC IT PROJECT COORDINATOR		\$90,064
	Q390U	AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$90,064
	Q308U	AGFC IT WEBSITE DEVELOPER		\$78,575
	Q391U	AGFC IT ASSET MANAGER		\$78,575
	Q365U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345
	Q311U	AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345

	Q409U	AGFC IT DATA ANALYST		\$67,267
	Q364U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$66,316
(28)	Q267U	AGFC CAPTAIN	14	\$107,692
(29)	Q260U	AGFC DIVISION ASST CHIEF	24	\$105,933
(30)	Q276U	AGFC LIEUTENANT	15	\$103,930
(31)	Q284U	AGFC SERGEANT	26	\$100,285
(32)		AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST POOL	90	\$99,107
	Q394U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST III		\$99,107
	Q402U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST II		\$89,744
	Q403U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST I		\$86,609
(33)	Q268U	AGFC ASSISTANT CONTROLLER	1	\$98,718
(34)		AGFC ATTORNEY POOL	2	\$98,718
	Q452U	AGFC ATTORNEY SPECIALIST		\$98,718
	Q269U	AGFC ATTORNEY		\$89,744
(35)		AGFC GIS POOL	6	\$98,718
	Q271U	AGFC SENIOR GIS ANALYST		\$98,718
	Q279U	AGFC GIS ANALYST		\$95,269
	Q356U	AGFC GIS TECHNICIAN		\$68,354
(36)	Q368U	AGFC STATEWIDE PROJECT MANAGER	8	\$98,718
(37)		AGFC ENFORCEMENT POOL	126	\$96,748
	Q288U	AGFC CORPORAL		\$96,748
	Q299U	AGFC GAME WARDEN 1ST CLASS		\$90,004
	Q309U	AGFC GAME WARDEN		\$85,718
(38)		AGFC SKILLED TRADES POOL	28	\$89,744
	Q278U	AGFC OPERATIONS & FACILITY MANAGER		\$89,744
	Q396U	AGFC FLEET MANAGER		\$86,609
	Q307U	AGFC SURVEYOR		\$78,576
	Q306U	AGFC REAL ESTATE OFFICER		\$75,004
	Q285U	AGFC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER		\$71,432
	Q315U	AGFC MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR		\$71,432
	Q400U	AGFC REGIONAL FACILITY MANAGER		\$71,432
	Q319U	AGFC COMMUNICATIONS SYS SUPERVISOR		\$68,031
	Q326U	AGFC SKILLED TRADESMAN		\$68,031
	Q304U	AGFC CENTRAL WAREHOUSE OPER MGR		\$61,706
	Q327U	AGFC AUTO/DIESEL MECHANIC		\$61,706
	Q335U	AGFC MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN		\$61,706

	Q329U	AGFC CALIBRATION TECHNICIAN		\$58,767
	Q331U	AGFC FIRING RANGE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
(39)		AGFC HR POOL	4	\$89,744
	Q408U	AGFC PAYROLL MANAGER		\$89,744
	Q292U	AGFC PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$89,081
	Q301U	AGFC ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$75,004
	Q313U	AGFC HUMAN RESOURCE ANALYST		\$68,031
(40)		AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM POOL	51	\$86,609
	Q277U	AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR II		\$86,609
	Q296U	AGFC EDU STATEWIDE COORDINATOR		\$75,004
	Q353U	AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR I		\$75,004
	Q302U	AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST		\$71,432
(41)		AGFC GRANTS MANAGEMENT POOL	4	\$86,609
	Q291U	AGFC GRANTS MANAGER		\$86,609
	Q398U	AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR II		\$75,004
	Q297U	AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR I		\$71,432
(42)	Q354U	AGFC ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	\$86,609
(43)		AGFC BIOLOGIST POOL	109	\$80,624
	Q395U	AGFC BIOLOGIST II		\$80,624
	Q294U	AGFC BIOLOGIST I		\$75,004
	Q310U	AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN II		\$68,031
	Q337U	AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN I		\$61,706
(44)	Q450U	AGFC FOI COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
(45)	Q294U	AGFC BIOLOGIST I	3	\$75,004
(46)	Q303U	AGFC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$75,004
(47)		AGFC ADMIN SUPPORT POOL	37	\$75,004
	Q318U	AGFC REGIONAL OFFICES ADMINISTRATOR		\$75,004
	Q323U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST		\$68,031
	Q328U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COORD		\$64,644
	Q339U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
(48)		AGFC ACCOUNTING POOL	3	\$75,004
	Q357U	AGFC ACCOUNTANT II		\$75,004
	Q406U	AGFC ACCOUNTANT I		\$71,432
(49)		AGFC COMMUNICATIONS POOL	10	\$75,004
	Q397U	AGFC CREATIVE ARTIST		\$75,004
	Q399U	AGFC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR		\$71,432

	Q316U	AGFC PHOTOGRAPHER		\$71,432
	Q330U	AGFC COMMERCIAL GRAPHIC ARTIST		\$64,444
	Q336U	AGFC MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST		\$61,706
(50)	Q435U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	1	\$75,004
(51)	Q300U	AGFC LICENSING SUPERVISOR	2	\$75,004
(52)	Q298U	AGFC PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
(53)	Q322U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR	1	\$68,031
(54)	Q314U	AGFC LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	\$68,031
(55)	Q305U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR	1	\$67,877
(56)		AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT POOL	12	\$61,706
	Q324U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST		\$61,706
	Q340U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$58,767
(57)	Q333U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	9	\$61,706
(58)	Q401U	AGFC PRINTER/MAIL SERVICES SPEC	1	\$58,767
(59)	Q343U	AGFC LICENSING SPECIALIST	8	\$58,767
(60)	Q334U	AGFC INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER	1	\$58,767
(61)	Q332U	AGFC FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	\$58,767
(62)	Q341U	AGFC FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	<u>1</u>	\$50,131
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES		647	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred eighty-five (185) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM

FISCAL YEAR

NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$46,698,077
(02) EXTRA HELP	1,891,500
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	16,826,509
(04) OVERTIME	250,000
(05) UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	1,000,000
(06) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	54,907,780
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	517,727
(C) PROF. FEES	4,070,553
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	8,764,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(07) GRANTS AND AID	9,558,644
(08) CONSTRUCTION	<u>17,738,903</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$162,223,693</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GAS LEASE REVENUES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for maintenance and general operations, capital projects, acquisition of land and conservation easements, grants, and expenses associated with Disaster Response of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$850,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	350,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	750,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) GAS LEASE GRANTS	50,000
(03) DISASTER RESPONSE	<u>3,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS. There is hereby

appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses associated with implementing Farm Bill Programs of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$479,508
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	164,143
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,350
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	14,580
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$659,581</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for grants to conservation partners, or other eligible entities for operating, equipment, and maintenance expenses associated with addressing statewide hunger needs of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - BLACK RIVER SETTLEMENT FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with the mitigation to the hardwood timber destruction in the Wildlife Management Area, inclusive of Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) RESTORATION OF BLACK RIVER WMA EXPENSES	<u>\$13,250,000</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and expenditures associated with increasing and improving access to waterways of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - GTR AND WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with Greentree reservoir renovation and other wetland habitat restoration of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GTR & WETLAND HABITAT RENOVATION	<u>\$20,000,000</u>

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PAYMENT OF REWARDS. Payment of rewards shall be from the Game Protection Fund from the Commission's Maintenance and General Operation appropriation as herein appropriated in the Operating Expenses line item of the Operations appropriation.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Operations appropriation to any other line item authorized in the Operations appropriation and the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Gas Lease Revenues appropriation to any other line item authorized in the same section.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission is hereby authorized to purchase from the Maintenance & General Operation Classifications in the Operations Appropriation provided by this Act for promotional items in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), as authorized by the Director of the Commission to meet fish and wildlife conservations and education needs.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIRECTOR SALARY INCREASE RESTRICTION. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director shall not receive any salary adjustment that exceeds their June 17, ~~2025~~ 2026 actual salary by more than five percent (5%) without first receiving prior approval from the Legislative Council or if the General Assembly is in regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session, the Joint Budget Committee.

It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or

Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 14. 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 15. 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 16. 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, 2026 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, 2026 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, 2026.