

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

SENATE BILL 19

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - SHARED SERVICES. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General 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) | ESE09A | SECRETARY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL | 1 | GRADE EXE04 |
| (2) | EEX09A | CHIEF OF STAFF I | 1 | GRADE EXE01 |
| (3) | LAT08C | CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL I | 1 | GRADE SPC10 |
| (4) | FAC08C | CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER I | 1 | GRADE SPC09 |
| (5) | PAS08I | EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |
| (6) | FFS05P | FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |



| | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| (7) PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | 3 | GRADE SGS05 |
| (8) PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST | 1 | GRADE SGS02 |
| (9) IIV05P INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | <u>1</u> | GRADE SGS07 |
| MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 11 | |

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State with transfers from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Shared Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2026-2027 |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$976,041 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 318,712 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 58,350 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 0 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 0 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$1,353,103</u> |

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General 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) | EEX24A MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL | 1 | GRADE SPC10 |
| (2) | LAT04P ATTORNEY II | 2 | GRADE SPC05 |
| (3) | PCA03P CLAIMS SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 4 | GRADE SGS08 |

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| (4) PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |
| (5) PCA01P CLAIMS COORDINATOR | 10 | GRADE SGS07 |
| (6) IIV04P INVESTIGATOR III | 1 | GRADE SGS06 |
| (7) PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | 2 | GRADE SGS05 |
| (8) MNU08P REG. NURSE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 2 | GRADE MED06 |
| (9) MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE | <u>2</u> | GRADE MED05 |
| MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 25 | |

SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General 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: two (2) 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 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$701,304 |
| (02) EXTRA HELP | 4,999 |
| (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 253,106 |
| (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 187,962 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 3,400 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 2,800 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$1,153,571</u></u> |

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General - Federal Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$1,009,874 |
| (02) EXTRA HELP | 5,001 |
| (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 348,059 |
| (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 209,489 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 3,800 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 2,800 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$1,579,023</u></u> |

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - ENTERPRISE FRAUD PROGRAM - STATE - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Enterprise Fraud Program of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General - Enterprise Fraud Program - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (01) ENTERPRISE FRAUD PROGRAM | <u><u>\$900,000</u></u> |

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ENTERPRISE FRAUD PROGRAM - FEDERAL - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the

Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Enterprise Fraud Program of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General - Enterprise Fraud Program - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| (01) ENTERPRISE FRAUD PROGRAM | <u>\$3,600,000</u> |

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - CASH OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$247,164 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 75,190 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 15,645 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 6,710 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 1,200 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$345,909</u> |

SECTION 10. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Arkansas Fair Housing Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Maximum Annual

| Item No. | Class Code | Title | Maximum No. of Employees | Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027 |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) | SSP05C | FAIR HOUSING DIRECTOR | 1 | GRADE SPC06 |
| (2) | LAT04P | ATTORNEY II | 1 | GRADE SPC05 |
| (3) | FFS02P | FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR | 1 | GRADE SGS06 |
| (4) | IIV04P | INVESTIGATOR III | 2 | GRADE SGS06 |
| (5) | IIV03P | INVESTIGATOR II | 5 | GRADE SGS05 |
| (6) | FGM01P | GRANTS ANALYST | <u>1</u> | GRADE SGS04 |
| MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | | | 11 | |

SECTION 11. EXTRA HELP - ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Inspector General - Arkansas Fair Housing 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: two (2) 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 12. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Arkansas Fair Housing Commission - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$637,197 |
| (02) EXTRA HELP | 40,000 |
| (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 240,503 |
| (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 191,573 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 58,000 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 57,007 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | 0 |
| (05) PUBLIC EDUCATION | <u>899</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$1,225,179</u></u> |

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - EDUCATION - TRUST - ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Trust Fund, for operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Arkansas Fair Housing Commission - Education - Trust for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | \$50,000 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 45,000 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 0 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$95,000</u></u> |

SECTION 14. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF INTERNAL AUDIT. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Office of Internal Audit for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

| Item | Class | Maximum | Maximum Annual |
|------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>No.</u> | <u>Code Title</u> | <u>No. of</u> | <u>Salary Rate</u> |
| | | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Fiscal Year</u> |
| | | | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (1) | EEX47A STATE INTERNAL AUDIT DIRECTOR | 1 | GRADE EXE02 |
| (2) | FAU06C INTERNAL AUDIT DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 1 | GRADE SPC08 |
| (3) | FAU07P INTERNAL AUDIT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 3 | GRADE SPC06 |
| (4) | FAU08P INTERNAL AUDITOR | 7 | GRADE SPC05 |
| (5) | FAU02P AUDIT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 1 | GRADE SPC04 |

| | | | |
|-----|---|----------|-------------|
| (6) | FAU04P AUDITOR II | 10 | GRADE SPC02 |
| (7) | FAU03P AUDITOR I | 1 | GRADE SPC01 |
| (8) | FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | <u>1</u> | GRADE SGS07 |
| | MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 25 | |

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF INTERNAL AUDIT - OPERATIONS.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Office of Internal Audit - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$1,926,800 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 636,180 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 702,719 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 44,600 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 51,500 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$3,361,799</u> |

SECTION 16. REGULAR SALARIES - INDEPENDENT TAX APPEALS COMMISSION.

There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Independent Tax Appeals Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

| Item | Class | Maximum | Maximum Annual |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>No.</u> | <u>Code Title</u> | <u>No. of</u> | <u>Salary Rate</u> |
| | | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Fiscal Year</u> |
| | | | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (1) | EEX50A TAX APPEALS COMMISSIONER | 3 | GRADE EXE02 |
| (2) | LAT05P ATTORNEY III | 1 | GRADE SPC08 |
| (3) | FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR | 1 | GRADE SPC03 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| (4) PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |
| (5) ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST | 1 | GRADE SGS06 |
| (6) PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | <u>2</u> | GRADE SGS05 |
| MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 9 | |

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - INDEPENDENT TAX APPEALS COMMISSION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Independent Tax Appeals Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$912,118 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 278,809 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 400,000 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 20,000 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 0 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$1,610,927</u></u> |

SECTION 18. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE CHILD WELFARE OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Child Welfare Ombudsman 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 |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (1) | SSP06I | OMBUDSMAN | <u>2</u> | GRADE SGS08 |
| | | MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 2 | |

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE CHILD WELFARE OMBUDSMAN.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Child Welfare Ombudsman for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$147,360 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 50,000 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 55,000 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 9,000 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 18,000 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$279,360</u></u> |

SECTION 20. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby established for the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

| Item | Class | Maximum | Maximum Annual |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>No.</u> | <u>Code Title</u> | <u>No. of</u> | <u>Salary Rate</u> |
| | | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Fiscal Year</u> |
| | | | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (1) | SSP06I OMBUDSMAN | <u>1</u> | GRADE SGS08 |
| | MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 1 | |

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Inspector General, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services of the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$58,972 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | <u>21,519</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$80,491</u></u> |

SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SHARED SERVICES. (a)(1) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may create a Shared Services paying accounts on his or her books and on the books of the Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State for the payment of personal services and operating expenses in the Shared Services Paying Account Appropriation by the Department of Inspector General.

(2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall direct the transfer of funds and appropriations to the Shared Services Paying Account appropriation section of this act on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

(3) The transfer authority provided to the department in subdivision (a)(2) of this section may be used to make transfers only within the department’s appropriation act or between other appropriation acts authorized for the department.

(4) The provisions of this section shall be in effect from the date of passage through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 23. 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 24. 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 25. 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.