

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

SENATE BILL 7

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 COMMERCE
- STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

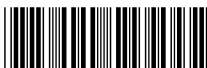
Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -
STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION
FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX23A	INSURANCE COMMISSIONER	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	PPE06C	INSURANCE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER	4	GRADE SPC10
(3)	LAT06C	ATTORNEY IV	1	GRADE SPC09
(4)	PPE10C	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES CLAIMS MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC09
(5)	LAT05P	ATTORNEY III	5	GRADE SPC08
(6)	PRM02C	RISK MANAGEMENT MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC07



(7)	FIF06P INSURANCE EXAMINER SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SPC07
(8)	FIF01P CERTIFIED FINANCIAL EXAMINER	2	GRADE SPC06
(9)	FIF05P INSURANCE EXAMINER III	3	GRADE SPC06
(10)	PCO02C COMMERCE PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC05
(11)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	6	GRADE SPC05
(12)	PRM03P RISK MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SPC05
(13)	FIF04P INSURANCE EXAMINER II	14	GRADE SPC03
(14)	FIF08P SECURITIES EXAMINER II	1	GRADE SPC03
(15)	FAU04P AUDITOR II	3	GRADE SPC02
(16)	FBF03P BANK EXAMINER II	1	GRADE SPC02
(17)	FAU03P AUDITOR I	5	GRADE SPC01
(18)	FIF03P INSURANCE EXAMINER I	1	GRADE SPC01
(19)	FIN04P INVESTMENT ANALYST	1	GRADE SPC01
(20)	PRM01P RISK CONSULTANT	10	GRADE SPC01
(21)	PPE02C BURIAL ASSOCIATION BOARD COORD	1	GRADE SGS08
(22)	PCO04P COMMERCE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	6	GRADE SGS08
(23)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS07
(24)	PCA01P CLAIMS COORDINATOR	7	GRADE SGS07
(25)	PCO01P COMMERCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS07
(26)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS07
(27)	PPE04P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SGS07
(28)	PIC01I INSURANCE COMPLIANCE OFFICER	7	GRADE SGS06
(29)	ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	4	GRADE SGS06
(30)	PCO03P COMMERCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST	4	GRADE SGS06
(31)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS06
(32)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	7	GRADE SGS05
(33)	IIV03P INVESTIGATOR II	2	GRADE SGS05
(34)	PPE02P PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	3	GRADE SGS05
(35)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	16	GRADE SGS04
(36)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	4	GRADE SGS04
(37)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
(38)	IIV02P INVESTIGATOR I	9	GRADE SGS04
(39)	PCR02P CLAIMS REVIEW SPECIALIST	10	GRADE SGS03
(40)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	12	GRADE SGS02
(41)	MPA01P PHARMACIST	1	GRADE MED09
(42)	SRL03P ENFORCEMENT AGENT III	1	GRADE LES05

(43)	SRL01P ENFORCEMENT AGENT I	7	GRADE LES03
(44)	IDA02C DATA ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST12
(45)	IIS06P IT INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST08
(46)	IAS04P APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER I	3	GRADE IST06
(47)	IIS04P IT INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST	2	GRADE IST06
(48)	IUS05P USER SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE IST06
(49)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE IST02
(50)	FAC11C DIVISION FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC07
(51)	IAS07C STATE APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE IST11
(52)	IIS11P IT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST09
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	188	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department 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: nineteen (19) 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 Department of Commerce, to be payable from the State Insurance Department Trust Fund, for personal services, operating expenses, special maintenance and professional services of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,187,821
(02) EXTRA HELP	140,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,871,151
(04) OVERTIME	27,500
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	2,250,674
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	188,000

(C) PROF. FEES	161,600
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	150,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	956,000
(07) AHIM EXPENSES	<u>500,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$15,432,746</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - FUNERAL SERVICES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, 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 Commerce - State Insurance Department - Funeral Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$326,284
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	122,466
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	100,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	5,464
(C) PROF. FEES	2,950
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) LOANS	<u>55,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$612,164</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - INSURANCE FRAUD INVESTIGATION DIVISION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the State Insurance Department Criminal Investigation Division Trust Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Insurance Fraud Investigation Division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$989,458
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	335,422
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	220,635
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	35,000
(C) PROF. FEES	4,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	60,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,644,515</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - PREPAID FUNERAL BENEFITS DIVISION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the State Insurance Department Prepaid Trust Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Prepaid Funeral Benefits Division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$290,809
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	106,399
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	36,700
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	30,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$467,908</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS RECOVERY PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the State Insurance Department Prepaid Trust Fund, for expenses and payment of claims of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Prepaid Contracts Recovery Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) EXPENSES AND CLAIMS FOR PREPAID	
FUNERAL CONTRACTS RECOVERY PROGRAM	<u>\$500,000</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - REFUNDS OF OVERPAYMENTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Revolving Fund, for payments of miscellaneous tax and fee refunds by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Refunds of Overpayments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$11,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Insurance Continuing Education Trust Fund, for personal services of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Continuing Education Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$25,268
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<u>5,916</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$31,184</u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - HEALTH INFORMATION COUNSELING. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, 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 Commerce - State Insurance Department - Health Information Counseling for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$318,851
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	137,135
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	317,407
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
	(C) PROF. FEES	471,552
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04)	PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>55,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,319,945</u></u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - CONSUMER INFORMATION SYSTEM - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Consumer Information System - Cash 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	\$28,005
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
	(C) PROF. FEES	0
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$28,005</u></u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE CLAIMS SECTION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Public Employee Claims Section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,186,551
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	438,871
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	498,631
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	24,300
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,148,353</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - STATE EMPLOYEE CLAIMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Workers' Compensation Revolving Fund, for payment of state employee claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - State Employee Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) STATE EMPLOYEE CLAIMS	<u><u>\$15,500,000</u></u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CLAIMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Revolving Fund, for payment of public school employee claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Public School Employee Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CLAIMS	<u><u>\$400,000</u></u>

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY EMPLOYEE CLAIMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Revolving Fund, for payment of county employee claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - County Employee Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COUNTY EMPLOYEE CLAIMS	<u>\$200,000</u>

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - CITY EMPLOYEE CLAIMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Revolving Fund, for payment of city employee claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - City Employee Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CITY EMPLOYEE CLAIMS	<u>\$400,000</u>

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - GOVERNMENTAL BONDING BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Trust Fund, for operating expenses, refunds, reimbursements, claims, and professional services of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Governmental Bonding Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$5,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	150,000
(03) CLAIMS	1,500,000
(04) PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,705,000</u>

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS MULTI-AGENCY INSURANCE TRUST FUND.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund, for expenses and payment of claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) FOR EXPENSES AND CLAIMS FROM AMAIT FUND	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Public School Insurance Trust Fund, for expenses and payment of claims by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Public School Insurance Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) EXPENSES AND CLAIMS	<u>\$8,000,000</u>

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Criminal Background Checks - Cash 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	\$25,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$25,000</u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS HEALTHCARE TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE DATABASE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Fund, for the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Database, maintenance and operations, data collection and management, and data request fulfillment of the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) HEALTHCARE TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE DATABASE EXPENSES	<u>\$3,200,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - FIREFIGHTER CANCER RELIEF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department, to be payable from the Arkansas Firefighter Cancer Relief Network Trust Fund, for relief to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer and participating in a firefighter cancer relief network for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) FIREFIGHTER CANCER RELIEF	<u>\$250,000</u>

SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, 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 Commerce - State Insurance Department - MIPPA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$235,183
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	90,005

(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	266,229
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	47,630
(C) PROF. FEES	541,802
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>105,291</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,286,140</u></u>

SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS SELF-FUNDED CYBER RESPONSE PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program Trust Fund, for expenses of the Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department - Arkansas Cyber Response Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) EXPENSES OF THE AR CYBER RESPONSE PROGRAM	<u><u>\$10,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 25. APPROPRIATION - SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL SMP. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling and education by the Department of Commerce - State Insurance Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$131,177
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	53,891
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	394,432
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	9,582

(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(04) GRANTS AND AID	192,000
(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>36,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$817,082</u></u>

SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

TRANSFER PROVISION. In the event the State Insurance Department is unable to maintain a full roster of examination personnel, and upon approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the resulting unused appropriations in Regular Salaries, Extra Help, and Personal Services Matching may be transferred to the Professional Services special line item for the purpose of contracting with qualified individuals or firms for examination assistance.

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

SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. REFUND TO EXPENDITURE. The proceeds from the reimbursement of travel expenses received by the Arkansas Insurance Department, shall be deposited into the same State Treasury Fund or Fund Account from which the original travel expenditure was incurred as a refund to expenditure to the credit of the appropriation from which the original expenditure was made.

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

SECTION 28. 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 29. 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 30. 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.