

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

As Engrossed: S4/23/26

A Bill

SENATE BILL 77

By: Senator C. Tucker

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE MEMBERSHIP DUES STATE MATCHING. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Educational Television Fund Account, for state matching funds to provide for the payment of annual membership dues to the Public Broadcasting Service of the Department of Education - Educational Television Division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR
(01) PAYMENT OF ANNUAL PBS MEMBERSHIP DUES	2026-2027
	<u>\$550,000</u>



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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.

/s/C. Tucker