

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 8

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 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 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 Commerce 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)	ESE02A	SECRETARY OF COMMERCE	1	GRADE EXE04
(2)	EEX10A	CHIEF OF STAFF II	1	GRADE EXE02
(3)	EEX12A	CHIEF WORKFORCE OFFICER	1	GRADE EXE02
(4)	FAC09C	CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER II	1	GRADE SPC10
(5)	HDH03C	HR ADMINISTRATOR II	1	GRADE SPC08
(6)	CPR02C	CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS II	1	GRADE SPC07



(7)	FAC10C CONTROLLER	2	GRADE SPC06
(8)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05
(9)	FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SPC03
(10)	FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II	2	GRADE SPC02
(11)	PED03P ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SPC02
(12)	FAC01P ACCOUNTANT I	2	GRADE SPC01
(13)	PPR03C PROCUREMENT MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
(14)	HDH08P HR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS08
(15)	CPR08P PUBLIC INFORMATION SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SGS08
(16)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	2	GRADE SGS07
(17)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS07
(18)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	6	GRADE SGS07
(19)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(20)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS06
(21)	CPR07P PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(22)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
(23)	HBE01P BENEFITS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
(24)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	12	GRADE SGS04
(25)	SRL01P ENFORCEMENT AGENT I	1	GRADE LES03
(26)	IIA03C CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER III	1	GRADE IST14
(27)	IIS11P IT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE IST09
(28)	IAS08I WEBSITE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IST05
(29)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IST02
(30)	LAT05P ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
(31)	HDH04P HR ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS06
(32)	IAS07C STATE APPLICATIONS ADMIN	1	GRADE IST11
(33)	IUS02P USER SUPPORT COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST05
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	59	

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

ITEM FISCAL YEAR

NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,400,000
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,502,564
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	500,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	200,000
(C) PROF. FEES	100,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,802,564</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development 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)	EEX01A	AEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	PPE04C	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR	3	GRADE SPC08
(3)	PED04P	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPV/EXP	6	GRADE SPC07
(4)	FAC04C	ACCOUNTING MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
(5)	PED02P	ECONOMIC DEVELOP PROJECT CONSULT	11	GRADE SPC06
(6)	LAT04P	ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05
(7)	PED03P	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	20	GRADE SPC02
(8)	CPR08P	PUBLIC INFORMATION SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SGS08
(9)	PCO01P	COMMERCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
(10)	CME03P	GRAPHIC ARTIST	1	GRADE SGS07
(11)	CPR05P	PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
(12)	HBE02P	BENEFITS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS06
(13)	FFS02P	FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	4	GRADE SGS06
(14)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	4	GRADE SGS05
(15)	FGM02P	GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(16)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	6	GRADE SGS04
(17)	PPE11C	RURAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SPC05

(18) PC003P COMMERCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST 1 GRADE SGS06  
 MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES 68

SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development 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: seven (7) 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. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses, grants and aid, and state matching funds of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,967,320
(02) EXTRA HELP	50,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,283,186
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,450,650
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	141,486
(C) PROF. FEES	1,765,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE/REGIONALISM	
GRANTS	877,588
(06) GLOBAL BUSINESS INITIATIVES	900,000
(07) MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM	750,000
(08) INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM	<u>1,714,800</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$12,900,030</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL.

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 - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR
	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$382,165
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	136,675
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	60,600
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	70,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS/AIDS - CDBG	48,261,988
(05) STORM RECOVERY GRANTS	<u>7,579,614</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$56,516,042</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for addressing long term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas of the State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR
	2026-2027
(01) CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY	<u>\$8,933,441</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas

Acceleration Fund, for grants and incentives to accelerate the economy of the State through technology and knowledge-based development of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Arkansas Acceleration Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ACCELERATION GRANTS & INCENTIVES	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - SUPER PROJECTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Superprojects Project Fund, for Super Projects as defined by Amendment 82 to the Arkansas Constitution of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Super Projects for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) SUPER PROJECTS	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - NEW MARKETS PERFORMANCE PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the New Markets Performance Guarantee Fund, for refunds and reimbursements of performance program application fees of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - New Markets Performance Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$142,266</u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - QUICK ACTION CLOSING FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund, for incentives to attract new business and economic development to the State by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Quick Action Closing

Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) QUICK ACTION CLOSING GRANTS	<u>\$75,000,000</u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Division of Science and Technology of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$394,495
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	147,361
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS & AID - ARKANSAS RESEARCH MATCH	1,092,653
(05) TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	156,975
(06) SEED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	292,653
(07) ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM	<u>11,600,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$13,684,137</u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - SEED CAPITAL INVESTMENT - 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 investments in technology based businesses by the Division of Science and Technology of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Seed

Capital Investment - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) INVESTMENTS	<u>\$1,040,000</u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - STATE OPERATIONS.  
There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$154,934
(02) EXTRA HELP	2,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	63,022
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	72,038
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,100
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) GRANTS & AID - RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS	500,000
(06) RURAL FIRE PROTECTION GRANTS	<u>900,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,696,094</u>

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - CONFERENCE 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 conference expenses of the Rural Services Division of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Conference Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CONFERENCE EXPENSES	<u>\$150,000</u>

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - RURAL SERVICES - FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM. 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 grants and operating expenses for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Education Program by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	
EDUCATION GRANTS AND AID	<u>800,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$850,000</u>

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LOAN MOBILIZATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Minority and Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization Revolving Fund, for promotion and development of minority and women-owned business enterprises in the state, increasing the ability of minority and women-owned business enterprises to compete for state contracts, and sustaining the economic growth of minority and women-owned businesses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS	
ENTERPRISE MOBILIZATION LOAN	<u>\$500,000</u>

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants to law enforcement agencies and associations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - PAYROLL REBATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund for financial incentives to companies locating a new facility or expanding an existing facility with the State of Arkansas for companies that hire and maintain specified levels of employment for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GRANTS AND AID - PAYROLL REBATE	<u>\$37,500,000</u>

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - RECYCLE TAX CREDIT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund to provide recycling tax credits in accordance with Arkansas Code 26-51-506 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2026-2027
(01) GRANTS AND AID - RECYCLING TAX CREDITS	<u>\$42,000,000</u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be payable from the Animal Rescue and Shelter Trust Fund, for grants to a county or municipality based only on the infrastructure needs for animal rescues or animal shelters for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS	<u>\$50,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - Community Assistance Grant Program, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for community assistance grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Upon determination by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or consolidation of administrative functions within or between divisions is necessary for efficient and effective operations of the department, the Secretary, with approval of the Governor and prior approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, shall have the authority to request from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, appropriations, programs, and funds between divisions or other budgetary units of the department. The transfers of

positions, programs, or activities shall be used for those purposes for which the appropriations were approved by the General Assembly. Upon approval by the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall request to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, programs, funds, appropriations, and/or line-item appropriations within or between existing and newly created divisions, offices, sections and/or units. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall then initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect transfers upon the fiscal records of the State Treasurer, the State Auditor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and Divisions of the Commerce Department. Provided, however, that the Secretary shall be limited to submitting no more than two (2) individual transaction transfer requests during any fiscal year.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Department of Commerce may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Department of Commerce under the Reallocation of Resources provisions herein. Therefore, 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 jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

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

SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND TRANSFER PROVISION. As requested from time to time by the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Chief Fiscal Officer may transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the Auditor of the

State, the sum not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Minority and Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization Revolving Fund, to provide funds for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Loan Mobilization appropriation herein.

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

SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD – MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS LOAN MOBILIZATION REVOLVING FUND. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Loan Mobilization appropriation which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

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

SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION – STATE OPERATIONS. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item appropriation authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act to any other line item authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly

maintain oversight by requiring prior review of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of review 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 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. FOREIGN OFFICE OPERATIONS. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission is hereby authorized to enter into contractual arrangements with private and/or public companies, corporations, individuals or organizations for the purpose of operating foreign offices which shall only (i) provide export trade assistance to Arkansas-based businesses, (ii) facilitate the repatriation to Arkansas manufacturing businesses operating overseas, and (iii) encourage direct investment in Arkansas of foreign companies that are not state-owned or controlled. Arkansas Code 15-4-210 shall not be deemed restrictive in its language so as to preclude the use of standard Professional Services Contracts for the operation of the foreign offices and/or payment of such contracts from the special line items as established by legislative appropriation for the operation of said foreign offices.

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

SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. RURAL DEVELOPMENT. From the funds appropriated for Community Development Grants within the Community Development Program in this Act for Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall allocate at least \$500,000 per fiscal year to the Rural Development Set-Aside from the annual Community Development Block Grant, as defined in AEDC's Consolidated Plan filed with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds allocated to the Rural Development Set-Aside are to be used exclusively for grants to rural communities as defined in the

Consolidated Plan.

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

SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT REVIEW. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall review all applications for grant funds and shall certify those applications eligible for grant funds under AEDC and federal guidelines. The Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission alone shall recommend which grant applications will be funded, and AEDC shall disburse grant funds from the Rural Development Set-Aside to those applicants receiving final approval by the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. AEDC and the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the application for and disbursement of grant funds from the Rural Development Set-Aside, and an annual report of the disposition of these grant funds shall be made to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

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

SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item appropriation authorized in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section of this Act to any other line item authorized in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section of this Act.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by

amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, 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 only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FLEXIBILITY RESTRICTIONS. The transfer flexibility provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission within this Act relating to the appropriation in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section shall be used only when necessary to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and shall require approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, 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 only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED. The Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation is hereby authorized to make additional payments to the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, from private funding sources, and upon prior approval from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation, and the Governor. Such additional payments to the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall not be considered salary and shall not be deemed or construed to exceed the maximum salaries established for unclassified employees by the General Assembly. Nothing in this section may be construed to reduce or eliminate the authority granted elsewhere in the Arkansas statute for the payment of allowances or bonuses to unclassified employees.

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

SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

CARRY FORWARD - INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Industry Training Program in the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

- (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;
- (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the

September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

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

SECTION 34. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD – TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. The Division of Science and Technology of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to carry forward an amount of up to \$150,000 of any obligated but unexpended funds in the Technology Development line item in the Division of Science and Technology - State Operations Section of this Act for basic or applied research grants which remains at the end of the fiscal year ~~2026~~ 2027 to be used for the same purpose.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting

which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

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

SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. APPROPRIATION AND FUND TRANSFERS. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation and funds from the Division of Science and Technology State Operations - Arkansas Acceleration Fund Programs line item within the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund. The total of all transfers shall not exceed \$3,500,000.

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

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall establish, upon request from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, a special appropriation line item to be used in the acquisition of promotional items. When the Arkansas Economic Development Commission wishes to transfer from its

operating expenses to promotional items, the request shall be forwarded to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State for processing after prior approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, 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 only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT AWARD CRITERIA. The Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate rules establishing the criteria to be utilized in determining to whom grants will be made under this Act. Subject to the approval of the Governor, and approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee, the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall distribute the grants.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly

has determined that the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, 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 only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 38. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER OF FUNDS. In the event that revenue is available for transfer to and in support of the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Act, the Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall certify to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State the amount needed for transfer from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund. Upon the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the amount certified shall be transferred. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect all such transfers upon the fiscal records of the State Auditor, the State Treasurer and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

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

SECTION 39. 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 account 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 Commerce.

(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 40. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD - MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds allocated for the Military Affairs Grant Program in the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law. Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)

days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

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

SECTION 41. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Program line item in the Division of Science and Technology - State Operations Section of this Act which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reasons(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting, which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of the appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose, etc.

(30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget

Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

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

SECTION 42. 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 controllaws 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 43. 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 44. 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.