



# **2027-29 Biennium Special Language Requests for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**

Prepared for the General Assembly

**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

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**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

**ACT#: 75**

**SECTION#: 10**

**CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)**

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

PAYMENT OF REWARDS. Payment of rewards shall be from the Game Protection Fund from the Commission's Maintenance and General Operation appropriation as herein appropriated in the Operating Expenses line item of the Operations appropriation.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 through June 30, ~~2027~~ 2028.

**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

**ACT#: 75**

**SECTION#: 11**

**CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)**

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

TRANSFER PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Operations appropriation to any other line item authorized in the Operations appropriation and the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Gas Lease Revenues appropriation to any other line item authorized in the same section.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only  
from July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 through June 30, ~~2027~~ 2028.

**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

**ACT#: 75**

**SECTION#: 12**

**CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)**

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission is hereby authorized to purchase from the Maintenance & General Operation Classifications in the Operations Appropriation provided by this Act for promotional items in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), as authorized by the Director of the Commission to meet fish and wildlife conservation and education needs.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 through June 30, ~~2027~~ 2028.

**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

**ACT#: 75**

**SECTION#: 13**

**CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)**

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

DIRECTOR SALARY INCREASE RESTRICTION. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director shall not receive any salary adjustment that exceeds their June 17, ~~2026~~ 2027 actual salary by more than five percent (5%) without first receiving prior approval from the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session, the Joint Budget Committee.

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

The provisions of this section shall be in effect through June 30, ~~2027~~ 2028.

**2027 - 2029 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT**

**AGENCY: 0080 ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

**ACT#: 75**

**SECTION#: NEW**

**CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)**

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

AUTHORITY FOR MERIT INCREASE EXCEEDING LINE ITEM MAXIMUM. Upon prior approval of the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, merit payments may be awarded to employees who satisfy performance evaluation-based criteria developed by the agency. A merit payment under this section may be awarded to an employee whose salary is below, equal to, or above the maximum pay level for the position, resulting in the salary for the employee exceeding the line item maximum pay level for the position. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, impair, or supersede the authority of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission under Ark. Code Ann. § 15-41-122 to award merit payments as a lump sum to employees reaching the maximum pay level for the position.

This section does not supersede the Director Salary Increase Restriction special language section of this Act.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028.