



Department of Transformation and Shared Services

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Secretary Leslie Fiskens

October 25, 2024

The Honorable Terry Rice, Co-Chairperson
The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chairperson
Arkansas Legislative Council and Joint Budget Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw,

In addition to the requests outlined in the budget manual, the Department of Transformation and Shared Services (TSS) plans to propose the merging of business areas 9914 TSS and 0914 Statewide Shared Services into a single business area within the Department. TSS also proposes consolidating the new business area 9914 TSS, 0470 Division of Information Systems, 0472 Arkansas Geographic Information Systems, and 0615 Division of Building Authority into one appropriation bill to achieve more efficient operations within the department and improve services to constituents.

Our request to combine the positions and appropriation in business areas 9914 TSS and 0914 Statewide Shared Services that are funded by the State Central Services Fund will give TSS the ability to shift resources between divisions as needs and priorities change throughout the fiscal year. This will lead to more efficient use of funds by directing money where it is most needed at a given time decreasing response times to emerging issues. This will also help to facilitate collaboration between these divisions and possibly reduce some redundancies over time. The reduction to a single appropriation bill will help to streamline the management of our budget.

This request will include the following changes:

Appropriation bill structure:

A single appropriation bill that will:

Salary Sections:

1. Combine positions in the regular salary sections into one section named "Regular Salaries – Statewide Shared Services" to include the following sections.
 - Regular Salaries – Secretary's Office,
 - Regular Salaries – Shared Services – Administration,
 - Regular Salaries – Statewide Shared Services, and
 - Regular Salaries – Statewide Shared Services – Employee Benefits Division.
2. Combine positions in the extra help sections into one section named "Extra Help – Statewide Shared Services" to include the following sections.
 - Extra Help – Shared Services – Administration,
 - Extra Help – Statewide Shared Services, and
 - Extra Help.
3. Keep separate regular salary sections for the Division of Building Authority's Regular Salaries.
 - Regular Salaries – State Operations
 - Regular Salaries – Building Maintenance, and
 - Regular Salaries – Justice Building Operations.

4. Keep separate regular salary sections for the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office Regular Salaries.
5. Keep separate regular salary sections for the Division of Information Systems Regular Salaries.
6. Keep separate the Division of Building Authority's Extra Help – Building Maintenance section.
7. Keep separate the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office Extra Help section.
8. Keep separate the Arkansas Division of Information Systems Extra Help section

Appropriation Sections:

1. Maintain the current structure of separate appropriation sections for the Division of Building Authority, the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office and the Division of Information Systems.
2. Maintain the current structure of separate appropriation sections for TSS Appropriation to include the following sections.
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Marketing and Redistribution (Z58),
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Purchase and Corporate Travel Card Program (Z57),
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Information Technology (Z81),
 - Appropriation – Commission Stipend and Mileage Payments (AS2), and
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Employee Benefits Division – Miscellaneous Cash (Z56).
3. Combine the TSS appropriation sections including the following sections which are all funded by State Central Services.
 - Appropriation – Secretary's Office (Z22),
 - Appropriation – Shared Services – Administration (Z77),
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Offices of Personnel Management and State Procurement Operations (Z55), and
 - Appropriation – Statewide Shared Services – Employee Benefits Division Operations (Z59).

Combining these sections will help to achieve efficiencies through the sharing of resources.

Special Language Sections:

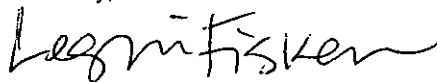
1. Maintain current existing language, limited to the specific divisions identified in the language.

Statutory Changes Required:

1. After reviewing existing legislation, TSS is unaware of any statutory changes that would be required related to this request.

TSS looks forward to working with the Office of Budget and the Arkansas Legislature to accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,



Leslie Fisker, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Transformation & Shared Services