

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 71

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR TRIAL COURT
11 ADMINISTRATORS, THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS OF THE
12 CIRCUIT COURTS, JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE
13 OFFICERS AND DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE
14 OFFICERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026;
15 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16
17

Subtitle

18 AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
19 THE COURTS - COURT PERSONNEL
20 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL
21 YEAR.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is
28 hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Trial Court
29 Administrators for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of
30 regular employees.
31

Item Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code Title	No. of	Salary Rate
		Employees	Fiscal Year
			2025-2026
(1)	Q226C TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR	<u>127</u>	GRADE GS08



1 MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES 127

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3 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby
 4 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 5 the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, Trial Court
 6 Administrator Substitutes expenses and Trial Court Administrators expenses of
 7 the Trial Court Administrators of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year
 8 ending June 30, 2026, the following:

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10 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
11 NO.	2025-2026
12 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$7,610,945
13 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,754,074
14 (03) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES	175,000
15 (04) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR SUBSTITUTES	<u>175,000</u>
16 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$10,715,019</u>

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18 SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby
 19 established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Official Court
 20 Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following
 21 maximum number of regular employees.

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23	Maximum Annual
24	Salary Rate
25 Item Class	Fiscal Year
26 No. Code Title	2025-2026
27 (1) Q227C COURT REPORTER	<u>127</u> GRADE GS09
28 MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	127

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30 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby
 31 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 32 the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, expenses allowance,
 33 indigent transcripts and court reporter substitutes of the Official Court
 34 Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the
 35 following:

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1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
3	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,335,221
4	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,920,440
5	(03) EXPENSES ALLOWANCE	350,000
6	(04) INDIGENT TRANSCRIPTS	600,000
7	(05) COURT REPORTER SUBSTITUTES	<u>375,000</u>
8	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$12,580,661</u></u>

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10 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There

11 is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be

12 payable from the State Central Services Fund, for reimbursement of a portion

13 of the salaries of full-time juvenile probation and intake officers in

14 accordance with Arkansas Code 16-13-327 and Arkansas Code 16-13-328 for the

15 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

16		
17	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
18	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
19	(01) JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS	<u><u>\$4,618,100</u></u>

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21 SECTION 6. REGULAR SALARIES - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE

22 OFFICERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the

23 Courts - Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers for the 2025-2026

24 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

25			
26			Maximum Annual
27		Maximum	Salary Rate
28	Item Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
29	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
30	(1) Q231C DRUG COURT JUV PROB & INTAKE OFF	<u>13</u>	GRADE GS08
31	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	13	

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33 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE

34 OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the

35 Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal

36 services for the Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers and

1 operating expenses for risk assessment and behavioral screenings for the
 2 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

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4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
6 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$718,242
7 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	267,941
8 (03) ASSESSMENT-SCREENINGS EXPENSES	<u>87,500</u>
9 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,073,683</u>

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11 SECTION 8. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
 12 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
 13 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
 14 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
 15 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
 16 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
 17 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
 18 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
 19 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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21 SECTION 9. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
 22 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
 23 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
 24 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
 25 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
 26 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
 27 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
 28 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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30 SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 31 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
 32 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
 33 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of
 34 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
 35 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
 36 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm

1 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
2 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
3 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
4 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.
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