

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 37

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
11 AND LICENSING - WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION FOR
12 THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
17 LICENSING - WORKERS' COMPENSATION
18 COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-
19 2027 FISCAL YEAR.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the
26 Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission for the
27 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.
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| Item | Class | | Maximum | Maximum Annual |
|------|-------|--|-----------|----------------|
| No. | Code | Title | No. of | Salary Rate |
| | | | Employees | Fiscal Year |
| | | | | 2026-2027 |
| 33 | (1) | EEX53A WORKERS COMPENSATION CHAIRMAN | 1 | GRADE EXE02 |
| 34 | (2) | EEX54A WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER | 2 | GRADE EXE01 |
| 35 | (3) | ILP06C WORKERS COMP CEO | 1 | GRADE SPC10 |
| 36 | (4) | LAT07C CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE | 1 | GRADE SPC09 |



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|----|------|---|----------|-------------|
| 1 | (5) | ILP05C WORKERS COMP ASST CEO | 1 | GRADE SPC09 |
| 2 | (6) | LAT01C ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE | 12 | GRADE SPC08 |
| 3 | (7) | LAT05P ATTORNEY III | 1 | GRADE SPC08 |
| 4 | (8) | ILP07C WORKERS COMP DIVISION MANAGER | 7 | GRADE SPC05 |
| 5 | (9) | LAT04P ATTORNEY II | 12 | GRADE SPC05 |
| 6 | (10) | FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II | 1 | GRADE SPC02 |
| 7 | (11) | ILS01I COURT REPORTER | 1 | GRADE SGS08 |
| 8 | (12) | PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 4 | GRADE SGS07 |
| 9 | (13) | PCA01P CLAIMS COORDINATOR | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |
| 10 | (14) | FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 5 | GRADE SGS07 |
| 11 | (15) | HDH05P HR COORDINATOR | 1 | GRADE SGS07 |
| 12 | (16) | TIS01P INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COORDINATOR | 4 | GRADE SGS07 |
| 13 | (17) | ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST | 5 | GRADE SGS06 |
| 14 | (18) | PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | 1 | GRADE SGS05 |
| 15 | (19) | FBU03P BUDGET SPECIALIST | 1 | GRADE SGS05 |
| 16 | (20) | PCA04P WORKERS COMP COORDINATOR | 19 | GRADE SGS05 |
| 17 | (21) | PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR | 13 | GRADE SGS04 |
| 18 | (22) | IIV02P INVESTIGATOR I | 3 | GRADE SGS04 |
| 19 | (23) | PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST | 1 | GRADE SGS02 |
| 20 | (24) | MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE | 1 | GRADE MED05 |
| 21 | (25) | IIS11P IT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT | 1 | GRADE IST09 |
| 22 | (26) | IIS04P IT INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST | 1 | GRADE IST06 |
| 23 | (27) | IUS01P USER SUPPORT ANALYST | 3 | GRADE IST04 |
| 24 | (28) | IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST | <u>1</u> | GRADE IST02 |
| 25 | | MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | 105 | |

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27 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department
 28 of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission for the 2026-2027
 29 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary
 30 employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated
 31 herein for such purposes: two (2) temporary or part-time employees, when
 32 needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform
 33 Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the
 34 appropriate classification.

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36 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - WCC ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby

1 appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from
 2 the Workers' Compensation Fund, for personal services and operating expenses
 3 of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission -
 4 Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| 6 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| 8 (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$7,029,998 |
| 9 (02) EXTRA HELP | 100,000 |
| 10 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 2,455,542 |
| 11 (04) OVERTIME | 10,000 |
| 12 (05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| 13 (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 1,305,495 |
| 14 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 20,000 |
| 15 (C) PROF. FEES | 240,000 |
| 16 (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 1,000 |
| 17 (E) DATA PROC. | 0 |
| 18 (06) REFUND/REIMBURSEMENTS - ADMIN | 500,000 |
| 19 (07) COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE | <u>243,800</u> |
| 20 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$11,905,835</u> |

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22 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - REFUNDS/CLAIMS/INVESTMENTS. There is hereby
 23 appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from
 24 the Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund, for refund of taxes,
 25 payment of death and total disability claims, and investment of funds in the
 26 Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund as allowed by the Department
 27 of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission for the fiscal year
 28 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| 30 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|---------------------|
| 31 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| 32 (01) REFUND/REIMBURSEMENTS - DEATH AND | |
| 33 TOTAL DISABILITY | \$550,000 |
| 34 (02) CLAIMS - DEATH AND TOTAL DISABILITY | <u>21,000,000</u> |
| 35 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$21,550,000</u> |

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1 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - SECOND INJURY CLAIMS. There is hereby
 2 appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from
 3 the Second Injury Trust Fund, for payment of second injury claims of the
 4 Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission - Second
 5 Injury Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| 7 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 8 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| 9 (01) CLAIMS - SECOND INJURY | <u>\$500,000</u> |

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 11 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SEMINAR - CASH. There is hereby
 12 appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from
 13 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 14 Fiscal Officer of the State, for scholarships and educational conference
 15 expenses of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation
 16 Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| 18 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 19 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| 20 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| 21 (A) OPER. EXPENSE | \$85,000 |
| 22 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 0 |
| 23 (C) PROF. FEES | 15,000 |
| 24 (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| 25 (E) DATA PROC. | 0 |
| 26 (02) SCHOLARSHIPS | <u>40,000</u> |
| 27 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$140,000</u> |

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 29 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION BUILDING.
 30 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be
 31 payable from the Workers' Compensation Fund, for maintenance, renovation,
 32 equipping, construction, improvement, upgrade and repair projects for the
 33 Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission Building
 34 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| 36 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| 2 | (01) BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE | <u>\$150,000</u> |

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4 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

6 WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION - REFUND TO EXPENDITURE. The proceeds from
7 the reimbursement of travel expenses received by the Arkansas Workers'
8 Compensation Commission shall be deposited into the same State Treasury Fund
9 or Fund Account from which the original travel expenditures was incurred as a
10 refund to expenditure to the credit of the appropriation from which the
11 original expenditure was made.

12 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
13 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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15 SECTION 9. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
16 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
17 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
18 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
19 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
20 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
21 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
22 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
23 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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25 SECTION 10. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
26 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
27 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
28 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
29 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
30 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
31 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
32 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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34 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
35 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
36 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the

1 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
2 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
3 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
4 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
5 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
6 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
7 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
8 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

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