

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 38

4
5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
11 AFFAIRS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
16 AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027
17 FISCAL YEAR.
18
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
24 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the
25 following maximum number of regular employees.
26

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
31	(1) ESE15A	SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	1	GRADE EXE04
32	(2) EEX09A	CHIEF OF STAFF I	1	GRADE EXE01
33	(3) FAC08C	CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER I	1	GRADE SPC09
34	(4) MHA03C	NURSING HOME DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SPC09
35	(5) MHA01C	NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE SPC08
36	(6) MHA02C	NURSING HOME ASSISTANT ADMIN	2	GRADE SPC06



1	(7)	CPR03C GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SPC05
2	(8)	HDH02C HR ADMINISTRATOR I	1	GRADE SPC05
3	(9)	FAC05P ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SPC04
4	(10)	FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SPC03
5	(11)	SCM04P LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER	1	GRADE SPC02
6	(12)	SCM06P LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER	1	GRADE SPC01
7	(13)	PVC02C CEMETERY SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SGS12
8	(14)	PVS01C VETERANS SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SGS12
9	(15)	CPR06C PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
10	(16)	HDH08P HR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
11	(17)	PPR05P PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
12	(18)	PVS03P VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER SUPV/EXP	1	GRADE SGS08
13	(19)	PVC01C CEMETERY MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS07
14	(20)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
15	(21)	PQA01P QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
16	(22)	PVS02P VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	13	GRADE SGS07
17	(23)	RRE01C FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS06
18	(24)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	4	GRADE SGS06
19	(25)	TMA04P MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE SGS06
20	(26)	CPR07P PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
21	(27)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS05
22	(28)	PPR04P PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS05
23	(29)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SGS04
24	(30)	FFS04P FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS04
25	(31)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	3	GRADE SGS04
26	(32)	PRC05P RESIDENTIAL CARE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	3	GRADE SGS04
27	(33)	THT01I CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	146	GRADE SGS03
28	(34)	TFS05P KITCHEN SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE SGS03
29	(35)	TMA05P MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	13	GRADE SGS03
30	(36)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	4	GRADE SGS02
31	(37)	TFS01P COOK	9	GRADE SGS01
32	(38)	MNU05C NURSING ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE MED08
33	(39)	MNU04P NURSE PRACTITIONER	1	GRADE MED08
34	(40)	MNU07C REGISTERED NURSE MANAGER	1	GRADE MED07
35	(41)	MNU08P REG. NURSE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE MED06
36	(42)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	18	GRADE MED05

1	(43)	MNU02P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE SUPV/EXP	1	GRADE MED03
2	(44)	MNU01P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	39	GRADE MED02
3	(45)	IIA01C CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER I	1	GRADE IST10
4	(46)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST02
5		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	305	

7 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby
 8 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the
 9 Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating
 10 expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - State Operations for the
 11 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
15	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,328,091
16	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	476,999
17	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	197,906
19	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	69,594
20	(C) PROF. FEES	0
21	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
22	(E) DATA PROC.	0
23	(04) AID TO COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE	
24	OFFICES	516,000
25	(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>4,000</u>
26	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,592,590</u></u>

28 SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' HOMES. There is hereby authorized,
 29 for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the 2026-2027
 30 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary
 31 employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated
 32 herein for such purposes: thirty (30) temporary or part-time employees, when
 33 needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform
 34 Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the
 35 appropriate classification.

36

1 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' HOMES - CASH. There is hereby
 2 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the
 3 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal
 4 Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the
 5 Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes - Cash for the fiscal year
 6 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

8	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
10	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$11,204,827
11	(02) EXTRA HELP	45,339
12	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	4,811,875
13	(04) OVERTIME	550,000
14	(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
15	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	14,903,703
16	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	52,500
17	(C) PROF. FEES	1,176,000
18	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	313,000
19	(E) DATA PROC.	0
20	(06) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	6,000
21	(07) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>72,831</u>
22	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$33,136,075</u>

23
 24 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - CASH. There is
 25 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 26 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 27 Fiscal Officer of the State, for matching funds for land acquisition,
 28 improvements, construction, renovation, and purchase of equipment for a State
 29 Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for the Department of Veterans Affairs -
 30 NW AR State Veterans' Home - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
 31 the following:

33	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
34	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
35	(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME	<u>\$15,000,000</u>

36

1 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - FEDERAL. There
 2 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 3 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 4 State, for land acquisition, improvements, construction, renovation, and
 5 purchase of equipment for a State Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for
 6 the Department of Veterans Affairs - NW AR State Veterans' Home - Federal for
 7 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

8

9 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
10 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
11 (01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME - FEDERAL	<u>\$30,000,000</u>

12

13 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - STATE. There is
 14 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 15 from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and
 16 operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans'
 17 Cemeteries - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

18

19 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
20 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
21 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$689,586
22 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	287,096
23 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
24 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	158,350
25 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
26 (C) PROF. FEES	0
27 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
28 (E) DATA PROC.	0
29 (04) CEMETERY REALIGNMENT AND MAINTENANCE	<u>50,000</u>
30 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,185,032</u>

31

32 SECTION 8. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby
 33 authorized, for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries -
 34 Cash for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time
 35 or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds
 36 appropriated herein for such purposes: five (5) temporary or part-time

1 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the
 2 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act
 3 for the appropriate classification.

4
 5 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is
 6 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 7 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 8 Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of
 9 the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the
 10 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

12 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
13 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
14 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$28,020
15 (02) EXTRA HELP	24,000
16 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	14,213
17 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	453,475
19 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	17,600
20 (C) PROF. FEES	0
21 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	125,000
22 (E) DATA PROC.	0
23 (05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>6,500</u>
24 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$668,808</u></u>

25
 26 SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM. There is
 27 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 28 from the Military Funeral Honors Fund, for operating expenses of the
 29 Department of Veterans Affairs - Military Funeral Honors Program for the
 30 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

32 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
33 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
34 (01) MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS EXPENSES	<u><u>\$45,900</u></u>

35
 36 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - NLR CEMETERY EXPANSION 2 - FEDERAL. There

1 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 2 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 3 State, for construction and expansion expenses for the North Little Rock
 4 Veterans' Cemetery of the Department of Veterans Affairs - NLR Cemetery
 5 Expansion 2 - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 6 following:

8 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
9 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
10 (01) CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION EXPENSES	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

11
 12 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES
 13 OFFICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs,
 14 to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal
 15 services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs -
 16 Disabled Veterans' Services Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
 17 the following:

19 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
20 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
21 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$33,205
22 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	15,547
23 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
24 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,000
25 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
26 (C) PROF. FEES	0
27 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
28 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
29 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$51,752</u>

30
 31 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD
 32 WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans
 33 Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for
 34 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans
 35 Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the fiscal year ending
 36 June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$48,400
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	19,037
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	4,182
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS/AID-ASSISTANCE TO MINOR CHILDREN	<u>107,762</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$179,381</u></u>

SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS 36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall authorize up to \$50,000 of the balance of funds remaining in the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account for the Department of Veterans Affairs for operations to be transferred into a sub-fund created within the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account to support the state veteran cemetery realignment and maintenance expenses in the appropriation entitled "Cemetery Realignment and Maintenance Expenses".

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

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 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 from the first fiscal year to the second fiscal year, the program name or line item, the

1 funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set
2 forth in (1) above;

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

11 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include
12 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a
13 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.
14 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026
15 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

16

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

26

27 SECTION 16. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
28 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
29 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
30 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
31 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
32 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
33 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
34 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

35

36 SECTION 17. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

1 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
2 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
3 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
4 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
5 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
6 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
7 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
8 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
9 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
10 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36