

2023 - 2025 REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LANGUAGE IN APPROPRIATION ACT

9904 Department of Education

ACT#: 216

SECTION#: 26

CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A "POSITION POOL". (a) To address needs emerging from statewide education issues and the necessity of recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, the Arkansas Department of Education or its successor agency is authorized for the ~~2022-2023~~ 2023-2024 fiscal year a pool of no more than five (5) Information Technology positions at a salary not to exceed the maximum salary for a grade IT12. These positions are to be used by the Department of Education in the event that the personal services needs of the Department during the ~~2022-2023~~ 2023-2024 fiscal year require additional positions, either by title or in number, that are not authorized by the General Assembly in the Regular Salaries section of this Act. These positions may also be used to properly classify positions when the Department does not have a vacant position available with the appropriate title and salary level.

(b) To address needs emerging from statewide education issues and the necessity of recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, the Arkansas Department of Education or its successor agency is authorized for the ~~2022-2023~~ 2023-2024 fiscal year a pool of ten (10) General Salaries positions at up to a grade GS15. These positions are to be used by the Department of Education in the event that the personal services needs of the Department during the ~~2022-2023~~ 2023-2024 fiscal year require additional positions, either by classification or in number, that are not authorized by the General Assembly in the Regular Salaries section of this Act. These positions may also be used to properly classify positions when the Department does not have a vacant position available with the appropriate title and grade level.

(c) Any salary determinations or adjustments administered under the

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provisions of Subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall be made by comparing the qualifications and salary levels of similar employees in school districts or in other state education agencies.

(d) The Department of Education is authorized to access the pool positions authorized in this Section at any time when it is determined by the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary that the need exists. The ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary shall provide a monthly report of the justification for the need to allocate titles from this growth pool to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee for review. The report shall also include an accounting of the names, titles, and salaries of personnel whose salaries have been adjusted under provisions of Subsections (a) and (b) of this Section.

(e) If the Department of Education requests continuation of any "Position Pool" position(s) as established herein during the next fiscal year, the position(s) must be requested as a new position(s) in the agency's budget request.

(f) Determining the number of personnel to be employed by a state agency is the prerogative of the General Assembly and is usually accomplished by delineating the maximum number of personnel by identifying job titles and the maximum grade or salary attached to those titles. The General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Department of Education could be operated more efficiently if some flexibility is given to that agency. That flexibility is being accomplished by providing a position pool in Subsections (a) and (b) of this Section and since the General Assembly has granted the agency broad powers under the growth pool

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concept, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight of the utilization of the position pool by requiring review of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee in the utilization of the position pool. Therefore, the requirement of review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of review 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 only from July 1, ~~2022~~ 2023 through June 30, ~~2023~~ 2024.

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9904 Department of Education

ACT#: 216

SECTION#: 28

CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST)

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION

SHARED SERVICES. (a)(1) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may create a Shared Services paying accounts on his or her books and on the books of the Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State for the payment of personal services and operating expenses in the Shared Services Paying Account Appropriation by the Department of Education.

(2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall direct the transfer of funds and appropriations to the Shared Services Paying Account appropriation section of this act on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

(3) The transfer authority provided to the department in subdivision (a)(2) of this section may be used to make transfers only within the department's appropriation act or between other appropriation acts authorized for the department.

(4) The provisions of this section shall be in effect from the date of passage through June 30, ~~2023~~ 2024.

AGENCY REQUEST