

**Department of Labor and Human Rights
Budget No. 406
Senate Bill No. 2007**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2019-21 legislative appropriation	14.00	\$2,395,169 ¹	\$480,681	\$2,875,850
2017-19 legislative appropriation	<u>14.00</u>	<u>2,303,986</u>	<u>439,916</u>	<u>2,743,902</u>
2019-21 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2017-19 appropriation	0.00	\$91,183	\$40,765	\$131,948

¹This amount includes \$69,659 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing general fund appropriation is \$2,325,510.

Item Description

Paperless system - In Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2007 (2015), the Legislative Assembly identified \$56,135 of one-time funding from the general fund for the implementation of a paperless system.

In Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2007 (2019), the Legislative Assembly identified \$69,659 of one-time funding from the general fund for a paperless storage system.

Claims for wages - In Section 4 of House Bill No. 1007 (2017), the Legislative Assembly amended Section 34-14-09 to provide that an employee may file a wage complaint with the Department of Labor and Human Rights for disputes between \$125 and \$15,000. The department is to refer a claimant to the appropriate small claims court if the wage is under \$125 and to the appropriate district court if the wage dispute is over \$15,000. Section 5 of the bill provides an expiration date of June 30, 2019, related to Section 4.

In Senate Bill No. 2145 (2019), the Legislative Assembly amended Section 34-14-09 to continue the \$125 minimum and \$15,000 maximum claim amounts beyond June 30, 2019. The bill also allows the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Human Rights to issue a subpoena to compel a witness, who would have otherwise refused, to appear in court or produce a book, record, document, data, or other object.

Status/Result

Of the \$56,135 of funding provided for the paperless system, \$53,304 was removed in the August 2016 special legislative session budget reductions; therefore, the department did not implement the system.

In March 2020, the Emergency Commission authorized the department to accept federal funds of \$49,000 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to expand the paperless storage system to include replacement of the department's case management system. Replacing the case management system will allow the department to automate certain tasks and potentially reduce agency staff.

The total cost of the project is \$130,190, of which \$81,190 is from the general fund and \$49,000 is from federal funds. Of the general fund amount, \$69,659 is from the one-time funding appropriated for the project and \$11,531 is from anticipated savings in the agency's operating expenses line item.

Through March 2020, the department has not spent any funding on the paperless system but anticipates spending the entire amount during 2019-21 biennium.

Through March 2020, the department has not experienced a significant change in claim volume. The department does not anticipate requesting a change during the 2021 legislative session regarding the claims amount allowed to be submitted to the department.