



Saturday, February 9, 2008 3:11 p.m.

[Change location](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Features](#) | [Sports](#) | [Photos](#) | [Video](#) | [Archives](#) | [Auto](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Real Estate](#)

SEARCH:

Enter terms and select a search option from the right

[News](#)

[Archives](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Stocks](#)

[Google](#)



[Home](#) / [Arkansas\\*](#) /

## 52 boards, agencies flush at year's end

BY MICHAEL WICKLINE ([CONTACT](#))

- [E-MAIL STORY](#)
- [PRINT STORY](#)
- [IPOD FRIENDLY](#)

LITTLE ROCK — A report showed Thursday that 52 regulatory boards and agencies had cash and

investment balances of \$50 million at the end of the past fiscal year, so some state lawmakers questioned whether some boards have too much.

"That's a pretty good chunk of change there in state government," said Rep. Robert Moore, D-Arkansas City.

The Legislative Audit Division reported, for example, that the Securities Department had a \$12 million balance; **the Board of Collection Agencies, \$5.9 million**; the Contractors Licensing Board, \$3.6 million; the Board of Nursing, \$2.9 million; the Motor Vehicle Commission, \$2.6 million; the Real Estate Commission, \$2.5 million; the Medical Board, \$2.2 million; and the Board of Pharmacy, \$2.1 million.

Deputy Legislative Auditor Mitzi Ferguson told a legislative panel studying state regulatory boards and social welfare commissions that the Securities Department is an executive agency that has enough staff to provide adequate financial safeguards, although it lacks a regulatory board.

Moore said a handful of boards, financed with licensing fees, had balances of \$1 million to \$5 million despite having only a few staff members and reporting that they planned to use their balances for operating expenses. He declined to cite particular boards.

He said lawmakers might consider developing a formula under which any money the boards have beyond 120 percent of their operating expenses would flow into state general revenue to finance other state government operations. License fees are considered "special" revenue, earmarked for

### Today's Most Popular Stories

1. [Obituaries](#)
2. [ARKANSAS VS. OLE MISS: Steady hand Evans](#)
3. [Ferguson in ICU, battling leukemia](#)
4. [Tearful Brady fired after 8-13 start](#)
5. [Ferguson in ICU, battling leukemia](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

[Get Quotes!](#)

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Assistant Director for Counseling Counseling and ...  
[49009148]

**ELECTRICIANS**  
ELECTRICIANS NEEDED -- Openings for 2nd-4th Year ...  
[49025429]

**NURSING HOME ADMIN**  
NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR West Memphis/ ...  
[49093499]

**NW AIR OPPS**  
Pinnacle Airlines - Northwest Airlink Now ...  
[49043427]

**CLEANING SUPERVISOR**  
CUSTODIANS - HIRE BONUS \$250! Need Cleaning ...  
[49139115]

**PROCESS ENGINEER**  
PROCESS ENGINEER Our Malvern Facility is a ...  
[49042518]

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Superintendent of Schools The Lee

specific purposes, rather than "general" revenue, which may be appropriated for broad state-government purposes.

"There are some cash-funded agencies that live pretty good," he said.

Sen. Jerry Taylor, D-Pine Bluff, said enacting such a formula might cause some boards to reduce their licensing fees.

"We don't want to discourage them from being frugal," he said.

The Legislative Joint Auditing Committee's subcommittee studying regulatory boards decided to direct the Legislative Audit Division and the Department of Finance and Administration to develop recommendations to make the boards' operations more efficient and effective.

One option would be to establish a state office to handle the boards' administrative and financial duties, Ferguson said. Another option would be for the department to provide more services to the boards to avoid financial irregularities, she said.

Paul Louthian, the state's accounting administrator, said another option would be to have more involvement by board members in overseeing the regulatory boards.

**This article was published Friday, February 8, 2008.**

*Arkansas, Pages 16 on 02/08/2008*



County School ...  
[49026776]

**DIR. OF NURSING**  
Rivendell Behavioral  
Health Services Of ...  
[49049783]

**MAINTENANCE TECHNICAL**  
MAINTENANCE  
POSITION The Ridge  
at North Little ...  
[49024031]

**ELECT. MECH. TECH**  
ELECTRO  
MECHANICAL TECH  
Part Time Leader in ...  
[48980037]

+ [View all listings](#)

**Copyright © 2008, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.**

All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2008, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Features](#) | [Photos](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Auto](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [JobsArkansas](#) | [Weather](#)