



House of Representatives

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2021 Legislative Summary

Budget Highlights:

- The FY 2022 budget is set by a revenue estimate of \$27.2B, an increase of \$1.34B, or 5.2% over the FY 2021 original budget.
- A one-time \$1,000 pay bonus for the 57,000 state employees (state appropriated funds).
- A one-time \$1,000 bonus for all teachers and school based employees (CARES Act funds).
- Appropriated \$30M to the OneGeorgia Authority to establish a broadband infrastructure grant program to leverage federal, local, and private resources to target broadband needs in rural communities.
- Recognizes nearly \$26M in funds for charter schools.
- Refunds 60% of the cuts made to K-12 Funding due to Covid-19.
- Reflects \$1.04B in federal funds allocation for Department of Public Health (DPH) for epidemiology and lab capacity, Covid-19 vaccine preparedness, public health crisis response, and other needs identified in federal relief packages.
- Adds \$270,320 for the GBI's Gang Task Force to assist local jurisdictions in prosecution of gang members.
- Restores \$700,000 for domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers, and adds \$1M for all domestic violence shelters.
- Allocates \$1M to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) for the construction of a "de-escalation and proper use of force" training facility.
- Restores enough funding to Quality Basic Education (QBE) to where the sustained reduction is now only 4%, or \$383M.
- Restores \$70.1M in formula earnings for higher education not originally funded in FY21.

HB 150

- Prohibits governmental entities from adopting any policy prohibiting the connection or reconnection of a utility based on energy or fuel source type, ensuring consumers' right to choose their energy source and help our state maintain a reliable and cost effective power grid.

HB 593

- Increases the standard state income tax deduction for taxpayers that are single and heads of household from \$4,600 to \$5,400, taxpayers that are married and filing a joint return from \$6,000 to \$7,100, and taxpayers that are married and filing individual returns from \$3,000 to \$3,550, beginning tax year 2022.

HB 112

- Allows Georgia businesses to continue to operate without the fear of litigation related to Covid-19 transmission by extending the sunset provision from July 14, 2021 to July 14, 2022.

HB 128

- Also known as “Gracie’s Law,” prohibits the discrimination against disabled individuals from receiving an anatomical gift or organ transplant.

HB 163

- Streamlines the Medicaid PeachCare for Kids Program by authorizing the Department of Community Health (DCH) to implement an “express lane” eligibility program by automatically enrolling and renewing eligible children who have already qualified for SNAP benefits.

HB 290

- Also known as the “Patient and Resident Representation and Visitation Act,” this bill would prohibit a hospital or long-term care facility from implementing any policy that limits a patient or resident’s access to in-person physical contact with a designated legal representative for less than one hour per day during any hospitalization, treatment, or residency that lasts longer than 12 hours. This measure passed in the House but was tabled in the Senate

HB 307

- Expands access to healthcare throughout Georgia by authorizing health care providers to provide telehealth services from home and patients to receive telehealth services from their home, workplace, or school.

HB 94

- Designates new felony crimes, “theft by possession of stolen mail” and “porch piracy”, both punishable by between 1 to 5 years in prison.
- A person is guilty of these crimes if they possess a minimum of 10 separate pieces of stolen mail, of which 3 or more are addressed to different addresses, or if they take/remove any envelope, bag, package, or other sealed item addressed to another person from that person’s porch, steps, or entryway without permission.

HB 168

- Removes inmate files as state secrets for District Attorneys for the purposes of responding to actions by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

HB 286

- Prohibits counties and municipalities from reducing their police force budgetary appropriations by more than 5% unless specified conditions exist, such as revenue declines.

HB 479

- Makes the following changes to Georgia’s Citizens Arrest Law:
 - Law enforcement officers may still make an arrest outside of their jurisdiction if the offense is committed in their presence or immediate knowledge, when in immediate pursuit of a suspect who committed an offense in their jurisdiction, or when assisting another officer.
 - Owners and employees may detain an individual if they reasonably believe the individual committed, or attempted to commit, shoplifting, fraud, or theft on the premises.
 - Except in circumstances involving use of force in defense of self or others, involving use of force in defense of habitation, or involving use of force to prevent the commission of a forcible felony, any of the private persons provided for in this bill who detain an individual shall not use force which is intended or likely to cause great bodily harm or death, but may use reasonable force to the extent the private person reasonably believes is necessary to detain the individual.

SB 33

- Establishes a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking against a person or entity that knowingly benefited from participation in a venture or scheme that they knew, or should have known, was in violation of the human trafficking statute.