



Final Legislative Report

Volume #15, Issue 14 – May 10, 2024

2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

The 2024 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly adjourned on Thursday, March 28. Now that the Governor's veto period has concluded, there are several bills of significance to counties that passed, including key ACCG Policy Agenda items such as Property Tax Assessment & Appeal Reform, revisions to the Service Delivery Strategy statute, and needed adjustments to Single-County TSPLOST.

This report includes summaries of legislation that passed and their effective dates, a list of bills that did not pass, a summary of key appropriations in the amended FY 2024 budget and the new FY 2025 budget and approved legislative study committees of interest to counties. Legislation likely to have a budgetary impact is notated with an asterisk in front of the bill number.

ACCG thanks all commissioners, county legislative coordinators (CLC's), and county staff who supported the Association's policy agenda this year by meeting with legislators and making personal contact through phone calls, texts, and emails. A special thank you to this year's Policy Council for their hard work and dedication. County officials serve as the critical component of ACCG's legislative advocacy efforts. Their involvement was instrumental in helping ACCG stop or modify several bills that would have been detrimental to Georgia's county governments.

Bills Passed

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

[Staff: Martha Revelo]

[*HB 516 – Georgia Department of Transportation Housekeeping Bill](#) (Rep. Derrick McCollum, 30th)
Effective July 1, 2024.

This legislation changes the date when the Department of Agriculture will begin regulating and taxing the use of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026. This legislation also raises the threshold for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to negotiate a contract without a bidding requirement from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and changes the public meeting requirements for state public-private partnership projects.

[HB 617 – Freight Logistics Implementation Plan](#) (Rep. Rick Jasperse, 11th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation requires the Georgia Department of Transportation Planning Director to develop a state-wide freight and logistics implementation plan. This plan will be based upon a 20-year projection and will identify example project types; specific projects to be programmed; system safety improvements; operation and maintenance of the transportation system; intermodal or multimodal connectivity improvements; and capacity enhancement projects.

[*HB 946 – Single-County TSPLOST](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins, 27th) *Effective May 6, 2024.*

This legislation makes changes to the current TSPLOST law so that once a city or cities making up more than 50% of the municipal population signs the intergovernmental agreement (IGA), the tax may be levied up to the full 1%. The remaining cities that do not sign will be considered absent municipalities. The absent municipalities will receive a share of the tax based on a formula similar to the LMIG formula by using their proportionate share of the municipal population and total municipal centerline miles in the county. This legislation includes an incentive that if all cities agree to sign the IGA, the tax may be levied for up to six years. Additionally, this legislation removes the option for counties to levy the tax at a rate of 0.75% without an IGA with the cities.

[HB 1193 – Use of Flashing or Revolving Amber Lights In Vehicles](#) (Rep. Lauren McDonald, 26th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation requires certain vehicles to operate flashing or revolving amber lights for safety purposes when they are stationary and engaging in their respective operations. These vehicles include towing or recovery vehicles, highway maintenance vehicles, and utility service vehicles.

[SB 171 – Development Authorities: Board Appointments and Training](#) (Sen. Max Burns, 23rd)
Effective July 1, 2024.

This legislation is the result of the 2022 [Senate Study Committee on Development Authorities](#) and limits the length of a member's hold-over period after their term expires and requires members to complete at least two hours of continuing education yearly. Failure to complete this annual training for two consecutive years will result in the member losing voting rights until the required training is completed.

[SB 26 – Electric Vehicle Advancements and Expanding Teleconferencing for Local Development Boards and Authorities](#) (Sen. Greg Dolezal, 27th)
Effective February 13, 2024.

This legislation establishes a comprehensive framework for promoting the growth of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing, workforce development, and infrastructure investment in Georgia. It creates a State-wide Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Program and a Georgia Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Commission which is tasked with overseeing the initiative. The Commission will focus on addressing workforce needs, infrastructure requirements, and promote the growth of the EV industry. The EV Manufacturing program aims to advance the state's interest by fostering continued investment and job creation. Additionally, the legislation amends existing laws to allow certain local boards and authorities, including workforce development boards and Community Improvement Districts, to conduct meetings by teleconference, provided they comply with current regulations.

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
[Staff: Todd Edwards]

HB 404 – The Safe Home Act (Rep. Kasey Carpenter, 4th) *Effective for residential lease agreements that are entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2024.*

This legislation provides additional protections for tenants renting a dwelling from a landlord. Among its provisions, it requires that deposits cannot exceed the equivalent of two month's rent; the landlord must state that the premises are fit for human habitation; and requires a minimum three-day notice before a tenant may be evicted.

***HB 461 – Building Permit Fees: Eliminate One Method of Calculation** (Rep. Brad Thomas, 21st) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

Current law provides six methods by which local governments may calculate building inspection fees. This legislation eliminates one of those methods, prohibiting local governments from calculating fees based on the cost of the project. It also requires that the proceeds of these fees only be used to fund the county's regulatory activities. Local governments using this method of calculating fees will have to use one of the five remaining methods moving forward. This may require updating or replacing the current software used for fee calculation.

***HB 974 – Elections: Omnibus Bill I** (Rep. John LaHood, 175th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

Among its many provisions, this multi-faceted election legislation:

- Requires that ballots include a visible watermark, to be imprinted by the state.
- Requires absentee ballots to be scanned at a higher resolution.
- Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish and maintain a statewide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots, with scanned images being available by 5:00 p.m. on the second Friday following an election.
- Requires counties to perform additional risk-limiting audits.
- Requires the SOS to create a pilot program/audit to have the scanned text portion of a ballot constitute an individual's official vote.

Counties (election superintendents) will assume additional costs and administrative responsibilities in implementing this legislation.

HB 1017 – Housing: Georgia Squatters Reform Act (Rep. Devan Seabaugh, 34th) *Effective April 24, 2024.*

This legislation requires any person who commits or is accused of squatting to present to the head of the local law enforcement agency documentation that authorizes their entry upon the land or premises in question within three days. If they cannot provide this documentation, they are subject to arrest. If they can provide documentation, a hearing must take place within seven days before the Magistrate Court to determine the authenticity of the documentation. Those in violation of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

HB 1073 – Zoning: Halfway Houses and Drug Rehabilitation Centers and Camera Ordinances (Rep. Dale Washburn, 144th) *Effective May 6, 2024.*

This legislation eliminates the requirement that local governments impose additional procedures for zoning decisions involving the location of halfway houses and drug rehabilitation centers within their jurisdictions. It also prohibits local governments from requiring gas stations to place cameras in the interior or exterior of their business and allows cities to designate special entertainment districts to extend the hours for alcohol to be consumed on the premises.

HB 1114 – Tort Reform: Data Collection by State Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner (Rep. Will Wade, 9th) *Effective April 22, 2024, and sunsets on January 1, 2030.*

This legislation directs the state Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner to gather data from liability insurers to determine the impact of tort litigation as well as any new tort reform legislation enacted between 2024 and 2029. Such information gathered shall be confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Open Records Act. The Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner must compile the data and issue reports to the General Assembly from 2024 to 2029.

HB 1203 – Housing: Dispossession Proceedings (Rep. Trey Kelley, 16th) *Effective April 24, 2024.*

This legislation provides that if a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, or marshal is unable to evict (dispossession proceedings) someone within 30 days of the landlord's application, the landlord, at their expense, may utilize the services of any of these off-duty officials or others certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to do so.

***HB 1207 – Elections: Omnibus Bill II** (Rep. Tim Fleming, 114th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

Among its many provisions, this multi-faceted election legislation:

- Requires election workers to be citizens of the United States.
- Adds an additional qualifying deadline if no candidates qualify for an election.
- Requires election superintendents to take additional steps in proofing ballots.
- Authorizes election superintendents to use less than one voting machine per every 250 electors on election day.
- Grants poll watchers additional access at voting locations and in areas where administration of the voting process is taking place.
- Adds penalties for those threatening or interfering with a poll officer, election official, or poll watcher.

Counties (election superintendents) may both save and assume additional costs and administrative responsibilities in implementing this legislation.

***HB 1312 – Elections: Counties Must Pay for Additional Public Service Commission Election** (Rep. Rick Jasperse, 11th) *Effective April 18, 2024.*

This legislation addresses delayed 2022 and 2024 elections, due to litigation, for Georgia's Public Service Commission (PSC). It staggers elections and terms for commissioners whereby each commissioner will gain two additional years to their terms. Most importantly, a special election for District 2 will occur during municipal elections in 2025, requiring counties to fund an additional statewide election. Counties (election superintendents) will assume additional costs and administrative responsibilities in conducting the additional election.

HB 1407 – Service Delivery Strategy Law Revisions (Rep. John LaHood, 175th) *Effective January 1, 2026.*

This legislation makes several procedural revisions to the process of negotiating a service delivery strategy (SDS). It is a product of the 2023 Joint Legislative SDS Study Committee in which both ACCG and the Georgia Municipal Association participated. Among its provisions, HB 1407:

- Authorizes counties to utilize several additional unincorporated revenues to pay for unincorporated services.

- Sets a standard for when negotiations must begin, when they can be called due to a change of circumstances, when they must end, and provides other deadlines throughout the process.
- Requires the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to develop optional statewide mapping standards for SDS negotiations.
- Provides mandatory mediation and optional nonbinding arbitration processes, while still allowing a party to petition the Superior Court to resolve any outstanding disagreements.
- Adds some exceptions to the imposition of sanctions following an SDS impasse.
- Provides that if any change in service delivery or revenue distribution arrangements affects less than all the parties, an amendment to the strategy is limited to the participation of only those parties affected by the change.
- Prohibits DCA from promulgating any SDS rules or regulations unless they are specifically authorized to do so by law.

Please see [Appendix C](#) for the significant provisions of the legislation.

SB 19 – Passport Fees: Requires Disclosure from Clerks and Probate Judges (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, 32nd) *Effective January 1, 2025.*

Under current federal and state law, clerks of Superior Court and probate judges can keep, as personal compensation, all the fees their offices receive for processing U.S. passport applications despite using county resources to do so. To facilitate transparency, this legislation requires clerks and probate judges to disclose to the county governing authority, quarterly, the amount of all passport fees they collect.

***SB 189 – Elections: Omnibus Bill III** (Sen. Max Burns, 23rd) *This legislation's provisions have many different effective dates.*

Among its many provisions, this multi-faceted election legislation:

- Provides that the text portion of the paper ballot now constitutes an official vote – *effective July 1, 2026.*
- Authorizes election superintendents to provide paper ballots in certain county races – *effective Jan. 1, 2025.*
- Requires election superintendents to tabulate absentee ballot results by 8:00 p.m. on election day – *effective Jan. 1, 2025.*

- Removes the Secretary of State as an ex-officio member of the State Election Board – *effective July 1, 2024*.
- Allows any political party that has obtained ballot access in no fewer than 20 states to field a presidential candidate in Georgia – *effective July 1, 2024*.
- Specifies that the mailing address for homeless persons is the registrar's office for voting purposes – *effective Jan. 1, 2025*.
- Sets standards and expands the grounds for challenging an elector's right to vote – *effective Jan. 1, 2025*.
- Requires additional steps for election workers in sealing, storing, and documenting ballot custody – *effective Jan. 1, 2025*.
- Requires election superintendents, after certification, to unseal and scan ballot images and other materials, at a specified resolution, for anyone who requests them – *effective Jan. 1, 2025*.

Counties (election superintendents) will assume additional costs and administrative responsibilities in implementing this legislation.

***SB 212 – Elections: End Probate Judges' Election Responsibilities** (Sen. Max Burns, 23rd) *Effective May 6, 2024, for purposes of creation of local election boards; effective for other purposes January 1, 2025.*

Currently, there are approximately 25 Georgia counties where the probate judge administers elections. This legislation removes probate judges' election responsibilities, effective January 1, 2025, following the completion of the 2024 general election. These counties are required to establish an election board and supervisor by December 15, 2024, to meet the above date. Counties with probate judges administering elections will have to switch to boards of elections and will likely assume additional costs and administrative responsibilities in doing so.

Please see [Appendix D](#) for the significant provisions of the legislation.

SB 232 – Probate Court Fee Revisions (Sen. John F. Kennedy, 18th) *Effective January 1, 2025.*

This legislation revises fees charged by the Probate Court for services rendered, to be paid to the county's general fund. It eliminates recording fees and implements base filing fees for petitions and other filings for estates, minor guardianships and conservatorships, adult guardianships and conservatorships, and mental health filings. The filing fees for marriage licenses, weapons carry licenses, and court miscellaneous fees remain largely unchanged. The expected implications of the revised fee schedule include providing:

- Greater accuracy in the calculation of fees.
- Decreased time required by probate clerks to calculate fees.
- Less variability in fee calculations from one county to the next.
- A more streamlined process to allow for the implementation of electronic filing.

SB 414 – Open Records: Counties Cannot Require Certain Disclosure from Nonprofits (Sen. John F. Kennedy, 18th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation prohibits local governments, courts, and the state from requiring any person or nonprofit corporation to disclose lists or other records showing the members, supporters, or donors of a nonprofit corporation. Nor can these agencies disclose such information. Exceptions include information in response to a court warrant or as part of court litigation. Any such records would also be exempt from disclosure under the Open Records Act.

SB 443 – Nuisances: Locals May be Reimbursed Costs for Non-Permitted Events (Sen. Ben Watson, 1st)

Effective April 8, 2024.

This legislation authorizes local governments to seek and receive reimbursement for all incurred public safety costs and fees from promoters or organizers who host or organize events that have not been properly permitted and which create a public nuisance.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

[Staff: Gabriel Carter]

HB 1339 – Certificate of Need Reform (Rep. Butch Parrish, — 158th) *Section 7 effective on July 1, 2024; Section 11 effective on January 1, 2025; and Section 12 effective April 19, 2024.*

This legislation institutes several revisions regarding the Certificate of Need (CON) process. Section 7 of this legislation details the CON exemption requirements for healthcare facilities in rural counties. Section 11 increases the maximum limit of the rural hospital tax credit from \$75 million to \$100 million per taxable year and the sunset is extended from December 31, 2024, to December 31, 2029. Lastly, section 12 creates the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission, which will advise the General Assembly, Governor, and the Department of Community Health on matters related to adequate healthcare for Georgia's low-income and uninsured population.

HB 1409 – Tort Reform: Mental Health Personnel (Rep. Rob Leverett, 123rd) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation reduces the legal liability of inpatient mental health providers in the delivery of care to individuals who are under the age of 21 and under the care of the Department of Human Services. Mental health care providers will not be held liable unless gross negligence occurred.

SB 293 – Appointments of District Health Directors (Sen. Ben Watson, 1st) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation revises the selection and qualifications of district health directors by:

- Requiring them to have at least a master's degree in public health or a related field if they are not licensed to practice medicine.
- Authorizing the district health director to serve as CEO of each local county board of health within the district.
- Authorizing the Department of Public Health Commissioner to appoint an interim district health director where there is a vacancy.

***SB 395 – Placement of Reversal Opioid Medication** (Sen. Clint Dixon, 45th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation requires counties to provide at least three doses of opioid antagonists in courthouses and other buildings in which the local governing authority meets and where there is an automated external defibrillator.

This legislation also requires each government entity to establish and implement an internal training and implementation policy for the administration of opioid antagonists. Lastly, any government official, employee, or agent who receives such training and acts in good faith or fails to act in administering the opioid antagonist will not be civilly liable. Furthermore, no government entity will be civilly liable for failure to provide an automated external defibrillator or opioid antagonist.

SB 480 – Student Loan Repayment for Mental Health Professionals (Sen. Mike Hodges, 3rd) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation provides student loan repayments for mental health and substance use providers who provide services to underserved youth or who practice in an unserved geographic area. The total amount of repayment will be determined by the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce and will be paid for a maximum of five years.

SB 505 – Revisions to Hospital Authority Appointments (Sen. Blake Tillery, 19th) *Effective April 22, 2024.*

This legislation requires a hospital authority board to make a board appointment by selecting one of the three eligible persons submitted by the local governing authority to serve on the board of the hospital authority. Prior to this legislation, the hospital authority could decline all three persons submitted by the local governing authority.

SB 533 – Mental Health: Competency Restoration Program (Sen. Brian Strickland, 17th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation provides the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) with the sole discretion to determine the best treatment route for those deemed incompetent to stand trial. Options include a jail-based competency restoration program aimed at restoring an accused person to mental competency so they can stand trial. To create a new jail-based competency program within a county, DBHDD must have a mutual agreement with the local sheriff's office.

NATURAL RESOURCES & THE ENVIRONMENT

[Staff: Martha Revelo]

[*HB 206 – Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy \(C-PACE\)](#) (Rep. Steven Sainz, 123rd) *Effective April 25, 2024.*

This legislation authorizes a financing tool called Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). Under this framework, a local development authority can finance energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resilience improvements on private commercial property. Counties and cities may enter into intergovernmental agreements with development authorities to finance such improvements. Additionally, this legislation allows commercial property owners to finance the up-front cost of energy or other eligible improvements on a property and repay the cost over time through a voluntary tax assessment. C-PACE assessments are tied to property rather than individuals, ensuring that financial obligations can be transferred upon sale.

Please see [Appendix E](#) for the significant provisions of the legislation.

[HB 300 – Solar Decommissioning Provisions](#) (Rep. Trey Kelley, 16th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation establishes provisions for solar facility agreements between a landowner and the company leasing the property for solar generation. The legislation outlines the company’s responsibilities regarding the decommissioning of solar power equipment upon lease termination, including the requirements for financial assurance or bonds to cover removal costs and restoration to the property’s original condition. Additionally, it preempts local governments from imposing additional bond requirements, known as double bonding, where the landowner and solar farm operator are different entities operating under a lease.

[HB 1033 – Utility Worker Protection Act](#) (Rep. Rob Leverett, 123rd) *Effective May 6, 2024 and applicable to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2024.*

This legislation provides protection for utility workers against any individual who threatens or assaults them while performing official duties. It also provides enhanced penalties for crimes committed upon utility workers in certain circumstances.

[HB 1146 – Private Water Permitting](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens, 164th) *Effective May 6, 2024.*

This legislation mandates that the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) issue water permits to private water businesses, without the consent of the local government, in areas designated as “coastal aquifers of the state” if the local government cannot provide public water service within an 18-month period. The sunset date for this legislation is January 1, 2029.

[HB 1172 – Water Rights; Removal of the Public Trust Doctrine](#) (Rep. James Burchett, 176th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation updates the fishing rights legislation passed during the 2023 legislative session. It removes references to the public trust doctrine and further defines access rights to navigable waterways.

[HB 1223 – Georgia Soil Amendments Act](#) (Rep. Rob Leverett, 123rd) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation amends the Georgia Soil Amendment Act of 1976 by adding new regulations and definitions related to specific violations for applying soil amendments.

These violations include the following:

- If the site owner is under a consent order or facing existing enforcement action by the Department of Agriculture or Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
- If a notice of violation has been issued by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
- If the Department has notified both the site owner and the person who has applied or distributed soil amendments, they must cease applying soil amendments on that site.

PUBLIC SAFETY & the COURTS

[Staff: Gabriel Carter]

[HB 130 – Student Loan Repayment for Peace Officers](#)

(Rep. Matthew Gambill, 15th) *Effective May 1, 2024.*

This legislation establishes a student loan repayment program from state appropriated funds for eligible full-time peace officers. The total repayment amount must not exceed \$20,000 or the total student debt amount, whichever is less. Payments will be paid in annual installments for a period not exceeding five years.

[HB 409 – Increased Penalties for Passing a School Bus](#)

(Rep. Lauren Daniel, 117th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation increases civil and criminal fines to \$1000 for overtaking or passing a school bus. This includes the criminal penalty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor for passing a school bus with its lights on and a civil penalty if a vehicle is caught on a school bus camera overtaking or passing the school bus with the stop arm activated. Additionally, for the civil penalty law enforcement is required to 1) track violations to flag subsequent violations involving the same vehicle (not necessarily the driver) for camera violations; 2) request insurance carrier information from the Department of Revenue (DOR) on owners of vehicles with subsequent violations; and 3) provide notification of subsequent violations to the insurance carrier. There are two main concerns with this legislation:

1. The significant increase in civil and criminal fines will likely decrease the number of people who will just pay the ticket and increase the number of people who will come to court and/or ask for a trial.
2. The extra work that it places on law enforcement to have to obtain insurance information from the DOR on subsequent violators of the civil penalty and report them to the insurance carriers. All of which is for a noncriminal violation that is not supposed to be part of the operating record of the vehicle owner nor can be used for motor vehicle insurance coverage.

[*HB 451 – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Insurance](#)

(Rep. Devan Seabaugh, 34th) *Effective January 1, 2025; Section 3 is applicable to taxable years starting January 1, 2024.*

This legislation requires state and local governments to provide insurance coverage to all first responders—including 911 dispatchers, corrections and jail officers,

and probation officers—to help offset expenses when diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Critical illness coverage will include a \$3,000 lifetime cash benefit and up to three years of long-term disability payments. ACCG Insurance Programs’ staff estimates this will cost counties \$132 per first responder, per year.

[HB 935 – “Back the Blue”](#) (Rep. Ken Vance, 133rd) *Effective May 6, 2024.*

This legislation creates a “Back the Blue Fund” to provide bonuses to deputy sheriffs and jailers. These funds cannot be used for salary supplements. An option will be provided to contribute \$5 to the fund upon issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle car tag. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue will be the custodian of the Fund and administer it to sheriffs’ offices through the Georgia Sheriff’s Association. All 159 sheriffs will receive an equal distribution of the funds.

[*HB 1105 – Immigration and Sanctuary Policies](#) (Rep. Jesse Petrea, 166th) *Effective May 1, 2024; Section 10 is effective on December 31, 2024.*

This legislation establishes criminal penalties for local government officials and employees who knowingly enact or adopt sanctuary policies or practices. This legislation also requires local law enforcement agencies to honor federal detainer requests and enter into agreements with federal agencies regarding immigration enforcement. Violations can subject local governments to loss of state funds, although counties will not be penalized for violations by the sheriff or his/her employees. This legislation also requires the Georgia Department of Corrections and sheriffs’ offices to maintain a database with immigration status, offenses, and home countries of prisoners and inmates who are not United States citizens. Lastly, jailers will be responsible for notifying the U.S. Department of Homeland Security if they detain an illegal foreign national.

[*SB 37 – Sheriffs’ Salary Supplement and Jail Officer Powers](#) (Sen. Randy Robertson, 29th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation addresses two provisions regarding the sheriff’s office:

1. Authorizes a sheriff to receive an additional salary supplement for service to each court, for a total of

two salary supplements. Each salary supplement awarded is \$4,630.80 (\$385.90 per month). With this new legislation, counties will pay their sheriff an additional \$4,630.80 salary supplement if the sheriff serves two or more courts in the county. These supplements would not be increased by any state cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or general performance-based increases.

2. Authorizes P.O.S.T. certified jailers to have arrest powers within the jurisdiction of the jail.

***SB 63 – Bail Reform Bill** (Sen. Randy Robertson, 29th)
Effective July 1, 2024.

This legislation prohibits a local jurisdiction from creating a bail schedule, or policy, that mandates releasing a person from jail on unsecured judicial release. It also includes various crimes, including misdemeanors and second or subsequent violations of certain crimes, as "bail restricted offenses". This legislation may require more people to spend longer times in county jails, which would increase the cost counties spend on jails in their budgets.

***SB 417 – Restrictions on Public Fireworks Displays**
(Sen. John Albers, 56th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation creates a new misdemeanor for knowingly and intentionally detonating fireworks within 150 feet of an emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer when the detonation is intended to harm, hinder, or disrupt that first responder's duties. Furthermore, it revises licensing requirements

relating to the display of fireworks. Any person, organization, or entity **cannot** conduct a public fireworks exhibition without a valid license issued by the state Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner and a permit from the local fire authority. In order for the person, organization, or entity to obtain a permit, they must submit an application that is accompanied with the \$10 permit fee paid to the local fire authority, \$100 administrative cost fee paid to the local fire authority, and a refundable \$50,000 deposit to the local governing authority for any potential damages or display proof of liability insurance. In addition to the original permit fees, local fire authorities may also charge reasonable fees for personnel needed for standby fire suppression and permit compliance.

SB 421 – Penalties for False Emergency Calls (Sen. Clint Dixon, 45th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation increases the penalties for knowingly making an illegitimate call for emergency assistance. For the third violation of making an unlawful call for emergency assistance, the violator shall be sentenced to between 10- and 15-years' imprisonment or a minimum fine of \$25,000, or both. If the location of response is a person's home or a place of worship, then the violation is treated as a felony. If any damage occurs due to the unlawful call for emergency assistance, the violator shall be responsible for paying restitution for the damages.

REVENUE & FINANCE

[Staff: Dante Handel]

***HB 581 – Comprehensive Property Tax and Sales Tax Reform Package** (Rep. Shaw Blackmon, 146th) *Effective January 1, 2025; contingent upon the ratification of the constitutional amendment during the November 2024 statewide referendum.*

This legislation authorizes a statewide floating homestead exemption for all local governments including an opt-out provision, and revises the tax estimate, three-year lock, sales ratio study, and settlement conference statutes. It also simplifies the local sales tax cap and creates a new type of local sales tax for property tax relief.

Please see [Appendix F](#) for additional information.

***HB 808 – Increases Statewide Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption to \$20,000** (Rep. Mike Cheokas, 151st) *Effective May 6, 2024, pending approval during the November 2024 statewide referendum.*

This legislation increases the statewide tangible personal property tax exemption from \$7,500 to \$20,000. Personal property with a value under this threshold would pay no property taxes while personal property valued over the threshold would pay property tax on the full value.

HB 1100 – Eases Restrictions on Use of Government Vehicles (Rep. Kimberly New, 64th) *Effective April 22, 2024.*

This legislation removes the requirement for vehicles receiving government tags to be used exclusively for governmental functions and updates the definition of “fleet” to include trailers in addition to motor vehicles. It also authorizes the use of electronic communication for lapses of motor vehicle insurance coverage, certificates of title, and driver’s license renewals. The motor vehicle owner or license holder must consent to receive electronic notifications.

HB 1149 – Constitutional Officers Must Disclose Supplemental Income (Rep. Mesha Mainor, 56th) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation requires county constitutional officers to annually report a detailed account of their supplemental official income to the county governing authority. Supplemental official income means all funds which are not appropriated through the county’s budget process. The county must then report these funds in its annual audit. Counties will have to revise their annual audits accordingly but are not liable/punished if a constitutional officer fails to provide this information.

HR 1022 – Constitutional Amendment Allowing Opt-Out of Statewide Floating Homestead Exemption (Rep. Beth Camp, 135th) *Effective January 1, 2025, upon ratification during the November 2024 statewide referendum.*

This legislation proposes a constitutional amendment that will authorize a statewide homestead exemption and allow local governments to opt out of the statewide floating homestead exemption under HB 581. The other provisions of HB 581 will not become law unless this referendum passes.

SB 340 – Adds Diesel Exhaust Fluid to the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption Program (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, 32nd) *Effective July 1, 2024.*

This legislation adds diesel exhaust fluid for agricultural purposes only to the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption program.

Appendix A

2024 Study Committees

[HR 1498 – Study Committee on Private Water Systems](#) (Rep. Trey Rhodes, 124th)

This resolution creates a study committee to analyze the operations of private water systems across the state. It was created in response to HB 1220, legislation that did not pass this session but addresses the current concerns surrounding the lack of oversight on private water companies in Georgia. However, HB 1146, passed this session, allows private utility companies to provide water service in the coastal region without receiving permission from local governments if public service cannot be provided within 18 months. This could potentially raise concerns related to setting a precedent, impacting customer rates, and service delivery strategy (SDS) agreements, among other concerns. The study committee would need to consider implications of HB 1146 including oversight, availability, quality, and affordability of water services.

[HR 1554 – Study Committee on Navigable Streams](#)

(Rep. Lynn Smith, 70th) This resolution creates a study committee tasked with carefully evaluating all aspects of navigable streams in the state, including the complex issues surrounding their ownership, as well as private and public rights of use, and other related matters. The creation of this committee was prompted by HB 1397, legislation that failed in attempts to categorize waterways as navigable or non-navigable. However, its companion legislation, HB 1172, passed this session, defining the rights associated with using navigable streams for activities such as hunting and fishing, even if a landowner holds a pre-1863 land grant though these rights are limited to the aforementioned activities.

Appendix B

Bills that Failed in the 2024 Session

The following bills failed to advance in the 2024 session and will no longer proceed in the legislative process, as the two-year legislative cycle has ended.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

- HB 1228 – [Mandate Qualification-Based Selection Procurement for Local Governments](#)
- HB 1239 – [Allows Miniature On-Road Vehicles on Certain Highways](#)
- HB 1358 – [Abolish Atlanta-Region Transit Link “ATL” Authority and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority](#)

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- HB 626 and SB 138 – [Coroners: Statewide Mandated Minimum Pay and Benefits](#)
- HB 719 – [Housing: Local Governments May Impose Rent Controls](#)
- HB 813 – [New Cities: Revise the Cityhood Creation Process](#)
- HB 905 – [Zoning Procedures Law Revisions](#)
- HB 981 – [Building Permits Cannot Exceed \\$500 for Any Agricultural Producers](#)
- HB 986 – [Elections: No Deep Fakes Allowed](#)
- HB 988 – [Drones: Prohibit Local Governments from Using Drones Not Approved by State](#)
- HB 1043 – [Bitcoin Mining Operation Free-for-All: Preempt Local Government Ordinances](#)
- HB 1044 – [Public Works Bid Threshold: Increase from \\$100,000 to \\$250,000](#)
- HB 1121 – [Short Term Rentals: Preempt Local Government Regulations](#)
- HB 1210 – [Housing: DCA to Create a Multi-family Database](#)
- HB 1253 – [Regional Commissions: Change Composition of Governing Council, and Special Rural Districts](#)
- HB 1266 – [Housing: The CHOICE Act – Preferential Treatment for those Adopting Zoning Density](#)
- HB 1295 and SB 547 – [Tort Reform: Failure to Wear Seatbelt as Evidence of Contributory Negligence](#)
- HB 1359 – [Waive a Person’s Property Taxes if Counties Fail to Enforce Laws](#)
- SB 355 – [Elections: Prohibit Rank Choice Voting](#)
- SB 361 – [Open Meetings: Allow County Commissioners More Teleconference Opportunities](#)
- SB 367 – [Elections: Eliminate Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes](#)
- SB 390 – [Libraries: Prohibit Public Funds for the American Library Association](#)
- SR 579 – [Sports Betting: Authorize by Constitutional Amendment](#)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- HB 287 – [Preemptions on Local Governments Regarding Home Kitchens](#)
- HB 520 – [Mental Health Reform Legislation](#)
- HB 583 – [Preemptions on Local Governments Regarding Cottage Food Kitchens](#)
- SB 16 – [EMS Reform Legislation](#)
- SB 515 – [EMS Pilot Program](#)
- SB 173 – [Transfer of License for EMS Services](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

- HB 1253 - [Special Rural Districts - Counties' Consolidated Service](#)
- HB 1294 - [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to Finance Natural Gas Facilities](#)
- SB 393 - [Requirements to Qualify as a Soil Classifier to Conduct Soil Investigations](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY & THE COURTS

- HB 231 - [Bail Reform Regarding Immigration](#)
- HB 301 - [Penalties for Local Governments with Sanctuary Polices](#)
- HB 348 - [Restrictions on Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones](#)
- HB 447 - [S.A.V.E. Law Enforcement Technology](#)
- HB 947 - [Judicial Compensation Legislation](#)
- HB 1126 - [Elimination of Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones](#)
- HB 1188 - [Law Enforcement Agency Reimbursement for Training Cost](#)
- HR 1042 - [Constitutional Amendment on Judicial Compensation](#)
- SB 94 - [S.A.V.E. Law Enforcement Technology](#)
- SB 97 - [Restrictions on Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones](#)
- SB 217 - [Restrictions on Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones](#)
- SB 402 - [Restrictions on Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones](#)
- SB 479 - [Judicial Compensation Legislation](#)

REVENUE & FINANCE

- HB 146 - [MOST Expansion](#)
- HB 170 - [Sales Tax Holiday on Firearms and Accessories](#)
- HB 264 - [Splits 180-Day Appeal Timeline Evenly Between Assessors and Clerks](#)
- HB 283 - [Replaces Existing Sales Tax Exemption on Manufactured Homes](#)
- HB 290 - [Three-Party Contract for Collection of City Taxes and Caps Tax Commissioner Compensation](#)
- HB 871 - [Expands Portability of Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption](#)
- HB 912 - [Exempts Commercial Side-By-Sides from Ad Valorem](#)
- HB 977 - [Removes March Local Sales Tax Referendum Date in Odd Years](#)
- HB 1052 - [Expands CUVA so Properties may be Leased to Non-Qualifying Entities](#)
- HB 1069 - [Tax Assessors Share Timber Information with State Forestry Commission](#)
- HR 96 - [Constitutional Amendment to Assess Cut Timber at Forty Percent of Fair Market Value](#)
- HR 565 - [House Study Committee on Temporary Operating Permits and Dealer Plates](#)
- HR 804 - [Constitutional Amendment to Allow 12 Months to Pay Off Tax Anticipation Notes](#)
- HR 1021 - [Constitutional Amendment to Create Senior Volunteer Work Homestead Credit](#)
- SB 13 - [Remote Participation in Tax Sales and Expanded Hearing Officer Appeals](#)
- SR 82 - [Constitutional Amendment to Allow Local Governments to Waive Delinquent Taxes](#)

Appendix C



HB 1407 - Service Delivery Strategy Revisions

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

This bill makes several procedural revisions to the process of negotiating a service delivery strategy. It is a product of the 2023 Joint Legislative SDS Study Committee in which both ACCG and the Georgia Municipal Association participated. Among its provisions, HB 1407:

- Specifically authorizes counties to utilize the following unincorporated revenues to pay for unincorporated services: special service districts' ad valorem taxes, assessments or user fees; grants; cable franchise fees; alcohol excise taxes; financial institution taxes; hotel-motel taxes; occupation taxes; railroad equipment taxes; insurance premium taxes; rental car excise taxes; impact fees; stormwater fees; title ad valorem taxes; revenues apportioned to the county as part of an intergovernmental agreement; or by other revenues approved by all parties participating in an SDS negotiation.
- Sets a standard for when negotiations must begin, when they can be called due to a change of circumstances and provides firm deadlines throughout the process.
- Exempts consolidated governments from SDS requirements if there is no other city to negotiate with.
- Requires the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to develop statewide mapping standards, by March 1, 2026, that are optional for cities and counties to use to describe geographic areas for the services they provide. The mapping standards must describe areas by the jurisdiction level, census tract, and parcel number.
- Supports transparency by requiring all parties involved in the negotiation of a service delivery strategy to provide all other parties with a written analysis of all services and proposed funding within 60 days of the initiation of negotiations. This written analysis is a public record and would be available to residents of the affected communities. These analyses may be updated periodically but must be finalized prior to entering nonbinding arbitration.
- Allows a city or county to petition the superior court to resolve any outstanding disagreements.
- Defines “affected municipalities” as those with populations of at least 500, the threshold by which a city needs to participate in mediation and nonbinding arbitration.
- Requires mediation by all affected parties if no agreement is reached within 90 days of the commencement of negotiations. The mediation is limited to discussing issues on which no agreement has been reached.
- Authorizes nonbinding arbitration for “affected” parties if no agreement is reached within 180 days of the commencement of negotiations. Evidence presented shall be limited to the analyses/proposals provided in advance by the respective parties.
- Provides a firm deadline for finalizing the strategy - by December 31 of the year following the year in which the county's comprehensive plan update is due or within 180 days of the commencement of the negotiations. If the parties fail to reach an agreement by the deadline, DCA will notify the parties and all relevant state agencies that such parties are out of compliance with the SDS law. When any such parties are out of compliance, state agencies will withhold state funding and state permits until the necessary parties sign an SDS agreement.
- Adds several exceptions to the imposition of sanctions, including states of emergency; natural disasters; threats to health, safety or welfare of any person or property; or applicable federal or state court orders.
- Provides that if any change in service delivery or revenue distribution arrangements affects less than all the parties, an amendment to the strategy is limited to only those parties affected by the change.
- Prohibits DCA from promulgating any SDS rules or regulations unless they are specifically authorized to do so by law.

Appendix D



SB 212 - Elections: Remove Probate Judges' Election Responsibilities [Staff: Todd Edwards]

Currently, there are approximately 25 Georgia counties where the probate judge administers elections. This legislation removes probate judges' election responsibilities, effective January 1, 2025, following the completion of the 2024 general election. These counties are required to establish an election board and supervisor by December 15, 2024, to meet the above date. The probate judges' state-required election supplement will be removed upon them shedding their election responsibilities. Below are the major provisions of the bill:

- The new election board will be composed of three members, to be appointed by the county commission, and board members shall be electors and live in the county.
- The county commission may adopt an ordinance expanding the board to five members.
- The board members will serve four-year, staggered terms, and cannot serve more than four consecutive terms.
- Political parties may make recommendations for board members, but the county commission is not bound to select those recommendations.
- The board will appoint its own chairman from among its members.
- The current probate judge, board of registrars, or election superintendent will be relieved of all duties (on January 1, 2025) and deliver to the chairperson of the new board, upon his or her request, the custody of all election equipment, supplies, materials, books, papers, records, and facilities.
- The new board will be subject to open meetings and open records, and it must hold regular monthly meetings and document its proceedings.
- The board is authorized to select and appoint an administrative director, to be known as the election supervisor, to administer and supervise the conduct of elections, primaries, and registration of elections for the county.
- The election supervisor shall serve at the pleasure of the board.
- The county commission shall have the right to approve the hiring of any additional election employees.
- The county commission must approve the budget and salary of the election supervisor and other employees.
- The county commission decides the compensation for board members.
- This bill does not supersede any local act that has already established a board of elections.
- A county that does not have a local act governing its election board may have one passed before or after the effective date of this bill, thus superseding the election board requirements in this bill.

Appendix E



HB 206 – Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) [Staff: Martha Revelo]

This legislation authorizes local governments to create a financing tool called Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). Under this framework, a local development authority can finance energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resilience improvements on private commercial properties.

Here is how C-PACE works:

- C-PACE provides private funding for up to 100% of the costs of improvements, repayable over the life of the improvements at low fixed interest rates, utilizing existing special assessment and property tax systems to secure the financing and collect payments.
- Each authority is granted additional powers beyond those typically granted, such as making and executing intergovernmental assessment agreements, assessment agreements, and agreements for grants or loans to finance or refinance qualifying improvements.
- Counties and cities can collaborate with development authorities to finance qualifying improvements by imposing special assessments on qualifying commercial properties.
- Eligible properties for these improvements include privately owned or leased commercial, industrial, or agricultural real property, or multifamily residential real property with five or more dwelling units.
- All involved parties—the commercial property owner, the lender, and the participating local government—will enter into an agreement allowing the owner to receive funds for improvements and repay the loan alongside their property taxes. The bill allows authorities to extend credit and make loans or grants for the costs of qualifying improvements, with reasonable terms and conditions.
- Applicants must submit detailed plans demonstrating how the proposed improvements will exceed current building code requirements for energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, or resilience and certify property ownership with no delinquent taxes or assessments.
- Applicants must ensure that the proposed assessment financing meets the guidelines, including total debt (inclusive of the proposed assessment financing) not exceeding 80% of the fair market value of the property, the assessment financing itself not exceeding 25% of the fair market value of the property, and with the length of financing aligning with the expected useful life of the improvements.
- Upon approval of qualifying improvements, an assessment agreement may be entered into between the property owner and the authority detailing improvement specifics, billing and collection procedures, total assessment amount, installment schedule, administrative fees, assessment duration, and conditions for prepayment.
- Upon execution of the assessment agreement, the authority will require the participating local government to record a notice of assessment in the land records of the jurisdiction where the property is located.
- The bill prohibits authorities from granting exclusive financing rights to any capital provider on a program-wide basis, ensuring owners of qualifying properties have input into selecting capital providers.

Appendix F



HB 581 – Property and Sales Tax Reform [Staff: Dante Handel]

This legislation changes several ad valorem tax provisions and creates a new local sales tax for property tax relief.

Ad valorem changes include:

- Implementing a floating homestead exemption for all taxing jurisdictions.
 - For homes first receiving this exemption in the taxable year 2025, the base year assessed value will be the 2024 assessed value. For homes first receiving the exemption in later years, the base year assessed value will be the assessed value for the immediately preceding year. The base year value may increase each year by up to the inflationary rate determined by the State Revenue Commissioner, which may utilize the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This new floating homestead exemption is in addition to and not in lieu of all non-floating homestead exemptions. If there is an existing local floating homestead exemption, the taxpayer will receive whichever of the two exemptions is more beneficial. This is also true if a local floating homestead exemption is added in the future. Any governing authority may elect to opt out of the floating homestead exemption created by this bill by advertising and conducting three public hearings on their intent to opt out and later adopting a resolution. This process may not begin until the bill takes effect on January 1, 2025, and must be completed by March 1, 2025. A governing authority may not opt out of the statewide floating homestead exemption after this deadline.
- Creating an ‘estimated roll-back rate’ which is certified to the tax commissioner by the county for county and county school tax purposes. It is calculated using an estimated millage rate minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added by reassessments. The estimated roll-back rate is required to be included on the assessment notice. If the adopted millage rate exceeds the estimated roll-back rate, then a disclaimer is included on the tax bill stating the name of the governing authority that exceeded the estimated roll-back rate and that this will result in an increase of taxes owed.
- Removing the provision that the sale price is the maximum allowable fair market value in the next taxable year. This provision caused the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) to change their sales ratio study methodology when it was originally passed, so this change will improve the sales ratio study and prevent penalties on local governments and their taxpayers. This legislation also allows the Board of Assessors to appeal the sales ratio study directly instead of requiring a local government to appeal for them.
- Requiring that the chief appraiser ensures that every parcel in the county is appraised at least every three years.
- Modifying the three-year lock statute for appeals so the taxpayer only receives the benefit of the lock if they receive a value reduction upon appeal. This will prevent frivolous appeals filed solely for the lock.
- Removing the confusing tax estimate from the assessment notice.
- Updating the settlement conference statute so that if neither the taxpayer nor their representative participates in good faith, then the taxpayer shall not receive the benefit of the temporary fifteen percent reduction in taxes owed and shall not be awarded attorney’s fees.

Sales tax changes include:

- Revising the existing two percent local sales tax cap; exemptions now include:
 - ESPLOST
 - Up to one percent of the transportation sales taxes, which include:
 - Regional TSPLOST
 - Single-County TSPLOST
 - Transit SPLOST
 - MARTA
 - One of the specialty pennies, including:
 - The new sales tax for property tax relief created by this bill
 - Columbus-Muscogee and Macon-Bibb OLOST
 - Augusta-Richmond Coliseum SPLOST
 - MOST for Atlanta and cities connected to its water system (East Point, College Park, Hapeville)
- A new local sales tax is created for the limited purpose of property tax relief. It may be levied in 0.05 percent increments up to one percent.
- To be eligible to levy the tax, both the county and all cities within the county that levy a property tax must have in effect a floating homestead exemption: either the one created by this bill or a local floating homestead exemption. The county and cities representing at least fifty percent of the municipal population of cities that levy a property tax must enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) calling for the tax which shall specify the rate, amount of time the tax is to be levied (not to exceed five years), and the proposed distribution between the county and cities. If the total population of all municipalities absent from the IGA is less than one-half of the aggregate population of all cities in the county that levy a property tax, then the cities signing the IGA shall specify a portion of the proceeds from the tax that the absent municipalities will receive, which shall not be less than the proportion the absent municipality's population bears to the total population of all cities within the county that levy a property tax. Cities levying a MOST are excluded from these calculations and from sharing in the proceeds of this tax.
- If the tax is approved at referendum, then the collection of the tax will begin at the start of the next calendar quarter beginning more than fifty days after that date, as opposed to eighty days for other local sales taxes. The tax may be renewed only by passing a local Act calling for its reimposition. The Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) sends the money to the county and the county will be responsible for distributing the money to the cities in accordance with the IGA. The proceeds shall be used exclusively for tax relief. Each taxpayer's property tax bill shall state the amount by which property tax has been reduced because of the imposition of this tax. The roll-back rate shall be reduced annually by the millage equivalent of the net proceeds of this new tax received by the political subdivision during the prior taxable year. If any political subdivision is not in compliance with the use of the proceeds from this tax, then the State Revenue Commissioner shall not certify the tax digest of that political subdivision until it comes into compliance.

This Act becomes effective January 1, 2025, only if the constitutional amendment authorized by House Resolution 1022 is ratified during the November 2024 statewide referendum. It is applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Appendix G



2024 Governor Kemp's Veto Messages

Governor Kemp vetoed 12 bills. There were two bills of interest to counties that were vetoed. View the Governor's veto messages [here](#).

Vetoed Bills of Interest to Counties:

[HB 1019 – Doubles Statewide Homestead Exemption to \\$4,000](#) (Rep. Matt Reeves, 99th)

This legislation would have doubled the existing statewide homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000. For some local governments that provide a higher local homestead exemption that is in lieu of the statewide homestead exemption, this legislation may have had no financial impact.

[HB 1192 – Pause on New Sales Tax Exemption Certificates for Data Centers](#) (Rep. John Carson, 46th)

This legislation would have placed a two-year pause on the issuance of new sales tax exemption certificates to high-technology data centers beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026. It also would have updated the definition of “new quality jobs” and created the Special Commission on Data Center Energy Planning.

OVERVIEW OF AMENDED FY 2024 AND FY 2025 BUDGETS

The final amount appropriated for the AFY 2024 budget is \$37.9 billion which is a 16.9% increase over the original FY 2024 budget.

The final amount appropriated for the FY 2025 budget is \$36.1 billion which is a 11.4% increase over the original FY 2024 budget.

The overview below lists some of the appropriations of interest to counties by agency.

The final AFY 2024 budget can be found in [AFY Budget \(HB 915\)](#).

The final FY 2025 budget can be found in [FY Budget \(HB 916\)](#).

State Employee COLAs

- State employees will receive a 4% COLA, meaning that county commissioners, local constitutional officers (sheriff, clerk of court, probate judge and tax commissioner), magistrates and most coroners will also receive a 4% COLA for calendar year 2025.

Council of Accountability Court Judges

FY 2025

- Provide additional funds to annualize one Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) statewide coordinator position (\$32,444)

Department of Administrative Services

FY 2025

- Dedicate more funds for supplemental, illness-specific insurance for state-employed first responders diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (\$200,000)

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

AFY 2024

- Increase in funds for an additional 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot (\$664,462)
- Increase in funds for a pilot to implement transportation alternatives for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis (\$750,000)

FY 2025

- Increase in funds for an additional 30-bed jail-based competency restoration pilot program in Dodge County (\$1,993,384)
- Increase in funds for the expansion of the Cobb County jail-based restoration program (\$500,000)
- Increase in funds for a behavioral health crisis center in DBHDD's Region 1 (\$9,481,532)
- Increase in funds to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County (\$3,792,613)
- Increase in funds to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center for the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia in Dublin (\$1,586,056)

- Increase in funds to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center for Serenity Behavioral Health Systems in Augusta (\$1,221,116)
- Increase in funds for behavioral health services for Georgians experiencing homelessness in the Atlanta area (\$200,000)
- Increase in funds for operations of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah (\$125,000)
- Increase in funds for the Georgia Apex Program to expand mental health services in schools. (\$1,000,000)
- Increase funds for Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (\$4,227,287)

Department of Corrections

AFY 2024

- Additional funds for a \$2 per-diem increase for County Correctional Institutions effective April 1, 2024 (\$887,773)

FY 2025

- Additional funds for a \$2 per-diem increase for County Correctional Institutions (\$3,551,094)

Department of Revenue

AFY 2024

- Forestland Protection Grant (FLPA) program funding (\$39,073,494)

FY 2025

- FLPA program funding remained the same as AFY 2024

Department of Veterans Service

AFY 2024

- Increase funds for veterans' mental health services (\$1,000,000)

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

AFY 2024

- Provide a disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery program by coordinating federal, state, and other resources and supporting local governments to respond to major disasters and emergency events. Utilize existing funds (\$482,581) and increase funds to restore the payment of grants to counties (Total Funds: \$835,001).

FY 2025

- Utilize existing funds (\$482,581) and increase funds to restore the payments of grants to counties (Total Funds: \$1,020,001)

Department of Transportation

AFY 2024

- Provide one-time additional funding to the Local Road Assistance Administration program for additional support of local transportation infrastructure projects. These funds will be administered like the LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants) program but will not have the local match requirements (\$250,000,000).
- \$500 million in the new Freight Infrastructure Projects program to enhance the state's rapidly growing and thriving freight network.

FY 2025

- An increase of \$43.6 million to GDOT's capital programs
- An additional \$35.8 million in the Routine Maintenance Program
- Increase of \$407,000 to the Traffic Management and Control Program to support the recruitment of Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs)

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

AFY 2024

- Additional funds to support water and wastewater infrastructure development through low-interest loans to local communities (\$250,000,000).

AFY 2025

- \$15,000,000 for match for federal Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan Programs.

Department of Agriculture

AFY 2025

- \$250,000 to continue implementation of the Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot program.

Secretary of State's Office

AFY 2024

- Increase postage expenses for mailing out new precinct cards (\$1,700,000)
- Provide funds (\$110,000) to add watermarks to ballot paper
- Provide funds (\$3,000,000) to replace voting machine batteries

FY 2025

- Provide funds (\$5,000,000) for ballot-text auditing technology to verify an election without the use of QR codes

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