STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

May 5, 2023

The Honorable Burt Jones
Lieutenant Governor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable Jon Burns
Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I have identified language to disregard and line-item vetoed the appropriations below for the following sections in House Bill 19:

Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard:

1. Section 11, pertaining to the State Accounting Office, page 24, line 32.2.
2. Section 12, pertaining to the Department of Administrative Services, page 29, line 42.3.
3. Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 34, line 50.7.
4. Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 50.11.
5. Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 55.1.
6. Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 55.2.
7. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.7.
8. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.9.
9. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.10.
10. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.2.
11. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.3.
12. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.4.
13. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.6.
14. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.7.
15. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.8.
16. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.11.

17. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.13.
18. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.15.
19. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 45, line 67.2.
20. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 46, line 68.5.
21. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 46, line 68.7.
22. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 47, line 69.6.
23. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 47, line 69.7.
24. Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 48, line 70.4.
25. Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 55, line 82.1.
26. Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 56, line 83.6.
27. Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 56, line 83.8.
28. Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 58, line 87.5.
29. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 59, line 88.8.
30. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 60, line 88.11.
31. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.8.
32. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.13.
33. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.14.
34. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 64, line 94.10.
35. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.11.
36. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.12.
37. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.13.
38. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.14.
39. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.15.
40. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.19.
41. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.6.
42. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.7.
43. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.8.
44. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.10.
45. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.11.
46. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.12.
47. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.13.
48. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.17.
49. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.18.
50. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.3.
51. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.5.
52. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.6.
53. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 69, line 98.3.
54. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 99.7.
55. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 71, line 102.1.
56. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 73, line 104.3.
57. Section 18, pertaining to the Department of Community Supervision, page 77, line 110.1.

58. Section 19, pertaining to the Department of Corrections, page 83, line 119.5.
59. Section 21, pertaining to the Department of Driver Services, page 91, line 128.8.
60. Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Economic Development, page 99, line 143.6.
61. Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Economic Development, page 100, line 143.7.
62. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 101, line 144.10.
63. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 103, line 147.5.
64. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 107, line 154.6.
65. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 108, line 155.5.
66. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 110, line 160.11.
67. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 110, line 160.12.
68. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 113, line 166.6.
69. Section 25, pertaining to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, page 116, line 172.1.
70. Section 26, pertaining to the State Forestry Commission, page 118, line 173.6.
71. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 123, line 181.4.
72. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.1.
73. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.5.
74. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.6.
75. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.7.
76. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.8.
77. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 125, line 185.5.
78. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 132, line 195.8.
79. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 133, line 196.4.
80. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 133, line 197.4.
81. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 137, line 206.3.
82. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.6.
83. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.7.
84. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.8.
85. Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.9.
86. Section 29, pertaining to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, page 143, line 216.6.
87. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 147, line 221.5.
88. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 148, line 222.8.
89. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 149, line 224.1.
90. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 149, line 224.8.
91. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.1.
92. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.5.
93. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.6.
94. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.7.
95. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 151, line 227.1.
96. Section 32, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 156, line 232.5.
97. Section 32, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 157, line 234.3.
98. Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 158, line 235.7.
99. Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 159, line 236.5.
100. Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources, page 164, line 243.4.
101. Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 172, line 252.5.
102. Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 174, line 256.2.
103. Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 175, line 258.4.

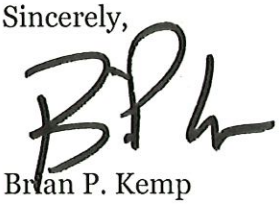
104. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 179, line 266.6.
105. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 181, line 269.1.
106. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 183, line 271.1.
107. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 184, line 273.4.
108. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 274.1.
109. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 275.1.
110. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 275.5.
111. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 186, line 276.4.
112. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 186, line 276.5.
113. Section 40, pertaining to the Public Service Commission, page 188, line 278.5.
114. Section 40, pertaining to the Public Service Commission, page 188, line 279.4.
115. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 190, line 281.5.
116. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 191, line 283.6.
117. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.3.
118. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.6.
119. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.8.
120. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.10.
121. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.11.
122. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 203, line 301.4.
123. Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 211, line 316.6.
124. Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 214, line 321.4.
125. Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 217, line 325.1.
126. Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 220, line 333.2.
127. Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 223, line 341.2.
128. Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.7.
129. Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.8.
130. Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.9.
131. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 246, line 375.17.
132. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 246, line 375.19.
133. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 261, line 376.611.
134. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 262, line 376.613.

Vetoes:

1. Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 57, line 85.101.
2. Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 228, line 350.100.
3. Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation, page 237, line 364.100.
4. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page, 253, line 376.233.
5. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 254, line 376.238.
6. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 255, line 376.260.
7. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 255, line 376.262.
8. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 256, line 376.263.
9. Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 258, line 376.405.

The messages for the above referenced items are attached.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Kemp

BPK:rbw

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State
The Honorable Chris Carr, Attorney General
The Honorable Blake Tillery, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Matt Hatchett, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. David A. Cook, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Rick Ruskell, Legislative Counsel

HB 19 – FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

INTENT LANGUAGE CONSIDERED NON-BINDING

Section 11, pertaining to the State Accounting Office, page 24, line 32.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $4,528,476 in state general funds to the State Accounting Office for the Financial Systems program to be used for operating, maintaining, and staffing the statewide financial and human capital management systems. The office has numerous vacant positions and is in the process of substantially modifying this program with the implementation of the NextGen project that will produce efficiencies in operations. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 32.2 and evaluate the future needs of the program for the NextGen project.

Section 12, pertaining to the Department of Administrative Services, page 29, line 42.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,000,000 in state general funds to the Department of Administrative Services for the Risk Management program to be used for paying negotiated Workers' Compensation settlements to reduce outstanding claims. While the state has made substantive investments in reducing outstanding Workers Compensation claims in recent budgets, this appropriation is not sufficient to meet estimated needs. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 42.3.

Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 34, line 50.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $340,000 in state general funds to the Department of Agriculture for the Consumer Protection program for the State Agricultural Response Team (SART). As specific uses for these funds were not identified, the agency is instructed to use these funds for training, equipment, or for overtime or conditional pay supplements for team members earned during event response pursuant to Policy 7 – the Statewide Overtime Policy and State Personnel Board Rule 478-1-.12(9).

Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 50.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $850,000 in state general funds to the Department of Agriculture for the Consumer Protection program to increase funds for operations. As specific uses for these funds were not identified, the agency is instructed to use these funds for one-time equipment replacement and facility improvement projects at the Tifton laboratory in conjunction with the recommissioning funded by HB 18 (2023).

Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 55.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $224,400 in state general funds to the Department of Agriculture for the Payments to Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority program to be used for a one-time salary adjustment to provide parity for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees not directly state funded to address agency retention needs. The Authority is a self-funded agency, and its employees are funded through revenues generated by the Authority's activities. State funding for the program is supplementary and not related to personal services. Therefore, the Authority is directed to disregard the language included in line 55.1 and manage personal services costs through the Authority's existing revenue model.

Section 13, pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, page 37, line 55.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $98,400 in state general funds to the Department of Agriculture for the Payments to Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority program to be used for

an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs. The Authority is a self-funded agency that is able to generate and retain revenue. State funding for the program is supplementary and not related to insurance. Therefore, the Authority is directed to disregard the language included in line 55.2 and manage costs through the Authority's existing revenue model.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $10,950,021 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services program to annualize the cost of 513 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. $771,514 of this appropriation would fund only administrative overhead costs rather than provide additional waiver slots. The Department has sufficient existing program funding to deploy the additional slots without additional administrative overhead. Therefore, the agency is directed to utilize the funds included in line 62.7 for direct waiver expenses only.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.9:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,112,791 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 62.9.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 42, line 62.10:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services program to begin implementation of the 2022-2023 provider rate study pending approval by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The General Assembly did not appropriate any additional funds to support implementation of the provider rate study. The study estimated a $105 million cost to implement the rate increase which would require the Department to redirect 25 percent of existing program funding from other services to meet the additional cost. This unfunded mandate would have devastating impacts on the Department's ability to maintain existing levels of service to the adult developmentally disabled community. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 62.10 until the resources necessary to support implementing this important study have been appropriated.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,218,343 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Forensic Services program to fill nine vacant forensic evaluator positions and 23 peer mentor positions at market rate. The Department received funding for additional peer mentors in FY 2023 and has been unable to fully fill those positions. The Department should utilize existing funding for these activities before additional funds are added. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 63.2.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $277,027 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Forensic Services program to increase salaries for forensic peer mentors. As the Department has not fully filled the forensic peer mentors added in FY 2023, existing funding could be used to increase salaries for forensic peer mentors without requiring additional program funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 63.3.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 43, line 63.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $4,376,950 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Forensic Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 63.4.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $7,030,171 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program to annualize the operations of a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center at Serenity Behavioral Health Systems in Augusta. The state contracts with community service boards (CSBs) and other providers to provide crisis capacity across the state. Current behavioral health crisis centers are staffed at specific ratios and are reimbursed by the department based upon established budgets set each fiscal year. Each budget should reflect a similar and appropriate staffing ratio based on utilization of each facility. Therefore, the agency is directed to utilize the crisis capacity study and continue to provide services based upon the projected utilization while ensuring equity across providers.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $6,651,470 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program for a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County. The state contracts with community service boards (CSBs) and other providers to provide crisis capacity across the state. Current behavioral health crisis centers are staffed at specific ratios and are reimbursed by the department based upon established budgets set each fiscal year. Each budget should reflect a similar and appropriate staffing ratio based on utilization of each facility. Therefore, the agency is directed to utilize the crisis capacity study and continue to provide services based upon the projected utilization while ensuring equity across providers.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $10,823,084 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program to convert a crisis stabilization unit at the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia in Dublin to a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center. The

state contracts with community service boards (CSBs) and other providers to provide crisis capacity across the state. Current behavioral health crisis centers are staffed at specific ratios and are reimbursed by the department based upon established budgets set each fiscal year. Each budget should reflect a similar and appropriate staffing ratio based on utilization of each facility. Therefore, the agency is directed to utilize the crisis capacity study and continue to provide services based upon the projected utilization while ensuring equity across providers.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,251,420 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program for additional program and administrative support to manage the national '988' hotline. These funds would increase administrative funding to the '988' hotline rather than direct response services for those in crisis. Call volume has not increased to a level requiring additional administrative support over existing levels. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 64.11.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.13:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,902,500 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement. The Department received additional funding in the FY 2023 that remains in the base budget and is sufficient to meet projected utilization without additional funding needs. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 64.13.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 44, line 64.15:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,735,431 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Adult Mental Health Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 64.15.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 45, line 67.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $69,190 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Child and Adolescent Forensic Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 67.2.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 46, line 68.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,000,000 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services program for the Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) teams to support collaboration across state agencies. Agencies should look for opportunities to collaborate strategically on providing appropriate health care to vulnerable populations as an integral part of their duties without requiring additional funding to do so. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 68.5 and work directly with other stakeholder agencies to ensure positive outcomes for children.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 46, line 68.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $6,162 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 68.7.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 47, line 69.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $650,000 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in the Departmental Administration (DBHDD) program to support agency operations. These funds would not support new activities or services but would increase overhead funding for existing agency responsibilities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 69.6.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 47, line 69.7:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in the Departmental Administration (DBHDD) program to utilize opioid funds for an addiction treatment locator site. The final settlement agreement gave authority for directing trust funds to the trustee of the fund. Usage of the trust funds outside of the authority of the trustee are prohibited. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 69.7.

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 48, line 70.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,844,751 in state general funds to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the Direct Care Support Services program to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff. Previous efforts to address staff salaries have addressed retention allowing the department to increase bed capacity across the state hospital system. The agency should strategically identify specific positions with ongoing turnover concerns rather than increasing salaries across the board. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 70.4.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 55, line 82.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $800,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the Special Housing Initiatives program to increase the number of

grants awarded through the Home Access Program. Base funding already exists for this program in addition to other accessibility programs offered through other agencies. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 82.1.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 56, line 83.6: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $200,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the State Community Development Programs program to increase funds for the Helping Hands Ending Hunger program. Agencies should use a competitive grant process in awarding state funds for community-based services to ensure non-profit organizations have equal opportunity to apply for available state funding and that funds are awarded to the programs delivering the largest impact on Georgians in need. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 83.6.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 56, line 83.8: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $200,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the State Community Development Programs program to expand 2-1-1 services in rural Georgia. Agencies should use a competitive grant process in awarding state funds for community-based services to ensure non-profit organizations have equal opportunity to apply for available state funding and that funds are awarded to the programs delivering the largest impact on Georgians in need. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 83.8.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 58, line 87.5: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,000,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the Payments to OneGeorgia Authority program. The appropriations act did not identify a need for or an intended use of the funds. Therefore, the Authority is directed to disregard the language included in line 87.5.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 59, line 88.8: The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Health in the Departmental Administration (DCH) program to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS). The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 88.8.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 60, line 88.11: The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Health in the Departmental Administration (DCH) program to work with the Department of Human Services to submit a 1915(i) State Plan Amendment (SPA) providing youth with behavioral and mental health conditions access to Home and Community Based Services. The 1915(i) State Plan Amendment would expand the scope of services covered by Medicaid, but the General Assembly authorized no additional funding for this purpose. It is unclear what specific services such an amendment would add to the State Plan, and as such, it is not possible to estimate the likely cost of such an expansion. Additionally, the budget reduces required base funding for Medicaid, which could create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 88.11.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $409,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Healthcare Access and Improvement program to support existing and new housing with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). The state already provides 51% of total funding for AHEC at more than $3.1 million annually for operating support. AHEC receives additional funding support from federal and local partners. While these funds would provide housing cost assistance for students, it would not increase direct services for patients. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 91.8.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.13:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $4,000,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Healthcare Access and Improvement program to provide one-time grants up to $1,000,000 for hospitals with graduate medical education programs to support new and expanding residency programs, with priority given to new and rural sites, including Colquitt Regional Medical Center and Archbold Medical Center. The agency is authorized to develop a competitive grant application process and criteria for awards to identify graduate medical education programs in greatest need of infrastructure funding in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the board.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 62, line 91.14:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $50,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Healthcare Access and Improvement program for the Georgia Council of Lupus Education and Awareness to support research, data collection, awareness, and education. The state provides $100,000 annually to the Georgia Council of Lupus Education and Awareness and this would represent a 50 percent increase in contributions to the Council. The Council does not provide direct health services to patients. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 91.14.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 64, line 94.10:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,390,850 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged Blind, and Disabled program to be used for adult coverage of dental services. The General Assembly seeks to fund the types of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing base funding for the Medicaid program overall, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Additionally, the amount provided is insufficient to meet actual service expansion costs based on utilization rates seen in other states and leaves significant outyear unfunded liabilities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 94.10 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $650,651 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program for a 5% increase to emergency medical services (EMS) reimbursement rates. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.11 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.12: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $10,511,896 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program for a 4% rate increase for home and community-based service providers. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.12 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.13: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $854,167 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program for a 5% rate increase for Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) providers. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.13 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.14: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $308,666 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program to increase the dispensing fee to $11.50 for low-volume pharmacies that fill under 65,000 prescriptions per year. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.14 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.15: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,195,707 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.15 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 65, line 94.19: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $466,926 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled program to add funds for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS). The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 94.19 and utilize funds for

expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,401,214 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to be used for adult coverage of dental services. The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Additionally, the amount provided is insufficient to meet actual service expansion costs based on utilization rates seen in other states and leaves significant outyear unfunded liabilities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 95.6 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $442,464 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program for a 5% increase to emergency medical services (EMS) reimbursement rates. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for the Medicaid program, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.7 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $871,029 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to reimburse for family psychological and therapy services. The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.8 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.10:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $312,630 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to increase the dispensing fee to $11.50 for low-volume pharmacies that fill under 65,000 prescriptions per year. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for the Medicaid program, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.10 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $5,037,452 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these

increases by reducing required base funding for the Medicaid program, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.11 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 66, line 95.12: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $18,718,846 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to increase select primary care and OB/GYN codes to 2021 Medicare levels. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for the Medicaid program, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.12 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.13: The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Health within the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to require Medicaid managed care organizations to reimburse medical equipment suppliers at no less than 100% of the state Medicaid program Durable Medical Equipment fee schedule. This direction also applies to managed care contractors, subcontractors, and third-party administrators. The state provides funding to Medicaid managed care organizations at a capitated rate and does not specify rates for individual medical services. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 95.13.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.17: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $408,729 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: Low-Income program to add funds for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS). The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 95.17 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 67, line 95.18: The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Health within the Medicaid: Low-Income Medicaid program to utilize existing funds to implement value-based purchasing. The Department will need time to develop quality metrics for value-based purchasing that would make it difficult to fully implement in FY 2024. As the state must reprocure these contracts within the next two years, the Department should utilize that time to develop the quality metrics necessary to implement value-based purchasing as part of the reprocurement process. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 95.18.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.3: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $11,243 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Medicaid: PeachCare program for a 5% increase to emergency medical services (EMS) reimbursement rates. While ensuring service providers are adequately compensated is important in maintaining a stable provider network, the General Assembly seeks to fund these increases by reducing required base funding for the Medicaid program, which is

likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 96.3 and utilize funds for the for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.5: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $408,729 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the PeachCare program to add funds for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS). The General Assembly seeks to fund the scope of services reimbursable by Medicaid by reducing required base funding for Medicaid, which is likely to create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 96.5 and utilize funds for expense and growth needs in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 68, line 96.6: The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Health within the PeachCare program to utilize existing funds to implement value-based purchasing. The Department will need time to develop quality metrics for value-based purchasing that would make it difficult to fully implement in FY 2024. As the state must reprocure these contracts within the next two years, the Department should utilize that time to develop the quality metrics necessary to implement value-based purchasing as part of the reprocurement process. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 96.6.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 69, line 98.3: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $100,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Georgia Board of Healthcare Workforce: Board Administration program to fund a statewide neurology assessment to evaluate current and future needs. Based on prior fiscal year spending levels, the Board has the budget capacity to fund this initiative without the need for additional state funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 98.3.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 99.7: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $432,338 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Georgia Board of Healthcare Workforce: Graduate Medical Education program to increase funds for child and adolescent psychiatry fellows at the Medical College of Georgia. While these funds would address future healthcare workforce needs, the appropriated amount is insufficient to cover the additional fellowships and the College is unable to proceed with implementation until additional funding is appropriated for the full cohort. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 99.7.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 71, line 102.1: The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $850,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Georgia Board of Healthcare Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas program to establish a loan repayment program for mental health professionals. HB 520, which would have authorized the loan repayment program, was not passed by the General Assembly during the 2023 Session and these funds will not be necessary. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 102.1.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 73, line 104.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $431,836 in state general funds to the Department of Community Health for the Georgia Composite Medical Board program to increase funds for personnel to support increased licensure application volume. Given the increase in licensure volume over a five-year period, the Board should prioritize increasing the number of licensing analysts to process applications and renewals to help maintain our healthcare workforce pipeline.

Section 18, pertaining to the Department of Community Supervision, page 77, line 110.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $29,271 in state general funds to the Department of Community Supervision for the Georgia Commission on Family Violence program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees. Of these funds, $14,135 would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 110.1.

Section 19, pertaining to the Department of Corrections, page 83, line 119.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $3,551,094 in state general funds to the Department of Corrections for the Offender Management program to provide a two dollar per diem increase for County Correctional Institutions. Historically, per diem rates have been negotiated with the Department to determine reimbursement levels for County Correctional Institutions. The Department has not provided any information supporting a $2 per diem increase and should work with County Correctional Institutions to determine an appropriate increase if needed. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 119.5.

Section 21, pertaining to the Department of Driver Services, page 91, line 128.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,310,516 in state general funds to the Department of Driver Services for the License Issuance program for salary adjustments to address high turnover. These funds would only impact salaries at select customer service centers and create substantial disparities in salaries based on geography rather than workload, potentially worsening turnover at customer service centers not receiving salary adjustments. Additionally, these salaries would violate the statewide salary structure established by the Human Resources Administration. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 128.8.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Economic Development, page 99, line 143.6:
The General Assembly seeks to reduce state general funds by $240,251 to the Department of Economic Development for the Tourism program for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and direct the agency to utilize $500,000 in existing funds for ongoing facility improvements and educational exhibits. Ga. Const. Art. III, VI, Para VI prohibits the use of state funds to provide gratuities to any individual, corporation, or association. Subsequent Attorney General opinions of the Gratuity Clause have deemed that "It is unlawful to expend state funds in order to make permanent improvements to property unless the state owns the fee interest in the property concerned or unless the improvements are of such a nature or character to be subject to either recoupment or removal by the state at the time the state's use of the property terminates." Therefore, the Department is authorized to use up to $500,000 for educational exhibits at the Center, but the agency shall ensure that appropriated funds are not used for facility improvements at non-state owned property.

Section 23, pertaining to the Department of Economic Development, page 100, line 143.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $70,000 in state general funds to the Department of Economic Development for the Tourism program to maintain markers for the Georgia Historical Society. The state already provides annual funding for this activity and the Society as a non-profit organization is not prohibited from receiving financial support and donations from private individuals. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 143.7.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 101, line 144.10:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $288,000 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Agricultural Education program for two young farmer positions in Barrow and Hall counties and for an oversight position. The Department of Audits' recent audit of the Georgia Young Farmers program noted concerns with a lack of performance measures and activity data that would enable the Department of Education to track effectiveness in achieving program goals. The Department should take steps to address the concerns raised in the audit report prior to further expanding the program to additional locations. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 144.10.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 103, line 147.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,700,000 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Charter Schools program for charter facility grants pursuant to HB 430 (2017 Session). HB 430 does not require additional funding for charter facility grants but instead allows the state board to award facilities grants to local and state charter schools, subject to appropriations. As additional charter schools are added at the state and local level annually, this creates a compounding outyear liability for program funding. Therefore, the Department is directed to disregard the language in line 147.5.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 107, line 154.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $50,000 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Non Quality Basic Education Formula Grants program for feminine hygiene grants due to inflation and increased enrollment. The Department has provided no data on actual program needs or unmet demand and has existing funding of $1,450,000 for school grants. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 154.6.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 108, line 155.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $6,333,713 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Nutrition program for the cost of breakfast and lunch for reduce-pay students. These funds would offset the loss of federal pandemic relief funds previously used to provide free breakfast and lunch for reduce-pay students through September 2022. As Georgia is participating in a federal pilot program that is expected to expand and streamline access to reduced cost meals for Georgia students, the amount provided in this line item is likely insufficient to fully fund the cost of providing free breakfast and lunch for reduce-pay students. The Department of Education should continue to implement the school nutrition program in accordance with federal guidelines until the full impact of improving program access through the federal pilot program can be determined. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 155.5.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 110, line 160.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $49,493 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Quality Basic Education program for a military counselor in Chattahoochee

County. The U.S. Department of Defense provides military counselors and counseling services for eligible students and for school districts. The Department should evaluate school system needs based on military populations served to ensure that available state funds are appropriately distributed to serve highest need districts. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 160.11.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 110, line 160.12:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $8,636,781 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Quality Basic Education program for a salary supplement of $1,000 to custodians. The Quality Basic Education funding formula as outlined in O.C.G.A. Title 20, Ch. 2, Art. 6 does not authorize funding to school districts for custodians. Funding recurring salary payments for custodial staff in school districts through the Quality Basic Education program would require a legislative change to the Quality Basic Education funding formula. As the appropriations act cannot make change to general law, the agency, therefore, is directed to disregard the language in line 160.12.

Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 113, line 166.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $711,000 in state general funds to the Department of Education for the Technology/Career Education for construction industry certification. The Department has existing funds for this contract for high school programs. This funding would expand construction industry certification programs to lower grades; however, all fifteen current industry certified programs managed by the Department of Education are for high school curriculums. Therefore, the Department is directed to disregard the language in line 166.6.

Section 25, pertaining to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, page 116, line 172.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $26,750,000 in state general funds to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia for the System Administration program for an annual benefit adjustment to retired state employees. O.C.G.A. Title 47 Chapter 2 Article 2 authorizes the board of trustees for the Employees' Retirement System to determine the formula for benefit payments to retirees and any postretirement benefit adjustments. The Board of Trustees therefore shall determine the most appropriate formula for disbursing these funds in accordance with the most recently adopted postretirement benefit adjustment methodology.

Section 26, pertaining to the State Forestry Commission, page 118, line 173.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,347,037 in state general funds to the State Forestry Commission for the Commission Administration (SFC) program for grants pursuant to O.C.G.A. §48-14-1. The funding included in this line item is insufficient to implement the grant program authorized under O.C.G.A. 48-14-1 and would create significant unfunded liabilities in future budgets. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 173.6.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 123, line 181.4:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Office of the Governor within the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination to coordinate and facilitate inter-agency cooperation in developing a 1915(i) State Plan Amendment (SPA) to support youth with behavioral and mental health conditions. The 1915(i) State Plan Amendment would expand the scope of services covered by Medicaid, but the General Assembly authorized no additional funding for this purpose. It is unclear what specific services such an amendment would add to the State Plan, and as such, it is not possible to estimate the likely cost of such an expansion. Additionally, the budget reduces

required base funding for Medicaid, which could create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 181.4.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $209,924 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees. Of these funds, $130,161 would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 183.1.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $352,420 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency program to annualize funds for recruitment and retention. These funds would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 183.5.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $58,000 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency program to be used for operations and maintenance at the agency's building located at Georgia Public Safety Training Center campus. This building was constructed with federal funds and is used for disaster response and readiness and should be maintained with federal funds provided for those activities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 183.6.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $66,227 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency program to be used for the service and location tracking of 16 generators. These generators and the associated service contracts were funded through and in support of federal programs. This line item would direct the agency to supplant federal spending with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 183.7.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 124, line 183.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,250,000 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency program to deploy Formulytics in the gang database statewide. State vendors must be selected in accordance with state procurement regulations and cannot be specified through an appropriations act. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 183.8 and utilize the funds for a competitive grant to facilitate gang activity prosecution.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 125, line 185.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $250,000 in state general funds to the Office of the Governor for the Governor's Office of Student Achievement program to increase funds for the Literacy Lab's Leading Men Fellowship program. While literacy education is a high priority for the state, this line item awards funds to an individual organization on a non-competitive basis. Agencies should use a competitive grant process in awarding state funds for community-based services to ensure non-profit organizations have equal opportunity to apply for available state funding and that funds are awarded to the programs delivering the largest impact on Georgians in need. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 185.5.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 132, line 195.8:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Human Services in the Departmental Administration (DHS) program to work with the Department of Community Health to submit a 1915(i) State Plan Amendment (SPA) providing youth with behavioral and mental health conditions access to Home and Community Based Services. The 1915(i) State Plan Amendment would expand the scope of services covered by Medicaid, but the General Assembly authorized no additional funding for this purpose. It is unclear what specific services such an amendment would add to the State Plan, and as such, it is not possible to estimate the likely cost of such an expansion. Additionally, the budget reduces required base funding for Medicaid, which could create a shortfall in the program. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 195.8.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 133, line 196.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $590,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Elder Abuse Investigations and Prevent program for the Long-term Care Ombudsman program. These funds would be used to increase contract amounts for existing long-term care ombudsmen representatives for salary, benefit, and administrative expenses. These funds would not expand the number of ombudsmen representatives nor the services provided to the state's aging population. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 196.4.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 133, line 197.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,000,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Elder Community Living Services program for Alzheimer's and related dementias respite. The program has an existing base budget of $1.3 million for respite services. The agency should evaluate current respite care utilization to determine respite needs that serve the broader aging population and are not limited by a specific diagnosis. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 197.4.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 137, line 206.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $10,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Council on Aging program to improve meeting technology. Funds would provide for virtual meetings for Council members. Current budget capacity is sufficient to implement such technology, if necessary, without additional funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 206.3.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $128,150 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation program to increase funds and recognize $361,500 in base funds for Georgia Radio Reading Services. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program purpose is to assist people with disabilities so that they may go to work. The additional funding does not directly assist individuals finding employment and is a 35% increase to the base budget. The agency should determine metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of the service in assisting individuals in going to work prior to further expanding the existing contract. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 212.6.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $150,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation

program to increase services. The appropriations act did not identify a specific service need for or an intended use of the funds. Based on prior fiscal year spending levels, the Agency has the budget capacity to fund this initiative without the need for additional state funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 212.7.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $100,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation program to increase funds for independent living services. Based on prior fiscal year spending levels, the Agency has the budget capacity to fund this initiative without the need for additional state funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 212.8.

Section 28, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 140, line 212.9:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $25,000 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation program to provide funds for employment services to transplant recipients. Based on prior fiscal year spending levels, the Agency has the budget capacity to fund this initiative without the need for additional state funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 212.9.

Section 29, pertaining to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, page 143, line 216.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $403,496 in state general funds to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance Fire Safety program to increase personnel. The agency has recently received funding for additional positions to support workload and is implementing technology that will further manage workload needs. The agency should assess the impact that current investments will have on program workload before further expanding its workforce to ensure highest remaining workload needs are prioritized. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 216.6.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 147, line 221.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $4,925,155 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for maintenance and collaboration of the Georgia Crime Information Center. These funds would be used to replace fees collected for firearm permit background checks following passage of SB 319 during the 2022 session. Any reduction in permitting should also reduce the workload of the Center in completing background checks. As the Bureau has not seen a full year of impact of the legislation on either revenues or workload, the Center should maintain existing funding and evaluate funding and operational needs once the impact is known. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 221.5.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 148, line 222.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,497,368 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Forensic Scientific Services program to stagger start dates for 14 scientists, two crime lab assistant managers, two crime lab technicians, two evidence receiving technicians, one IT business analyst and associated operations in the Firearms, Chemistry, and Toxicology sections to process incoming evidence. The agency currently already has funded vacant positions within this program to fill this need without additional funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 222.8.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 149, line 224.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,386,633 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Regional Investigative Services program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This amount includes an additional $109,172 based on a higher retirement cost across the program; however, it does not account for standard variations between individual employee rates based on retirement plans and natural turnover. Therefore, the agency should utilize funds in line 224.1 based on actual need to implement the cost-of-living adjustment.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 149, line 224.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $705,000 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Regional Investigative Services program for a new leads tracking system. Funds were provided in the Amended 2023 budget to purchase this system. Procurement will take place during FY 2024 and operational funding will not be needed until FY 2025. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 224.8.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $418,321 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. Of these funds, $356,367 would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the Council is directed to disregard the language included in line 225.1.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $890,924 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council program to annualize funds for recruitment and retention. These funds would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 225.5.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $4,566,146 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council program for personnel and operations for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. These funds would supplant federal funds the program already receives for personnel and operations. The agency should ensure that administrative costs are a reasonable portion of federal funding and must make operational changes to align to available federal funding while prioritizing funds for crime victims. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 225.6.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 150, line 225.7:
The General Assembly seeks to reduce funding for training for state and local law enforcement officers. While it is unfortunate the General Assembly did not maintain funds for these important training programs to ensure our law enforcement officers have appropriate training to deescalate threatening situations and better protect our citizens and our students, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is directed to allocate remaining training grant funds to provide on-going school resource officer training.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 151, line 227.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,262,898 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: Family Violence program for sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) coordinators and improve access to SANE resources for sexual assault centers. These funds would not result in additional sexual assault nurse examiners but would instead supplant existing federal funds used for these positions with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 227.1.

Section 32, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 156, line 232.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $50,000 in state general funds to the Department of Labor for the Departmental Administration (DOL) program for salary adjustments. These funds would supplant federal funds used for employee salaries with state funds. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 232.5.

Section 32, pertaining to the Department of Labor, page 157, line 234.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,950,000 in state general funds to the Department of Labor for the Unemployment Insurance program for salary adjustments to reflect the loss of Wagner-Peyser grant funding. The Department has not previously received Wagner-Peyser funds in the Unemployment Insurance program as Wagner-Peyser funds are dedicated to workforce development programs. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 234.3.

Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 158, line 235.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,624,964 in state general funds to the Department of Law for the Department of Law program for a three-year merit-based retention initiative for attorney positions. As appropriation acts may only authorize spending for the fiscal year as established in that act and cannot obligate funds for future fiscal years, the Department is directed to disregard the language included in line 235.7 referencing a three-year initiative.

Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 159, line 236.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $16,867 in state general funds to the Department of Law for the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to draw down a 75% federal match for two vehicles for investigator positions. The agency has sufficient budget capacity to fill this need without additional funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 236.5.

Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources, page 164, line 243.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate an additional $55,000 in state general funds to the Department of Natural Resources for the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites program to increase funds for the Georgia State Games Commission. O.C.G.A. § 50-12-44 authorizes the Commission to accept donations and grants for the purposes of promoting the Georgia State Games. The Commission has historically been self-funded and has not demonstrated a need for or planned use of state funding. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 243.4.

Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 172, line 252.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $150,000 in state general funds to the Department of Public Health Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion program to increase funds for feminine hygiene products for low-income clients at community organizations. The state already provides ongoing funding of $200,000 annually for feminine hygiene products through public health

offices and $1,450,000 for feminine hygiene products through K-12 public schools. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 252.5.

Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 174, line 256.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $150,000 in state general funds to the Department of Public Health for the Epidemiology program to increase funds and recognize $1,222,519 in state funds for the poison control center. The additional funds would replace federal funds previously used for the Poison Control Center. State funds should not be used to supplant federal activities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 256.2.

Section 38, pertaining to the Department of Public Health, page 175, line 258.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $804,842 in state general funds to the Department of Public Health for the Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services program to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers in the Babies Can't Wait program. The appropriations act also authorized increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for these providers in lines 94.15 and 95.11 of the Medicaid: Aged, Blind, and Disabled and Medicaid: Low Income Medicaid programs; however, the Department of Community Health has been instructed to disregard this language due to reductions in required base funding for Medicaid that could cause a budget shortfall. In order to maintain provider rate parity between programs, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 258.4.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 179, line 266.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $235,408 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Aviation program for two positions to support additional flight hours and missions for pilots. The agency currently has sufficient funded vacancies to fill this need without requiring additional state fund support. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 266.6.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 181, line 269.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $3,618,720 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Field Offices and Services program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This amount includes an additional $77,520 based on a higher retirement cost across the program; however, it does not account for standard variations between individual employee rates based on retirement plans and natural turnover. Therefore, the agency should utilize funds in line 269.1 based on actual need to implement the cost-of-living adjustment.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 183, line 271.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,075,200 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Motor Carrier Compliance program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This amount includes an additional $60,327 based on a higher retirement cost across the program; however, it does not account for standard variations between individual employee rates based on retirement plans and natural turnover. Therefore, the agency should utilize funds in line 271.1 based on actual need to implement the cost-of-living adjustment.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 184, line 273.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $55,000 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council program for ongoing costs for virtual testing for firefighter certification and training database. The Council has sufficient budget capacity to continue implementation of the new virtual firefighter certification testing system without requiring additional state funds support. The Council should determine ongoing maintenance and operation needs for the system once it is fully deployed. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 273.4.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 274.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $134,400 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This amount includes an additional $12,307 based on a higher retirement cost across the program; however, it does not account for standard variations between individual employee rates based on retirement plans and natural turnover. Therefore, the agency should utilize funds in line 274.1 based on actual need to implement the cost-of-living adjustment.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 275.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $593,509 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center program to provide a $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This amount includes an additional $32,452 based on a higher retirement cost across the program; however, it does not account for standard variations between individual employee rates based on retirement plans and natural turnover. Therefore, the agency should utilize funds in line 275.1 based on actual need to implement the cost-of-living adjustment.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 185, line 275.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $628,887 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center program for ongoing costs for operations. The agency should ensure that state funds are not used to supplant activities typically funded through federal grants or training fees and that training fees appropriately recoup the costs to provide training to attendees. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 275.5.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 186, line 276.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $28,839 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety program for ongoing costs for one finance position. The agency currently has sufficient vacancies and budget capacity to fill this need without additional funding. The agency should ensure that state funds are not used to supplant salaries or positions funded in whole or in part through federal grants. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 276.4.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 186, line 276.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $36,253 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety program for ongoing costs for travel. The agency currently has sufficient budget capacity to fill this need without additional funding. The agency should ensure that state funds are not used to supplant agency activities that should

be funded in whole or in part through federal grants. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 276.5.

Section 40, pertaining to the Public Service Commission, page 188, line 278.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $47,840 in state general funds to the Public Service Commission for the Commission Administration (PSC) program to increase funds for security. The Department of Public Safety provides security services for state buildings in the Capitol complex. The Commission is authorized to coordinate with the Department of Public Safety to ensure appropriate security coverage during public activities held in the Capitol complex. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 278.5.

Section 40, pertaining to the Public Service Commission, page 188, line 279.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $80,538 in state general funds to the Public Service Commission for the Facility Protection program to annualize funds for recruitment and retention. Of this appropriation, $63,726 would supplant federal funds already used to fund a portion of employee salaries. State funds should not supplant federal activities. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 279.4.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 190, line 281.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $584,987 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Agricultural Experiment Station program for two faculty positions to serve the peach and citrus industries. In establishing projects to support Georgia industries, the state should prioritize projects which maximize state funds by leveraging additional investment from the institution, supporting industries, or federal grants. As the University System was not able to identify additional investment that would be leveraged through these additional faculty positions, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 281.5.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 191, line 283.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $415,013 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Cooperative Extension Service program for two faculty positions to serve the blueberry and citrus industries. In establishing projects to support Georgia industries, the state should prioritize projects which maximize state funds by leveraging additional investment from the institution, supporting industries, or federal grants. As the University System was not able to identify additional investment that would be leveraged through these additional faculty positions, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 283.6.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,600,000 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program for music industry archiving at the University of Georgia. Ga. Const. Art. III, VI, Para VI prohibits the use of state funds to provide gratuities to any individual, corporation, or association. Subsequent Attorney General opinions of the Gratuity Clause have deemed that "It is unlawful to expend state funds in order to make permanent improvements to property unless the state owns the fee interest in the property concerned or unless the improvements are of such a nature or character to be subject to either recoupment or removal by the state at the time the state's use of the property terminates." Therefore, the University System is authorized to use up

to $2,600,000 for music industry archive programming, but the agency shall ensure that appropriated funds are not used for facility improvements at non-state owned property.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $487,637 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program to increase funds for the Center for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia. This line item would fund six additional positions and significant travel and conference costs for energy security research. The Center already engages in energy security research using existing funding. The Center could provide additional resources within existing funding if expanding research efforts is a high priority for the Center. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 295.6.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $90,000 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program for the STEM Teacher Academy through the Georgia Youth Science Technology Center. The state has not previously provided funding to subsidize the cost of the STEM Academy and the Georgia Youth Science Technology Center has not offered this programming since 2019. The Georgia Youth Science Center should ensure that costs for attendance cover program expenses and that the Center has appropriately managed internal operational costs to maintain affordable tuition rates. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 295.8.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.10:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $310,000 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program to expand the Archway Partnership into two additional communities. The Archway Partnership currently serves 8 counties with 13 full-time staff and 14 student assistants. These funds would add two additional full-time staff and two student assistants. The Archway Partnership should examine the ability to serve additional communities within existing staffing levels or leverage other state programs dedicated to rural economic development to expand communities served. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 295.10.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 199, line 295.11:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,500,000 in state general funds to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program to support operations and address a backlog of projects at the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation. This would double the ongoing budget for the Center to provide funding for one-time projects across a variety of locations. The Center should ensure project allocations are made within its existing budget and leveraging resources from participating communities and partners. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language in line 295.11.

Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 203, line 301.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $264,500 to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for the Payments to the Georgia Commission on

the Holocaust program for the Anne Frank Holocaust Education Center. The Commission has raised funding through generous donations to support the relocation to the new facility in Sandy Springs without additional required state funds. Therefore, the agency should disregard the language in line 301.4.

Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 211, line 316.6:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $550,000 in state general funds to the Secretary of State for the Elections program for one-time funding for on-boarding local election entities to a data plan contract. Funding for data plan contracts for elections equipment is the responsibility of local governments. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 316.6.

Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 214, line 321.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $25,000 in state general funds to the Secretary of State for the State Elections Board program to design a website and for ancillary services. SB 222 established the State Elections Board, and the Board should utilize other funding provided for ongoing expenses and evaluate one-time funding after determining operational needs. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 321.4.

Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 217, line 325.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,000,000 in lottery for education funds to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority College for the Completion Grants program for postsecondary gap funding grants to reflect increased utilization. As the program was only established in the FY 2023 budget, the program does not yet have a full year of activity to appropriately determine usage and need. Therefore, the Commission should disregard the language in line 325.1.

Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 220, line 333.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $16,767,043 in lottery for education funds to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority for the HOPE Scholarships – Private Schools program to increase the HOPE Private Zell award from $2,977 to $3,100 and adjust the HOPE Private award amount to 100% of the Zell award. In order to maintain parity with the percentage increase provided to the HOPE Scholarships – Public Schools award increase provided for herein, the agency is instructed to disregard the language in line 333.2 and increase the HOPE Private award from $2,282 to $2,496 and HOPE Private Zell award from $2,977 to $2,985.

Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority, page 223, line 341.2:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $3,200,000 in state general funds to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and Authority for the Service Cancelable Loans program to provide up to $20,000 maximum loan repayments across five years of service to support recruitment and retention of public law enforcement officers across the state. HB 130, which would have authorized the loan repayment program, was not passed by the General Assembly during the 2023 Session and these funds will not be necessary. Therefore, the Commission should disregard the language in line 341.2.

Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $8,230,958 in state general funds to the Technical College System of Georgia for the Technical Education program for the first year of a three-year phase-in for increased credit hour earnings from the Aviation, Commercial Driver's License, and Nursing programs. As appropriation acts may only authorize spending for the fiscal year as established in that act and cannot obligate funds for future fiscal years, the Department is directed to disregard the language included in line 235.7 referencing a three-year phase-in.

Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,100,000 in state general funds to the Technical College System of Georgia for the Technical Education program to implement the Tools for Success matching grant program. Purchasing items to provide directly to private citizens at no cost who are no longer enrolled in the Technical College System of Georgia would constitute a violation of Ga. Const. Art. III, § VI, Para. VI, the Gratuities Clause. Therefore, the System should disregard the language in line 351.8.

Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 229, line 351.9:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $2,000,000 in state general funds to the Technical College System of Georgia for the Technical Education program for major repairs and renovations as an addition to the existing funds of $22,000,000 for that purpose. Existing major renovation and repair funding appropriated in the program is disbursed by formula to individual technical colleges based on square footage. The System should ensure the additional funding in line 351.9 is disbursed via the same formula to technical colleges to ensure parity in appropriation allocations.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 246, line 375.17:
The General Assembly seeks to redirect $1,045,000 in 5-year unissued bonds from FY 2023 for the Technical College System of Georgia for the purpose of design of the Business and Technology Center, Coastal Pines Technical College (HB911, Bond #35) to design the renovation and expansion of the Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron Academic Complex, Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta, Fulton County. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted by the Technical College System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, the agency should disregard the language in line 375.17.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 246, line 375.19:
The General Assembly seeks to redirect $835,000 in 5-year unissued bonds from FY2023 for the Technical College System of Georgia for the purpose of design of the Trades and Industrial Building Addition Project, Oconee Fall Line Tech (HB911, Bond #37) to design the renovation and expansion of the Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron Academic Complex, Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta, Fulton County. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted by the Technical College

System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, the System should disregard the language in line 375.19.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 261, line 376.611:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $1,393,780 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Natural Resources, specifically for facility major improvements and renovations, statewide, through the issuance of $15,350,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. The Department of Natural Resources is instructed to use these funds in accordance with the major improvements and renovations priorities as identified in the agency's FY 2024 capital funding request to ensure bond funds are spent on highest need projects.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 262, line 376.613:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $381,360 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Natural Resources, specifically for facilities repair and sustainment, statewide, through the issuance of $4,200,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. The Department of Natural Resources is instructed to use these funds in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act improvement priorities as identified in the agency's FY 2024 capital funding request to ensure bond funds are spent on highest need accessibility projects.

Line-Item Vetoes by the Governor

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 57, line 85.101:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $10,420,518 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the Special Project - Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority program to provide grants for natural gas pipeline expansion and capacity expansion for non-Universal Service Fund (USF) eligible entities. Grants for natural gas pipeline expansion falls outside the scope of powers and duties established for the authority under O.C.G.A. § 50-23-5. The appropriations act cannot make general law expanding the scope of powers for the authority. Therefore, I veto the appropriation (page 57, line 85.101) in the provisions relative to Section 16: Department of Community Affairs and the state general funds of $10,420,518.

Section 46, pertaining to the Technical College System of Georgia, page 228, line 350.100:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $325,000 in state general funds to the Technical College System of Georgia for the QuickStart – Special Project program for a Quick Start style program to address healthcare shortages throughout the state. This special project would be an expansion of the scope of the purpose of the Quick Start program which focuses on specific start-up or expanding Georgia businesses requiring specialized workforce training. Therefore, I veto this appropriation (page 228, line 350.100) in the provisions relative to Section 46: Technical College System of Georgia and the state general funds of $325,000.

Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation, page 237, line 364.100:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $250,000 in state general funds to the Department of Transportation for the Routine Maintenance program for one-time funding of safety inspections for state and local government road infrastructure's aging underground corrugated metal pipe (CMP) using non-invasive technology. The Department has an existing contract for

this activity and has not expressed a need for additional levels of funding to support it. Local governments receive funds through the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants program that can be used for this purpose. Therefore, I veto this appropriation of only the state general funds of $250,000 (page 237, line 364.100) in the provisions relative to Section 47: Department of Transportation.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 253, line 376.233:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $181,600 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Military College, for construction for the new student services and academic support center, Georgia Military College, Milledgeville, Baldwin County, through the issuance of $2,000,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. Georgia Military College has already identified available internal funding and begun construction on the project. Additional funding from the state is not required for the project. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 253, line 376.233) in the provisions relative to Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $181,600.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 254, line 376.238:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $544,800 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, specifically for the design and construction of dental school building, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Bulloch County through the issuance of $6,000,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the University System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the University System should be vetted by the University System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 254, line 376.238) in the provisions relative to Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $544,800.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 255, line 376.260:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $392,800 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Technical College System of Georgia, specifically for land acquisition for Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Doraville, DeKalb County through the issuance of $4,000,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted by the Technical College System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 255, line 376.260) in the provisions relative to Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $392,800.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 255, line 376.262:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $589,200 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Technical College System of Georgia, specifically for design and construction for expansion of Hugh M. Gillis Medical Building, Southeastern Technical College, Vidalia, Toombs County through the issuance of $6,000,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was

not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted by the Technical College System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 255, line 376.262) in the provisions relative to Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $589,200.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 256, line 376.263:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $39,040 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Technical College System of Georgia, specifically for the design of renovation and expansion of the Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron Academic Complex, Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta, Fulton County through the issuance of $160,000 in 5-year general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted by the Technical College System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 256, line 376.263) in the provisions relative to Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $39,040.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 258, line 376.405:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $363,200 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, specifically for the design and construction for renovation and expansion of the Medical Examiner Office at Central Lab, Dry Branch, Bibb County through the issuance of $4,000,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds. The Bureau has already received a previously authorized bond for this same purpose. The Department should collaborate with the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission's Construction Division to develop a comprehensive capital plan addressing medical examiner space needs statewide to ensure the most strategic use of capital funds. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 258, line 376.405) in the provisions relative to Section 50: State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $363,200.