



House Budget and Research Office

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AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2022 STATE BUDGET HOUSE BILL 910 - HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

The original Fiscal Year 2022 budget was set by a revenue estimate of \$27.2 billion. Since the FY 2022 budget was adopted by the General Assembly in March 2021, the state's financial position has continued to improve with FY 2021 setting record revenue collections. With robust collections anticipated for the remainder of the current fiscal year, the governor's revenue estimate for the Amended FY 2022 budget (House Bill 910) is raised to \$29.9 billion, an increase of \$2.6 billion, or 9.7%, over the current budget.

The increased collections in the Amended budget present an opportunity to address one-time funding needs for infrastructure. The House version of HB 910 provides more than \$900 million in one-time capital expenses including: \$32.3 million to replace 789 vehicles, vans, and buses for state agencies; \$193 million for school systems to replace 1,747 school buses and fund safety features; \$86.9 million for equipment and technology replacement; \$106.6 million for maintenance, repairs, infrastructure, and design for state facilities; and \$481.3 million for property transformation projects.

The governor's recommendation also improves upon the human capital infrastructure of Georgia government by investing in employees. HB 910 appropriates more than \$900 million to provide salary increases for state employees and educators. The House agrees with the governor's recommendation of \$465.6 million to provide a \$5,000 salary adjustment to all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address recruitment and retention needs; the House adds an additional \$78.5 million to fund a one-time salary adjustment for state employees whose salaries are funded with federal or grant funds and whose employing agencies cannot absorb the midyear increase. Finally, HB 910 includes a \$2,000 salary supplement for teachers and \$1,000 for other school employees, including nurses, bus drivers, school nutrition workers, and custodians. Additional highlights are provided below:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

- House Bill 910 includes \$483,495 to fund four new positions to allow the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to investigate elections complaints.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget provides \$1.3 million to restore Judicial Branch operating funds, including funding for three additional senior judge days per superior court judge for the final quarter of FY 2022.

- The House version of HB 910 provides \$23.6 million to replace 593 vehicles for the Department of Corrections, Department of Community Supervision, GBI, and Department of Public Safety. The bill also provides \$5 million for 72 vehicles for the Department of Corrections to begin transporting offenders to and from their home counties.
- House Bill 910 includes \$23.8 million to replace outdated radio communications systems and \$5.5 million to upgrade wireless infrastructure at the Department of Corrections.
- The House version of the Amended FY 2022 budget provides \$1 million to the GBI for security enhancements at the headquarters facility.
- The House supports the governor’s recommendation to provide \$4.6 million in new state funds to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to offset lower than normal probation fee collections. In addition, the House version of HB 910 redirects \$1.8 million in unallocated training funds for a total increase of \$6.5 million to the fund.

Economic Development and Transportation

- The House supports the governor’s recommendation to include \$112 million in the Department of Community Affairs for the Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton, and Walton counties. This investment is a project development grant for Rivian, which is expected to bring nearly 7,500 new jobs to Georgia.
- The House version of HB 910 includes \$28.8 million to complete the roof replacement of the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC). GWCC has an average of 3.32 million visitors and an economic impact of \$1.6 billion annually.
- HB 910 includes \$3.1 million for the replacement of firefighting equipment for the Georgia Forestry Commission. This equipment is vital in keeping Georgia’s ranking as the #1 Forestry State in the nation.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget includes \$379,000 for the implementation of an e-filing system for the Public Service Commission. This system will provide efficiencies and ensure compliance with federal regulations.
- HB 910 recognizes an increase of \$74.5 million in motor fuel funds to be utilized by the Department of Transportation in the Capital Construction program for use on projects as well as a potential match for increased federal apportionment from the reauthorization portion of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- The House version of HB 910 appropriates \$9.9 million in ride-share fees to be utilized for transit, including \$5.9 million for rural initiatives.
- The House continues to invest in the upgrading of state-owned shortlines with an infusion of \$10 million in the Intermodal program. Since FY 2020, the total investment in rail upgrades is \$94.7 million; more than 300 of the 465 active miles of shortline tracks have been upgraded, and three of the six state-owned lines are slated to be fully upgraded by the end of Calendar Year 2022.

Education

- K-12 education is the state’s largest expenditure, totaling \$11.16 billion, or 43.3% of the state general funds budget. In FY 2021, the state revenue decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a \$950 million austerity reduction to K-12 education. After a rebound in state revenues, \$567 million

was restored in the base of FY 2022, and the House version of the Amended FY 2022 budget restores the remaining \$383 million to K-12 education. The Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula is now fully funded.

- HB 910 provides \$320 million to fund a one-time supplement of \$2,000 to full-time employees and \$1,000 to part-time employees for QBE-funded instructional staff, school support staff, school administration, and central administration; including teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, social workers, special education specialists, and psychologists. This can be found in the following programs: Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS) (\$1.7 million), Preschool Disabilities Services (\$1.9 million), QBE (\$315.9 million), and State Schools (\$310,032).
- The budget also includes \$38.4 million for a one-time supplement of \$1,000 for school nutrition workers (\$13.7 million), bus drivers (\$14 million), school nurses (\$2 million), and custodians (\$8.4 million).
- The House version of the budget includes \$93 million for the QBE midterm adjustment to reflect an increase of 11,926 students, .69%, over last year. The formula also funds \$233,602 in growth for charter system grants; \$14.6 million in growth for the state charter school supplement reflecting two additional schools; and \$3.2 million in growth for the Special Needs Scholarship.
- The budget provides \$188 million to purchase 1,747 school buses at \$88,110 per bus and includes funds for the purchase of bus safety features. This funding is sufficient for school systems to replace 45% of buses that have exceeded their recommended lifecycle over a three-year period. The House version of HB 910 also includes \$5 million to incentivize school systems to purchase alternative-fuel vehicles.
- HB 910 includes \$5.1 million in restorations to other Department of Education programs that provide direct instruction or vital educational services. The adjustments represent the full restoration of the original FY 2021 reductions. The restorations include Agricultural Education (\$253,606); Communities in Schools (\$57,124); Georgia Network for Therapeutic and Educational Supports (\$2.4 million); Preschool Disabilities Services (\$1.6 million); Regional Education Services Agencies (\$433,006); Technology/Career Education (\$282,460); State Schools (\$200,000); and Tuition for Multiple Disabilities (\$62,078). The budget also restores \$160,000 to Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) for mental health training at districts and schools.
- The budget includes \$4.3 million for agricultural education equipment and facilities and \$2.6 million to purchase equipment for construction industry certification.
- House Bill 910 recognizes the Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) use of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal COVID-19 relief funds to provide two one-time salary supplements of \$1,000 each for certified Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers. These payments will be distributed in February and May 2022.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget directs DECAL to utilize existing funds to expand the Summer Transition Program. The Summer Transition Program helps students close achievement gaps and overcome learning losses that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Higher Education

- HB 190 provides \$1.1 million for infrastructure and seed grants to support the new Integrated Precision Agriculture initiative at the University of Georgia. This initiative is starting at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, with the intent to grow to other parts of the university with industry support.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget includes \$2 million in matching funds to refit and expand the capacity of the Savannah research vessel located at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. This is a 20-year-old vessel, and these updates will expand current research functionalities.
- HB 910 includes \$2 million for technology grants at public libraries and \$3 million for major repairs and renovations statewide.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget includes \$10 million for the Georgia Student Finance Commission to address workforce needs and provide service cancelable loans to Georgia residents enrolled in degree programs for mental health or substance use professionals.
- House Bill 910 includes \$1.5 million for the Technical College System of Georgia to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session) and \$10 million to replace obsolete equipment at colleges statewide.

General Government

- The House version of HB 910 provides \$72,081 for the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission to address increased billings from the Office of State Administrative Hearings (OSAH). Increased usage of OSAH's services will allow the commission to close additional cases.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget includes \$150 million for the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) to settle some of the state's costliest and oldest workers' compensation claims. By resolving these claims, the state will save approximately \$24 million, allowing for settlement of additional cases.
- The Department of Driver Services (DDS) receives nearly \$1.4 million in the Amended FY 2022 budget for 15 customer service kiosks and annual fees related to a contact center voice bot. These funds will help customers with basic transactions and allow DDS employees to focus on more complex services.
- HB 910 includes more than \$8 million to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to kick-start the Reinsurance and Georgia Access programs.
- The Department of Natural Resources receives over \$14.9 million in the Amended FY 2022 budget for state park improvements and repairs as well as \$5.9 million to construct the Jekyll Island Public Safety Complex. The budget also provides the Environmental Protection Division with \$2.7 million for increased expenses related to the Lake Lanier storage agreement and \$1.4 million to replace 25 vehicles and lab equipment.
- \$432 million is provided in the Amended FY 2022 budget to the Georgia Building Authority for a state prison facility transformation and technology projects focused on the health, safety, and security of offenders.
- The House version of HB 910 provides the Secretary of State's office with \$2.5 million to reimburse counties for postage expenses related to the mailing of new precinct cards to all active and inactive Georgia voters.

Health

- HB 910 recognizes \$363.6 million in savings due to a temporary 6.2% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. These funds are repurposed in the budget to fund Medicaid enrollment growth and to support the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP).
- \$263.3 million is provided in the Amended FY 2022 budget for growth in the Medicaid programs to meet the projected need resulting from increased enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The House version of HB 910 provides \$26.2 million for an additional add-on payment of \$10 per patient day for skilled nursing centers in order to assist with the large revenue losses and increased staffing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The House budget supports the financial stability of the State Health Benefit Plan by agreeing with the transfer of \$180 million from the Low-Income Medicaid program and providing an additional \$50 million in order to support increased medical and pharmacy expenses.
- HB 910 directs the State Health Benefit Plan to provide coverage for FDA-approved medications for the treatment of obesity.
- The Amended FY 2022 budget provides \$2.7 million in the Department of Community Health for the state match of the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for private deemed and non-deemed hospitals that serve a large number of Medicaid and uninsured individuals.
- \$1.7 million is provided to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to fully fund the actual number of residents in graduate medical education programs in FY 2022.
- The House version of HB 910 provides \$500,000 to the Morehouse School of Medicine to support the start of a new nursing program.
- The House agrees with the governor to fund \$9.9 million to address the state match shortfall for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the Department of Public Health.

Human Services

- The House version of the budget for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) includes \$416,875 for Georgia Options and the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism to support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. In addition, \$310,000 is included for the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) to prepare for the implementation of the national '988' crisis hotline.
- The House supports the governor's recommendation to provide \$2.7 million in state matching funds to the Area Agencies on Aging for elder support services, including meals; the House version adds an additional \$1.47 million to fund a partial local match for a total increase in state funding of \$4.2 million.
- The House budget includes an increase of \$229,250 for the Georgia Radio Reading Service and the Statewide Independent Living Council within the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency's (GVRA) budget to provide additional services for people living with visual impairments and physical disabilities.
- HB 910 provides the Office of the Child Advocate with \$75,912 to upgrade current technology to support case management and investigations.