



## *House Budget and Research Office*

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### **FISCAL YEAR 2023 STATE BUDGET HOUSE BILL 911 - HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS**

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget is set by a revenue estimate of \$30.2 billion, an increase of \$2.9 billion, or 10.8%, over the FY 2022 original budget. The rebound of state revenue presents the opportunity to make significant investments in state government that will resonate for many years. The House supports the governor's recommendation to permanently restore nearly \$640 million eliminated from the budget in FY 2021 during the economic uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. The House invests \$778 million in the state's human capital infrastructure to stop the revolving door of state employees that, ultimately, impacts services delivered to 10.7 million Georgians. The FY 2023 budget includes \$636 million to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for state employees, the first COLA received since FY 2008; \$25.6 million to allow state employees to withdraw and be compensated for up to 40 hours of accrued leave annually; and \$119.6 million to increase the employer 401(k) match up to 9% and prefund a COLA for state retirees. This total compensation package is an effort to combat the state's all-time high turnover rate of 23%, with some agencies experiencing turnover as high as 40%. The House provides \$72.1 million in additional, targeted salary adjustments recognizing that for many agencies, once employees are trained, they are often recruited by other government entities and the private sector.

The budget is a powerful tool to express policy, and the House uses FY 2023 budget to bolster funding for mental health coordinated care and law enforcement systems with an infusion of \$148.9 million in new funds. Funds are provided to law enforcement agencies for additional positions and salary adjustments to suppress crime, support the processing of evidence, and increase the safety of the public. Georgians facing crisis or struggling with addiction receive additional reinforcement through the expansion of accountability courts, suicide prevention supports, crisis bed availability, and a workforce to deliver those services maintained through various increases to ensure parity, as well as reasonable provider rates and salaries. Highlights of the House version of HB 911 are below:

#### **Economic Development**

- The House version of HB 911 provides the Department of Agriculture with \$324,201 to restore funding for the Athens and Tifton veterinary labs contracts and \$202,652 for the poultry diagnostic labs for the increased costs of maintaining laboratory biosafety. The House agrees with the governor's recommendation of \$800,000 in state funds to match federal funds for the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank program to combat unused agricultural products and address fresh produce shortages in regional food banks.

- \$692,300 is included for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for five new plan review positions and five new positions for technical support. Additionally, the commission receives \$80,000 to increase the base funding to each of the conservation districts to support their local efforts.
- The House version of the FY 2023 budget provides the Department of Community Affairs with \$110,000 for the Resource Conservation and Development Councils. This increases each council's base funding by \$10,000, for a total of \$30,000 each. The Georgia Rural Water Association is appropriated an additional \$250,000 in the House version to address the additional demands of state emergency response and resource fulfillment needs.
- More than \$3.7 million in additional funding is provided to the Department of Economic Development to support tourism in Georgia, including: \$2.8 million to refurbish exhibits and install two new memorials at the National Infantry Museum; \$470,251 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change for facilities improvements and educational exhibits; and \$500,000 for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority to begin public safety and security preparation for the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup events.
- With the expansion of the electric vehicle industry in Georgia, HB 911 includes \$448,250 for two new positions within the department to manage the emerging workforce needs.
- The House version of the FY 2023 budget restores \$1 million in funds that were shifted to one-time federal grants in the State Forestry Commission; \$164,570 for a new position to address strategic initiatives throughout the agency; and \$117,000 to implement a multi-tiered effort to address retention and continuous technical training for all employees.
- HB 911 includes \$82,250 to annualize the funds needed to maintain the Public Service Commission's e-filing system and \$974,781 to restore eight positions reduced in FY 2021 that are needed to regulate utilities.

### **Education**

- The FY 2023 budget provides the most state funds ever appropriated to K-12 education. It fully funds the Quality Basic Education (QBE) program in the Department of Education, totaling \$11.8 billion in state funds, and includes a \$382 million austerity restoration, thereby restoring all reductions made in FY 2021 due to the decline in state revenues from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HB 911 provides \$291.7 million to increase the state base salary schedule for certified teachers and employees by \$2,000, for a total adjustment to the state base salary schedule of \$5,000 since FY 2020. This adjustment is in the following programs with certified teachers and employees: Agricultural Education (\$469,033); Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) (\$1.5 million); Sparsity Grants (\$353,615); Residential Treatment Facilities (\$268,285); Preschool Disabilities Services (\$918,985); QBE (\$287.1 million); and Technology/Career Education (\$1.1 million). The budget also includes \$7.9 million for a 5.4% pay raise for school nutrition workers (\$1.1 million); bus drivers (\$4.7 million); school nurses (\$1.8 million); and Regional Education Services Agencies (RESAs) (\$310,071).
- HB 911 provides \$43.5 million for enrollment growth and training and experience for an additional 11,926 students and 484 teachers. The budget also includes \$30.3 million for growth in the State Commission Charter School supplements and state special charter schools. Charter system grants receive \$38,613 in additional funding and local charter schools, pursuant to SB 59 (2021 Session), receive \$2.9 million.

- The House version of the FY 2023 budget includes additional \$1.4 million for pupil transportation based on an increase in FTEs, and when combined with the pay raise, the total pupil transportation funding increase is \$142.7 million.
- In FY 2023, the School Nutrition program receives an additional \$712,028 to assist school districts in keeping school lunches affordable; when combined with the pay raise, the School Nutrition program totals \$31.3 million.
- HB 911 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: Agricultural Education (\$253,606); Communities in Schools (\$57,124); GNETS (\$2.4 million); Preschool Disabilities Services (\$1.6 million); RESAs (\$433,006); Technology/Career Education (\$282,460); State Schools (\$200,000); and Tuition for Multiple Disabilities (\$62,078). The budget also restores \$160,000 RESAs for mental health training at districts and schools.
- In the Agricultural Education program, \$100,000 is provided for a new young farmer position in Floyd County and supplemental young farmer positions in Banks County, Barrow County, and Pelham City. The House budget includes the state share of funds for 21 new agricultural education programs across Georgia, for a total cost of \$178,500; \$144,000 for an urban/suburban agriculture specialist to grow agriculture education in non-rural areas of the state; \$140,000 for an additional FFA staff member to accommodate program growth; and two agricultural education staff to support the Area Teacher program.
- The FY 2023 budget provides \$200,000 for additional feminine hygiene grants, expanding from middle school and high school to include the fifth grade. The total funding for feminine hygiene grants of \$1.45 million is provided to school systems with low property tax wealth and a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students.
- Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) receive an additional \$931,194 based on a new formula. The new formula provides funding predictability for the RTFs, which naturally have a more transient student population.
- The budget includes \$3 million for charter facilities grants in the Charter School program, increasing the total funding to \$7.5 million. Facilities grants are provided to local charter schools and state charter schools at a flat amount pursuant to HB 430 (2017 Session).
- House Bill 911 includes \$3 million in matching funds to allow the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to draw an additional \$17 million in federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) to provide child care assistance to low-income families. The FY 2023 budget includes \$19.4 million in lottery funds to provide Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers with a \$2,000 salary increase.
- \$182,617 is provided to the Professional Standards Commission for two positions specializing in technical assistance to military personnel, veterans, and their spouses to assist them transition into teaching.
- The FY 2023 budget includes \$1.4 million for a \$0.25 increase, from \$15.75 to \$16.00, to the benefit multiplier for retired members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS).
- HB 911 includes \$119.6 million to increase the employer contribution rate to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to: provide a cost-of-living adjustment for retirees; increase the 401(k) match to 9%; and fund the employer share of accrued forfeited leave for retiring employees. The statewide adjustment will prefund a COLA for state retirees, and on July 1, 2022, retired ERS members will receive their first COLA in 14 years.
- Throughout the budget, school systems receive an additional \$13.5 million for Teachers Retirement System's (TRS) annual required employer contribution rate increase. When funding for higher education is

included, the total new state fund investment in TRS for FY 2023 is \$15.5 million. These funds support 135,678 retired and 231,032 active members.

### **General Government Services**

- The Fiscal Year 2023 budget provides \$10 million in new funds to the Department of Audits and Accounts, which includes \$2 million for independent economic analyses of tax credit proposals and \$2.4 million for the statewide COLA and salary adjustments to address turnover.
- The House budget includes \$115,000 for the Georgia State Board of Accountancy to hire one auditor. The position will bring in approximately \$200,000 in revenue and allow the board's investigator to focus on misconduct.
- The FY 2023 budget includes \$126,086 for the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination to hire an analyst to coordinate the collection and reporting of nursing and hospital financing data.
- The Fiscal Year 2023 budget recognizes \$3.8 million in new revenue within the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and directs the agency to utilize the funds for 45 positions and IT upgrades. The positions include inspectors for buildings, hazardous materials, and manufactured housing; the IT upgrades will help the agency manage reporting and complaints.
- The Office of the Insurance Commissioner's budget includes \$127,177 as part of the House mental health package to fund a mental health parity officer to oversee the implementation of parity initiatives and a violation repository.
- The FY 2023 budget provides nearly \$38 million to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), including \$2.1 million to restore 22 game warden positions and related operations expenses, \$10.5 million for park repairs and renovations, and \$750,000 to help the agency's law enforcement officers with fuel expenses. The House recommendation also includes \$1.7 million for the Environmental Protection Division of DNR for a market salary adjustment for environmental compliance specialists and engineers to help the agency with inspections and enforcement of environmental regulations.

### **Health**

- HB 911 recognizes \$170.3 million in state fund savings in the Department of Community Health due to an extension of a temporary 6.2% increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rates during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. These funds are repurposed in the budget to fund House initiatives for Medicaid provider rate increases, behavioral health services, and the state's healthcare workforce.
- The House agrees with the governor to provide \$85.4 million to eliminate attestation requirements for Medicaid primary care providers and to reimburse these providers at enhanced rates for 108 procedure codes. Additionally, the House provides \$825,212 to increase select OB/GYN delivery codes to 2020 Medicare reimbursement levels to bring them up to the same year as most of the primary care codes.
- The House version of the budget provides additional Medicaid rate adjustments, including: \$498,519 for a 10% reimbursement rate increase for long-term acute care hospitals (LTAC) and inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRF) to support the cost of treating high-acuity patients with traumatic injuries; \$685,441 for a 10% increase in two dental extraction codes and a 7% increase for 17 select dental restorative codes; \$424,165 to provide a 5% reimbursement rate increase for mechanical ventilator providers; and \$281,227 to increase reimbursement rates for medical nutrition therapy in order to increase the number of providers willing to accept Medicaid patients.
- HB 911 provides \$28.2 million to provide one year of postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers in order to address Georgia's high incidence of maternal mortality. Extending medical coverage an additional six

months beyond the current six-month limit after delivery will provide greater access to healthcare services for new mothers, and is expected to decrease and prevent maternal deaths.

- The House version of HB 911 includes \$5.75 million Low-Income Medicaid and directs the department to submit an 1115 waiver to provide Medicaid benefits to individuals with HIV and to remove the five-year waiting period for lawful permanent residents.
- The House supports home and community-based service providers by providing \$2 million to offset the cost of fingerprinting as part of the staff background check required by law.
- HB 911 provides \$500,000 for two federally qualified health center behavioral health expansion start-up grants, with one at Coastal Community Health Services covering Glynn and McIntosh counties and one at South Central Primary Care covering Irwin, Ben Hill, Coffee, Atkinson, Berrien, Cook, and Lowndes counties.
- The FY 2023 budget supports frontline workers by providing \$200,000 to expand the RN-reentry program to assist nurses in reentering the workforce as well as \$74,000 to expand mental health first aid training to address the need for front-line workers to identify, de-escalate, and refer persons in crisis.
- As part of the House's behavioral health initiative, \$1 million is included in the FY 2023 budget for a study on reimbursement rates for mental health care providers, as well as instruction for the Department of Community Health to begin preparation for a repository for tracking, analyzing, and reporting information resulting from complaints received by consumers and state health care entities regarding suspected mental health parity violations.
- The House continues to support graduate medical education in order to increase Georgia's healthcare workforce. In the FY 2023 budget, the House includes: \$3.9 million for 199 new residency slots; \$375,000 for three new fellowships at Augusta University in gynecologic oncology, public health-focused medicine, and rural primary care; \$350,000 for a new residency program at Archbold Medical Center; \$300,000 in new and existing funds for continued planning and start-up of residency programs at Southern Regional Medical Center and Southeast Georgia Health Systems; and \$109,323 for seven new residency slots at Emory University.
- The House agrees with the governor to provide \$1.1 million to support the Mercer School of Medicine's medical school campus in Columbus. Additionally, the house provides \$515,587 in new and existing funding to expand the accelerated track program to include forensic pathology in order to increase the number of these providers going to rural areas of the state.
- HB 911 provides \$2 million for the start-up and operating support for a new nursing program as well as \$376,000 to support child and adolescent psychology and psychiatric residency programs at the Morehouse School of Medicine.
- As part of the House's law enforcement initiative, \$565,380 is provided to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency for two additional agents and for a data management system to track licenses, complaints, inspections, and investigations.
- In the Department of Public Health, the House provides \$16.3 million for salary increases for the state's public health nurses, epidemiologists, environmental health specialists, and other targeted positions in order to address agency recruitment and retention by raising salaries to a competitive market range.
- The House version of the FY 2023 budget provides \$1.8 million for additional lead inspectors and testing machines to support the recommendations of the House Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure and pursuant to HB 1355 (2022 Session); \$265,869 for the Sickle Cell Foundation to support care coordination and expanded access to testing in rural areas; and \$1.7 million support to local health departments with infrastructure grants.

## **Higher Education**

- The House version of the FY 2023 budget includes \$99.9 million for the University System of Georgia (USG), reflecting a 1.2% increase in credit hour growth and a 0.1% increase in square footage; \$8.3 million for the final year of a three-year phase-in for increased medical education funding through the USG formula; and \$1.2 million for Fort Valley State University to maximize the federal land-grant match requirements.
- HB 911 restores prior year reductions of \$229.6 million for the purpose of eliminating the special institutional fee charged to students. The fee ranges from \$170/semester at South Georgia State College to \$540/semester at Georgia Institute of Technology.
- The FY 2023 budget provides \$2.1 million for 11 new faculty positions at the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. These positions will address blueberry breeding, vegetable breeding, viticulture, controlled environment agriculture production, and integrative precision agriculture.
- The House version of the FY 2023 budget includes an additional \$250,000 for the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) to fund start-ups and leverage private funding; \$600,000 for Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to provide professional development and student support for a computer science pilot program in rural Georgia; \$632,230 to support advanced research in agricultural technology as part of the Agricultural Technology Research Program (ATRP); and \$500,000 for the Veterinary Medicine Experiment Station to support research on cattle and poultry diseases and upgrade laboratories to improve biosafety standards.
- The House budget provides an additional \$4.8 million to the Medical College of Georgia for their 3+ program for a total of \$10 million. This program provides medical students the opportunity to complete their education in three years and begin their residency in Georgia. HB 911 includes \$1.2 million to expand capacity for nursing students across the university system. The \$6 million investment over five years will increase the number of nursing graduates by 500.
- The House version of the FY 2023 budget includes \$1.9 million for Middle Georgia State University to continue their aviation career path program.
- HB 911 includes \$7.3 million for programmatic restorations of reductions from the initial FY 2021 budget: Agricultural Experiment Station (\$1.9 million); Athens and Tifton Veterinary Laboratories (\$324,201); Cooperative Extension Service (\$1.8 million); Forestry Cooperative Extension (\$42,748); Forestry Research (\$132,427); GTRI (\$239,361); Marine Institute (\$47,804); Marine Resources Extension Center (\$55,657); Medical College of Georgia Hospital/Clinic (\$1.9 million); Public Libraries (\$725,618); Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (\$35,822); and the Veterinary Medicine Experiment Station (\$108,000).
- The FY 2023 budget provides the Georgia Public Library Service with \$1.1 million in additional funds to increase the materials grant for public libraries from \$.40 to \$.50 per capita. This is in addition to \$181,619 in enhanced funding due to an increase in state population.
- House Bill 911 includes \$25 million in lottery funds in the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) to increase the minimum factor rate to 90% for the HOPE Scholarship – Public Schools program and the HOPE Grant. Depending on the institution, students will receive between \$15 and \$780 in additional HOPE Scholarship funds each semester; HOPE Grant students will receive an additional \$210 per semester.
- The House agrees with the governor's recommendation to increase funds to expand the HOPE Career Grant to include Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement programs. The HOPE Career Grant provides grants of up to \$500 to students enrolled in approved programs identified by the governor as strategically important to the state's economic growth.

- The House adds \$4.1 million in lottery funds to increase the award amount for HOPE Scholarship – Private Schools award by 6%. This increased funding will provide an additional \$130 per semester to each eligible recipient. More than 11,000 students at eligible private postsecondary institutions across the state receive HOPE Scholarship – Private awards.
- The House version of the budget provides \$2.6 million to increase the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) award amount by \$50. The total amount each eligible student receives will increase from \$850 to \$900 per year. TEG was established in 1971 to provide financial assistance to eligible students attending private postsecondary institutions in Georgia. More than 26,000 students receive TEG awards each year.
- The FY 2023 budget includes \$1.7 million as part of the House law enforcement package to create a service cancelable loan program for active state and local law enforcement officers and medical examiners employed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Eligible officers will receive \$2,000 per year, for a maximum of four years, and are eligible for one year of loan forgiveness for each year of service. As part of an overall strategy to recruit and retain medical examiners at the GBI, medical examiners are eligible for \$20,000 of loan forgiveness per year of service, up to \$120,000.
- In order to implement these new service cancelable loans and expand other programs, the House version of the FY 2023 budget includes \$1.6 million for 15 new positions and four contractors at the Georgia Student Finance Commission. House Bill 911 also includes funds for two new compliance officers to audit high schools that participate in the state’s Dual Enrollment program, which gives Georgia high school students the opportunity to earn college credit at participating postsecondary institutions while still enrolled in high school. The program served approximately 49,000 students in FY 2021.
- HB 911 includes \$35 million for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to restore austerity reductions implemented in FY 2021. These funds are directed to expand instruction of allied health, commercial truck driving, and manufacturing program to support critical workforce needs across Georgia.
- The House version of the budget includes an additional \$15 million to recognize high-cost instructional programs within TCSG and \$2.1 million to expand aviation technician programs at colleges statewide to meet the increasing aviation industry’s workforce demands.
- \$12.2 million is included in HB 911 to support the state’s expanding electric vehicle industry, including customized training and recruitment operations.

### **Human Services**

- The House Amended FY 2022 budget provides \$20.2 million to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to increase the salaries of state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to improve retention and increase access to services to Georgians by maintaining existing beds.
- HB 911 appropriates funds to support House behavioral health initiatives including \$3.2 million for assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), \$448,530 to expand the co-responder mobile crisis team to five new sites; \$220,050 to establish a technical assistance coordination center for mental health accountability courts; and \$281,995 for five additional caseworkers to support new accountability courts.
- In addition to the \$9.7 million appropriated for a new behavioral health crisis center, HB 911 includes \$6.1 million to expand capacity at crisis stabilization units in Augusta and Columbus.
- The Georgia Apex Program receives \$5.6 million in the House version of the FY 2023 budget to annualize expansion funds and maintain mental health services to students; \$2.1 million is budgeted for Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) to increase staffing capacity in preparation for the national ‘988’ suicide hotline.

- The House builds on the governor’s recommendation and adds 325 slots to the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as administrative support for \$6.6 million. HB 911 includes \$1.3 million to support Georgians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with supplies and equipment, medical services, recreation activities, and employment.
- The House supports the governor’s recommendation to provide a 10% increase for core mental health and addictive diseases services and adds \$2.4 million for a 1% rate increase to developmental disability providers. The House includes \$932,324 to conduct a study to analyze behavioral health provider rates.
- The House agrees with the governor’s recommendation of \$1.4 million for 200 slots for the Georgia Housing Voucher program and adds \$2.1 million to provide a total of \$3.5 million for 500 slots and administrative support to help those experiencing mental illness obtain permanent housing.
- HB 911 adds \$7.1 million to increase the hourly rate of special assistant attorneys general (SAAGs) from \$57.50 to \$77.50 across the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Human Services. Additionally, \$295,126 is allocated to increase SAAG paralegal hourly rates from \$25 to \$40.
- The House appropriates \$8.2 million in new funds to the Department of Human Services for programs to support older adults and their families. Specifically, \$4 million is provided for non-Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS), \$1.2 million for statewide dementia screenings, and \$3 million to expand Alzheimer’s services statewide.
- The House adds \$3 million to increase the annual clothing allowance for foster youth by \$275 per child. Currently children under the age of 12 and placed in a home for less than a year receive \$311. Children aged 12 and older, and all children placed longer than a year, receive \$415.
- Georgia Family Connection receives a \$418,000 restoration to cuts made in FY 2021 and an additional \$397,500 to expand mental health services, raising each county’s allocation from \$48,000 to \$52,500.
- The Department of Veterans Services is appropriated \$166,020 in the House version of the FY 2023 budget to hire a suicide prevention director and a cemetery grounds technician. Funding in the FY 2023 budget to establish a new veterans’ cemetery in Augusta remains intact for matching funds.
- HB 911 includes \$2.3 million for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) to provide support services for people living with visual impairments and physical disabilities, and \$380,785 is added to the Office of the Child Advocate to expand capacity in case investigations.

### **Public Safety, Criminal Justice, and the Courts**

- The House appropriates nearly \$16 million to fund an additional salary increase of \$2,000 for correctional officers and juvenile correctional officers above the \$5,000 COLA; \$12.7 million is provided for correctional officer salary adjustments at private prisons to maintain pay competitive with state prisons. The budget for the Department of Corrections also includes \$4.2 million to annualize the costs associated with establishing regional hubs for offender transport; \$6.7 million for technological improvements designed to improve correctional officer safety; and \$45.7 million for capital maintenance and repairs at facilities throughout the state.
- As part of the House law enforcement package, HB 911 includes \$11.9 million for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to hire 67 new positions to combat crime and support the criminal justice system through the processing of evidence. Specifically, the budget includes \$3.2 million for 18 scientists and seven crime lab technicians and an additional \$800,000 to outsource chemistry and firearms cases to



address the current crime lab backlog; \$2.8 million for 16 new positions in the medical examiner's office to address workload including three medical examiners, 11 death investigator specialists (DIS), one DIS supervisor, and one administrative assistant; \$4.6 million for 15 special agents, six criminal intelligence analysts, and one help desk analyst and necessary operating expenses for the Gang Task Force; and \$579,936 to annualize four positions to investigate elections complaints. The House budget also includes \$2.6 million for an additional salary increase for death investigator specialists and crime lab scientists to increase retention.

- House Bill 911 includes \$2 million to fund 10 SWAT Unit troopers and 10 Nighthawk DUI troopers, as well as \$577,480 for a 10% salary increase for troop C officers to combat crime in the metro Atlanta area. The House budget includes \$750,000 fuel expense to maintain patrol hours during times of record high gasoline prices and \$2.6 million to fund a 75-cadet trooper school.
- The Georgia Public Safety Training Center receives \$1 million in HB 911 for five proper use of force and de-escalation training positions and five crisis intervention training positions; \$379,500 is budgeted for the Office of Public Safety Officer Support for two additional peer counselors and one social worker along with necessary operating expenses to enhance public safety officers' access to peer counselors and health clinicians.
- \$3.6 million is included for 10 new accountability courts including six mental health, two adult felony drug, one veterans' treatment, and one family treatment accountability court as well as 27 accountability court case managers. The budget also includes an additional \$222,706 to provide a 5% salary increase for all accountability court case managers.
- \$1.3 million is included in the Department of Law to establish a 12-member gang prosecution unit and \$634,968 to expand the human trafficking unit by six positions.
- The Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$1.1 million to fund three new judgeships created in the Blue Ridge, Mountain, and South Georgia judicial circuits and \$915,555 to annualize the new judgeships in the Cobb, Flint, and Oconee judicial circuits created in the FY 2022 budget.
- HB 911 includes \$13 million for the recruitment and retention of assistant district attorneys and assistant public defenders and \$838,526 is included for eight new positions to complete the process of providing an assistant district attorney and an assistant public defender position to serve juvenile courts in each circuit. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$2 million to establish three additional Public Defender conflict offices for Macon-Milledgeville, Columbus-Americus-Albany, and Tifton-Waycross.
- House Bill 911 provides \$3 million to restore reductions made throughout the Judicial Branch in the FY 2021 budget including \$1.3 million for 10 additional superior court senior judge days. The FY 2023 budget also includes an additional \$1.59 million for grants for civil legal services for victims of domestic violence and kinship care families.

### **Transportation**

- House Bill 911 includes the first appropriation from the newly established Transportation Trust Fund and the Transit Trust Fund (HB 511, 2021 Session). These trust funds are collected and reserved for specific uses to support Georgia's transportation network. The FY 2023 budget recognizes that Transportation Trust Fund revenues are dedicated to the maintenance and construction of the roads in this state as well as a 10% maximum carve out for transit, that is appropriated as \$151 million to the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Transit program within the Department of Transportation, and debt service

payments. The FY 2023 budget recognizes \$15.9 million in the Transit Trust Fund generated by ride-share fees, and dedicates those funds to transit projects statewide, including \$2.8 million for rural transit initiatives and \$11.9 million to larger transit initiatives.

- House Bill 911 includes four new programs in the Department of Transportation: Airport Aid, Ports and Waterways, Rail, and Transit. Formerly the Intermodal program, these are now standalone programs and appropriations to each is clearly outlined in the budget document. The House budget provides an additional \$10 million above the governor's recommendation for Airport Aid and \$10 million in the Rail program to continue the upgrade of all state-owned rail lines to Class II standards. The House also includes \$2.96 million in the FY 2023 bond package for rail, and when combined with the Amended FY 2022 funding of \$10.6 million (HB 910, 2022 Session), the total rail investment is \$23.6 million during this budget cycle.
- The Capital Construction Projects program receives an additional \$14.1 million in motor fuel funds and Capital Maintenance Projects receives an increase of \$85.3 million for resurfacing projects.