

Section 5: Appeals, Court of Court of Appeals

The purpose of this appropriation is for this court to review and exercise appellate and certiorari jurisdiction pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Art. VI, Section V, Para. III, in all cases not reserved to the Supreme Court of Georgia or conferred on other courts by law.

Performance Measures:	Program Overview			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appellate Filings	2,526	2,663	2,502	2,492
Cases Disposed	2,752	2,510	2,485	2,503
Revenue from Appellate Court Fees	\$384,839	\$399,720	\$387,010	\$396,210
Average caseload per judge for cases filed	168	167	167	166
Average caseload per judge for cases disposed	183	178	166	167

Summary of Activities: The Court of Appeals is the state’s intermediate appellate court and is responsible for reviewing decisions made by lower courts in all civil and criminal cases except those involving the constitutionality of state statutes or criminal cases in which a sentence of death could be imposed. The fifteen judges on the Court are divided into five panels of three judges each.

Timing: The Court issues orders and opinions daily. It has three terms per year, and every case is decided by the end of the term following the term to which the case is docketed.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$26,678,028	\$26,678,028
State General Funds	\$26,678,028	\$26,678,028
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sales and Services	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$150,000	\$150,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$26,828,028	\$26,828,028

13.1	<i>Increase funds to annualize judges' salary increases. (H:Increase funds to implement new salary structure pursuant to HB86 (2025 Legislative Session))</i>		
	State General Funds	\$1,569,513	\$1,231,014
13.2	<i>Increase funds for phase one of recruitment and retention increases for attorneys and professional staff with large disparities between current salaries and market values due to critical turnover of experienced senior-level staff.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$676,918	\$676,918
13.3	<i>Increase funds for phase one of recruitment and retention increases for court staff due to critical turnover.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$218,544	\$218,544
13.4	<i>Increase funds for annual leave conversion payouts. (H:Increase funds for annual leave payouts)</i>		
	State General Funds	\$80,000	\$80,000
13.5	<i>Increase funds for annual cyber security insurance premiums.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$35,000	\$35,000
13.6	<i>Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.</i>		
	State General Funds		(\$7,727)
13.7	<i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenditures.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$7,201
13.8	<i>Reduce funds for one-time funds for server room and data closet five-year battery replacement.</i>		
	State General Funds		(\$23,281)
13.9	<i>Increase funds for mandatory website updates required to maintain federal ADA compliance.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$90,000

13.1000 Court of Appeals	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is for this court to review and exercise appellate and certiorari jurisdiction pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Art. VI, Section V, Para. III, in all cases not reserved to the Supreme Court of Georgia or conferred on other courts by law.</i>		
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$29,258,003	\$28,985,697
State General Funds	\$29,258,003	\$28,985,697
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sales and Services	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$150,000	\$150,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$29,408,003	\$29,135,697

Section 6: Judicial Council

Council of Accountability Court Judges

The purpose of this appropriation is to support adult felony drug courts, DUI courts, juvenile drug courts, family dependency treatment courts, mental health courts, and veteran's courts, as well as the Council of Accountability Court Judges. No state funds shall be provided to any accountability court where such court is delinquent in the required reporting and remittance of all fines and fees collected by such court.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) program is responsible for developing and monitoring accountability court standards and performance measures, identifying risk and needs assessment tools, and creating a certification and peer review process to document compliance with statute, standards, and evidence-based best practices. CACJ is further responsible for the technical assistance, training, and oversight for the accountability courts under its purview operating within Superior, State, or Juvenile court. CACJ's vision is to make accountability courts work to benefit all Georgians and has the mission to provide a unified framework that promotes and improves the quality, accessibility, and administration of accountability courts. The business of the Council is managed and exercised by its Executive Committee, while standing committees like the Funding Committee, Standards and Certification Committee and Training Committee, complete the Council's work. The Council's Budget is housed partly with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and partly with the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts. Through this shared services model CACJ provides a unified framework and governance for accountability courts. The Judicial Council/AOC portion of CACJ's Budget includes an Assistant Director, General Counsel, Certification Officers, Statewide MAT Coordinator, operational costs, and funding for its certification and peer review process.

Noteworthy: HB873 was passed during 2024 Session requiring CACJ to certify and peer review Juvenile Treatment Courts (JTC). The bill's passage amended O.C.G.A. 15-1-18 to include JTCs as part of CACJ's workload. Additionally, HB873 created O.C.G.A. 15-11-71 to authorize the Juvenile Courts to create the Juvenile Treatment Courts division. The JTCs are required to adhere to state standards, certification, and peer review as administered by CACJ. As of July 1, 2024, there were 19 JTCs in the following counties: Carroll, Chatham, Cherokee, Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Fannin, Fulton, Gilmer, Gwinnett, Haralson, Henry, Lowndes, Muscogee, Newton, Pickens, Polk, Richmond, and Rockdale.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,007,767	\$1,007,767
State General Funds	\$1,007,767	\$1,007,767
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,007,767	\$1,007,767

14.1 Increase funds for personnel for one certification officer position.

State General Funds	\$158,750	\$158,750
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14.2 Increase funds for personnel for one participant services statewide coordinator position.

State General Funds	\$159,375	\$159,375
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14.1000 Council of Accountability Court Judges

Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to support adult felony drug courts, DUI courts, juvenile drug courts, family dependency treatment courts, mental health courts, and veteran's courts, as well as the Council of Accountability Court Judges. No state funds shall be provided to any accountability court where such court is delinquent in the required reporting and remittance of all fines and fees collected by such court.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,325,892	\$1,325,892
State General Funds	\$1,325,892	\$1,325,892
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,325,892	\$1,325,892

Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

The purpose of this appropriation is to oversee the state's court-connected alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services by promoting the establishment of new ADR court programs, providing support to existing programs, establishing and enforcing qualifications and ethical standards, registering ADR professionals and volunteers, providing training, administering statewide grants, and collecting statistical data to monitor program effectiveness.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) supports the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Dispute Resolution in its mission of administering a statewide court-connected Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. Under the Supreme Court of Georgia's ADR Rules, the responsibilities of ODR include: to serve as a resource for ADR education and outreach; to provide technical assistance to new and existing court ADR programs; to develop training capabilities to neutrals throughout the State; to implement the Commission's policies regarding qualifications of neutrals and quality of programs; to register and remove neutrals if necessary; and to collect statistics from court programs to monitor the effectiveness of programs throughout the State.

Timing: "Neutrals" refer to all dispute resolution professionals, including mediators, arbitrators, and evaluators; these professionals are frequently subject matter experts specialized in a field which adds value to the ADR process in courts, often holding other credentials such as a Bar license. All neutrals working in court ADR programs or conducting court-ordered ADR sessions are required to register with ODR every year.

Noteworthy: The Ga Commission on Dispute Resolution (GCDR) and the Ga Office of Dispute Resolution (GODR) work together to meet the growing demand for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Ga. The Commission is funded solely by fees generated from the registration of neutrals (professionals who facilitate dispute resolution, eg. mediators and arbitrators). All neutrals must be registered with the GODR when they are conducting mediation in court-connected cases. (Per O.C.G.A. 9-17-1). Court ADR programs are governed under the Alternative

Dispute Resolution Act O.C.G.A. 15-23-10. The programs rely on the Dispute Office for support with training, rule development, service expansion, neutral roster retention and more. There are 37 approved court ADR programs throughout the state of Georgia.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$0	\$0
State General Funds	\$0	\$0
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$487,212	\$487,212
Sales and Services	\$487,212	\$487,212
Training Fees	\$487,212	\$487,212
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$487,212	\$487,212

15.1 Increase funds for personnel and statewide contracts to strengthen statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services.

State General Funds	\$168,950	\$168,950
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15.1000 Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to oversee the state's court-connected alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services by promoting the establishment of new ADR court programs, providing support to existing programs, establishing and enforcing qualifications and ethical standards, registering ADR professionals and volunteers, providing training, administering statewide grants, and collecting statistical data to monitor program effectiveness.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$168,950	\$168,950
State General Funds	\$168,950	\$168,950
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$487,212	\$487,212
Sales and Services	\$487,212	\$487,212
Training Fees	\$487,212	\$487,212
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$656,162	\$656,162

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide basic training and continuing education for Superior Court Judges, Juvenile Court Judges, State Court Judges, Probate Court Judges, Magistrate Court Judges, Municipal Court Judges, Superior Court Clerks, Juvenile Court Clerks, Municipal Court Clerks, and other court personnel.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) is responsible for the basic orientation and ongoing education of the judges and court personnel of the Judicial Branch, so they are equipped to provide timely, fair, and impartial court services to the public. Services provided include the courses of Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education (MCJE) accreditation for judges and clerks in every class-of-court, pre-approval of courses, voluntary training and instructional activities for court support personnel and lay citizen agents serving the Courts. Lastly, this program includes the staffing and operational support for the ICJE Board of Trustees together with statutorily designated class-of-court Training Councils, as well as respective educational planning committees. ICJE is a professional education consortium of the Judicial Branch, the State Bar of Georgia and Georgia's ABA accredited Law Schools.

Noteworthy: ICJE staff are considered employees of the University of Georgia, with an MOU governs the inter-organizational collaboration.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$844,596	\$844,596
State General Funds	\$844,596	\$844,596
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$953,203	\$953,203
Sales and Services	\$953,203	\$953,203
Training Fees	\$953,203	\$953,203
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,797,799	\$1,797,799

16.1000 Institute of Continuing Judicial Education Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide basic training and continuing education for Superior Court Judges, Juvenile Court Judges, State Court Judges, Probate Court Judges, Magistrate Court Judges, Municipal Court Judges, Superior Court Clerks, Juvenile Court Clerks, Municipal Court Clerks, and other court personnel.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$844,596	\$844,596
State General Funds	\$844,596	\$844,596
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$953,203	\$953,203
Sales and Services	\$953,203	\$953,203
Training Fees	\$953,203	\$953,203
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,797,799	\$1,797,799

Judicial Council

The purpose of the appropriation is to support the Administrative Office of the Courts; to provide administrative support for the councils of the Magistrate Court Judges, the Municipal Court Judges, the Probate Court Judges, the State Court Judges, and the Georgia Council of Court

Administrators; to operate the Child Support E-Filing system, the Child Support Guidelines Commission, and the Commission on Interpreters; and to support the Committee on Justice for Children.

Program Overview

Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Family Violence Intervention Programs certified in Georgia	95	89	85	88
Number of site visits with Family Violence Intervention Programs	30	32	71	26
Number of individuals trained on family violence awareness	2,229	1,630	2,387	1,951
Number of active family violence task forces	49	49	49	39
Number of family violence task forces receiving technical assistance	49	49	49	39

Summary of Activities: The 28-member Judicial Council is the policy making body for Georgia’s judiciary. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia serves as chair of the Council; membership, as established by Order of the Supreme Court, consists of judges from each level of court (Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State-wide Business court, Superior, State, Juvenile, Probate, Magistrate and Municipal) and the State Bar of Georgia. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) serves as staff to the Judicial Council and provides subject-matter expertise on policy, court innovation, legislation, and court administration to all Georgia Courts. The AOC also provides information technology, budget, and financial services to the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Council’s ten standing Committees provide oversight and direction for much of the AOC’s work. The Chief Justice also reserves the right to appoint Ad Hoc Committees, which exist to address issues of limited scope and duration, as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council. In addition to the AOC, this budget program includes the Council of State Court Judges, the Council of Probate Court Judges, the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, the Council of Municipal Court Judges, the Georgia Council of Court Administrators, as well as grant programs for civil legal services for kinship care families and for victims of domestic violence.

Fund Sources: The Child Support Collaborative Project receives federal funds, renewable yearly, which are used to create an ongoing collaborative association between the Judiciary and the child support services agency to address child support issues. The funding is a 66/34% match. The Judicial Council/AOC also receives federal funding for the Court Improvement Project administered by the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Committee on Justice for Children.

Noteworthy: During Session 2024, SB401 was passed which requires specific foster care data to be captured and reported through a case management system to the Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC). In turn, the AOC is required to take the data and produce an annual report to the Governor and the legislature on the status of children in the foster care system. Additionally, \$650,000 was appropriated during AFY24 for the implementation of a unified case management system throughout all 159 Juvenile Courts.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$17,436,648	\$17,436,648
State General Funds	\$17,436,648	\$17,436,648
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$1,627,367	\$1,627,367
Child Support Enforcement Research CFDA93.564	\$37,329	\$37,329
Child Support Enforcement Title IV-D CFDA93.563	\$749,055	\$749,055
Crime Victim Assistance CFDA16.575	\$67,118	\$67,118
State Court Improvement Program CFDA93.586	\$773,865	\$773,865
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$888,905	\$888,905
Sales and Services	\$888,905	\$888,905
Collection/Administrative Fees	\$879,905	\$879,905
Drug Courts Conference Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
Probate Court Judges Fees	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$500,000	\$500,000
State Funds Transfers	\$500,000	\$500,000
Agency to Agency Contracts	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$20,452,920	\$20,452,920

17.1 Increase funds to annualize the juvenile court case management contract.

State General Funds	\$400,000	\$400,000
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17.2 Increase funds for targeted recruitment and retention initiatives for staff.

State General Funds	\$355,141	\$0
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17.3 Increase funds for judicial security initiatives.

State General Funds	\$340,086	\$108,600
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17.4 Increase funds for personnel for three information technology positions.

State General Funds	\$427,416	\$427,416
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17.5 Increase funds for Civil Legal Services for families of indigent patients.

State General Funds	\$209,500	\$0
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17.6 Increase funds for grants to legal self-help centers.

State General Funds	\$100,000	\$100,000
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17.7 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.

State General Funds		\$4,893
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17.8 Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenditures.

State General Funds

(\$758)

17.1000 Judicial Council **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of the appropriation is to support the Administrative Office of the Courts; to provide administrative support for the councils of the Magistrate Court Judges, the Municipal Court Judges, the Probate Court Judges, the State Court Judges, and the Georgia Council of Court Administrators; to operate the Child Support E-Filing system, the Child Support Guidelines Commission, and the Commission on Interpreters; and to support the Committee on Justice for Children.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$19,268,791	\$18,476,799
State General Funds	\$19,268,791	\$18,476,799
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$1,627,367	\$1,627,367
Child Support Enforcement Research CFDA93.564	\$37,329	\$37,329
Child Support Enforcement Title IV-D CFDA93.563	\$749,055	\$749,055
Crime Victim Assistance CFDA16.575	\$67,118	\$67,118
State Court Improvement Program CFDA93.586	\$773,865	\$773,865
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$888,905	\$888,905
Sales and Services	\$888,905	\$888,905
Collection/Administrative Fees	\$879,905	\$879,905
Drug Courts Conference Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
Probate Court Judges Fees	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$500,000	\$500,000
State Funds Transfers	\$500,000	\$500,000
Agency to Agency Contracts	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$22,285,063	\$21,493,071

Judicial Qualifications Commission

The purpose of this appropriation is to investigate complaints filed against a judicial officer, impose and recommend disciplinary sanctions against any judicial officer, and when necessary, file formal charges against that officer and provide a formal trial or hearing. The purpose of this appropriation is also to produce formal and informal advisory opinions; provide training and guidance to judicial candidates regarding the Code of Judicial Conduct; and investigate allegations of unethical campaign practices.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) program provides education and counseling to judges on the interpretation and application of the Code of Judicial Conduct, renders formal and informal advisory opinions concerning the proper interpretation of the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct, and accepts and investigates complaints of any judicial misconduct, incapacity, or impairment of a judicial officer. The Commission is broken up into an Investigation Panel which is responsible for the investigative, prosecutorial and administrative functions of the Commission and the Hearing Panel which is responsible for adjudicating formal charges filed by the investigative panel, making recommendations to the Supreme Court as to disciplinary and incapacity orders, and issuing formal advisory opinions on its own initiative or on the recommendation of the investigative panel.

Noteworthy: The Commission is comprised of ten members. Seven members serve on the Investigative Panel and three members serve on the Hearing Panel. The Investigative Panel is responsible for investigating and prosecuting allegations of judicial misconduct. The Hearing Panel is primarily responsible for adjudicating hearings when the Investigative Panel brings such charges of misconduct. GA is one of ten states that does both investigation/advisory. There are over 200 advisory opinions on JQC website.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,411,716	\$1,411,716
State General Funds	\$1,411,716	\$1,411,716
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,411,716	\$1,411,716

18.1 Utilize existing funds (\$50,000) and increase funds for personnel for one staff attorney for the Hearing Panel.

State General Funds	\$117,614	\$117,614
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18.2 Increase funds for outside legal fees for unanticipated defensive litigation costs.

State General Funds	\$50,000	\$50,000
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18.3 Increase funds for Georgia Building Authority rental rates.

State General Funds	\$13,764	\$13,764
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18.1000 Judicial Qualifications Commission **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is to investigate complaints filed against a judicial officer, impose and recommend disciplinary sanctions against any judicial officer, and when necessary, file formal charges against that officer and provide a formal trial or hearing. The purpose of this appropriation is also to produce formal and informal advisory opinions; provide training and guidance to judicial candidates regarding the Code of Judicial Conduct; and investigate allegations of unethical campaign practices.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,593,094	\$1,593,094
State General Funds	\$1,593,094	\$1,593,094
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,593,094	\$1,593,094

Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission

Program Overview

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$0
State General Funds	\$0

19.998 *Transfer funds for the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission from the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council to Judicial Council.*

State General Funds	\$1,125,000
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19.999 *House: The purpose of this appropriation is to carry out the duties associated with investigative and hearing panels on the conduct of district attorneys and solicitors general, as well as funding administrative personnel and operations.*

State General Funds	\$0
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19.1000 Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to carry out the duties associated with investigative and hearing panels on the conduct of district attorneys and solicitors general, as well as funding administrative personnel and operations.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,125,000
State General Funds	\$1,125,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,125,000

Resource Center

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide direct representation to death penalty sentenced inmates and to recruit and assist private attorneys to represent plaintiffs in habeas corpus proceedings.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Resource Center provides direct representation in capital habeas corpus proceedings. The Resource Center ensures that death-sentenced inmates are competently represented in state and federal post-conviction habeas corpus proceedings, and in clemency proceedings before the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The Center is the only state organization to secure representation to people of Georgia's death row in all post-conviction stages.

Noteworthy: The Resource Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit law office which receives State funding in 12 equal installments in the form of a grant.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$900,000	\$900,000
State General Funds	\$900,000	\$900,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$900,000	\$900,000

20.1000 Resource Center Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide direct representation to death penalty sentenced inmates and to recruit and assist private attorneys to represent plaintiffs in habeas corpus proceedings.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$900,000	\$900,000
State General Funds	\$900,000	\$900,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$900,000	\$900,000

Georgia State-wide Business Court

The purpose of this appropriation is to support a state-wide business court in matters of resolving commercial dispute and litigation.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Georgia State-wide Business Court was established to provide an outlet for complex business-related litigation to both accelerate the outcome of those cases as well as relieve the burden of hearing those cases from Superior and State Courts. During the March 2018 session, HR993 amended the Constitution to create the Georgia State-wide Business Court. In the subsequent 2019 legislative session, HB239 provided the enabling legislation. The first Judge was appointed on August 1, 2019 and the Clerk was confirmed in July 2020. The Court began accepting cases in August 2020. Examples of cases that fall under the jurisdiction of the State-wide Business Court include: claims that relate to the internal affairs of a business, claims for breach of contract, fraud, or misrepresentation between businesses and claims involving commercial real property. Cases will only be accepted when the amount of damages in controversy are at least \$1 million involving commercial real property, or \$500,000 for cases not involving commercial real property. The Court assesses a \$3,000 filing fee that is remitted to Treasury.

Location: The State-wide Business Court is located in the Nathan Deal Judicial Center, although statute allows for bench trials to be conducted in the county where the case is filed.

Noteworthy: Beginning in FY25, the Georgia Statewide Business Court is administratively attached to the Judicial Council. Prior to this, the Business Court was administratively attached to the Court of Appeals.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,945,138	\$1,945,138
State General Funds	\$1,945,138	\$1,945,138
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,945,138	\$1,945,138
21.1 <i>Increase funds for targeted recruitment and retention initiatives.</i>		
State General Funds	\$60,772	\$60,772
21.2 <i>Increase funds to annualize the salary enhancement per the Judicial Council's judicial compensation reform proposal. (H:Increase funds to implement new salary structure pursuant to HB86 (2025 Legislative Session))</i>		
State General Funds	\$29,871	\$50,478
21.3 <i>Recognize funds for operations.</i>		
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$10,000	\$10,000

21.1000 Georgia State-wide Business Court	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is to support a state-wide business court in matters of resolving commercial dispute and litigation.</i>		
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$2,035,781	\$2,056,388
State General Funds	\$2,035,781	\$2,056,388
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Sales and Services	\$10,000	\$10,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$2,045,781	\$2,066,388

Section 7: Juvenile Courts

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

The purpose of this appropriation is for the Council of Juvenile Court Judges to represent all the juvenile judges in Georgia. Jurisdiction in cases involving children includes delinquencies, status offenses, and deprivation.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Council of Juvenile Court Judges is the supporting staff for the Juvenile Court Judges and provides judicial education, specialized programs, technology and case management assistance, and legal research for the judges.

Noteworthy: Adoption of a unified system is required by each Juvenile Court Judge in order for them to receive their \$6k salary supplement. The Senate prefers the Juvenile Court Judges use JCATS to serve as their case management system. However, a circuit may continue to use their current case management system as long as it is compatible with JCATS and can transmit the required data needed to comply with SB401 (Passed in Session 2024). SB401 requires specific foster care data to be captured and reported through a case management system to the Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC). In turn, the AOC is required to take the data and produce an annual report to the Governor and the legislature on the status of children in the foster care system. Before the passage of SB401, JCATS existed used in 49 counties. As of October 1, 2024, 15 new counties have migrated to JCATS, with 5 additional counties in the process of converting.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$2,026,151	\$2,026,151
State General Funds	\$2,026,151	\$2,026,151
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$67,486	\$67,486
Sales and Services	\$67,486	\$67,486
Grants from Sponsoring Entities	\$67,486	\$67,486
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$2,093,637	\$2,093,637
22.1 <i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.</i>		
State General Funds		\$765
22.2 <i>Increase funds for the Judicial Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 6.43% to 8.89%.</i>		
State General Funds		\$1,132

22.1000 Council of Juvenile Court Judges	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is for the Council of Juvenile Court Judges to represent all the juvenile judges in Georgia. Jurisdiction in cases involving children includes delinquencies, status offenses, and deprivation.</i>		

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$2,026,151	\$2,028,048
State General Funds	\$2,026,151	\$2,028,048
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$67,486	\$67,486
Sales and Services	\$67,486	\$67,486
Grants from Sponsoring Entities	\$67,486	\$67,486
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$2,093,637	\$2,095,534

Grants to Counties for Juvenile Court Judges

The purpose of this appropriation is for payment of state funds to circuits to pay for juvenile court judges salaries.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: This program is for the state payment of salaries for the juvenile court judges that work in the juvenile courts across the state. The salaries are given in grant form to the circuits to compensate the judges. The actual salaries for each full-time or part-time Juvenile Court Judge are set by the Superior Court with the approval of the governing authority or governing authorities of the county or counties for which the Judge is appointed. The grant amounts (\$100,000 per circuit) are set in statute and increases are based on the number of Superior Court Judges per Circuit (O.C.G.A. 15-11-52). Grant funds are awarded to the county on a quarterly basis. All grant funds are required to be spent solely on compensation for Juvenile Court Judges and shall not be used for any other purposes. The grant funding is for full and part time juvenile court judges only.

Location: There is a juvenile court in each of the state's 159 counties.

Noteworthy: As of January 1, 2025, membership included 172 members; 75 full-time Juvenile Court Judges, 25 part-time Juvenile Court Judges, 9 full-time Associate Juvenile Court Judges, 10 part-time Associate Juvenile Court Judges, 33 Pro Tempore Judges, and 20 Senior Judges.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597
State General Funds	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597

23.1000 Grants to Counties for Juvenile Court Judges

Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is for payment of state funds to circuits to pay for juvenile court judges salaries.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597
State General Funds	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$7,782,597	\$7,782,597

Section 8: Prosecuting Attorneys

Conflict Case

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist District Attorneys in the execution of their duties when a District Attorney is disqualified from interest or relationship to engage in a prosecution per OCGA 15-18-5.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Conflict Case prosecution team travels throughout Georgia to assist Judicial Circuits with largest number of conflict cases. The prosecution team has received over 900 conflict cases throughout Georgia.

Noteworthy: In the FY25 Budget, consolidated funding of \$1.6 million for personnel and operations helped establish a more transparent Conflict Case program outside of appropriations directly to the Council operations.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,652,129	\$1,652,129
State General Funds	\$1,652,129	\$1,652,129
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,652,129	\$1,652,129

24.1 Increase funds to provide for year one of a revised pay scale and one-step increase for attorneys to support recruitment and retention needs.

State General Funds	\$83,457	\$83,457
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24.2 Increase funds to provide for ongoing recruitment and retention of prosecution support.

State General Funds	\$11,193	\$11,193
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24.3 Increase funds for one conflict case prosecutor.

State General Funds	\$289,021	\$0
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24.4 Increase funds for one conflict case investigator.

State General Funds	\$191,289	\$0
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24.5 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.

State General Funds \$827

24.1000 Conflict Case **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist District Attorneys in the execution of their duties when a District Attorney is disqualified from interest or relationship to engage in a prosecution per OCGA 15-18-5.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$2,227,089	\$1,747,606
State General Funds	\$2,227,089	\$1,747,606
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$2,227,089	\$1,747,606

Council of Superior Court Clerks

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist superior court clerks throughout the state in the execution of their duties and to promote and assist in the training of superior court clerks.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Council of Superior Court Clerks acts as the liaison for all superior court clerks and the other members of the judicial branch, law enforcement and prosecution, as well as entities at the state and federal levels in order to facilitate efficient and effective compliance and execution of the duties required of the superior court clerks as they relate to these entities. Funds are disbursed to the Council on a monthly basis through a pass-through contract.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$190,721	\$190,721
State General Funds	\$190,721	\$190,721
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$190,721	\$190,721

25.1000 Council of Superior Court Clerks **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist superior court clerks throughout the state in the execution of their duties and to promote and assist in the training of superior court clerks.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$190,721	\$190,721
State General Funds	\$190,721	\$190,721
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$190,721	\$190,721

District Attorneys

The purpose of this appropriation is for the District Attorney to represent the State of Georgia in the trial and appeal of criminal cases in the Superior Court for the judicial circuit and delinquency cases in the juvenile courts per Ga. Const., Art. VI, Sec. VIII, Para I and OCGA 15-18.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: District Attorneys (DAs) act as the chief prosecuting officers for the state in each judicial circuit by representing the state in the trial and appeal of felony criminal cases in Superior Court for the circuit and in delinquency cases in juvenile courts. Includes 431 Assistant District Attorneys, 51 Investigators, 51 Victim Advocates, and 102 Secretaries.

Location: There are 50 judicial circuits across the state, with 1 District Attorney per judicial circuit.

Noteworthy: SB424 was enacted during the 2024 Legislative Session, which created the West Ga circuit, to include Carroll and Heard counties. Prior to SB424's passage, Carroll and Heard counties were part of the Coweta Circuit, which also served Coweta, Troup and Meriweather, for a 5-county judicial circuit. SB424 authorizes the Governor to appoint one District Attorney for the West Ga circuit, effective January 1, 2025, with the term ending December 31, 2026.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$111,384,923	\$111,384,923
State General Funds	\$111,384,923	\$111,384,923
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$2,239,803	\$2,239,803
State Funds Transfers	\$363,611	\$363,611
Agency to Agency Contracts	\$363,611	\$363,611
Federal Funds Transfers	\$1,876,192	\$1,876,192
FF Child Support Enforcement Title IV-D CFDA93.563	\$1,876,192	\$1,876,192
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$113,624,726	\$113,624,726

26.1 Increase funds to provide for year one of a revised pay scale and one-step increase for Assistant District Attorneys to support recruitment and retention needs.

State General Funds \$10,148,567 \$10,148,567

26.2	<i>Increase funds to provide year one of a revised pay scale to set District Attorney pay to \$155,000. (H:NO; Review pay structure in conjunction with judicial salary restructuring plan implementation)</i>		
	State General Funds	\$1,754,395	\$0
26.3	<i>Increase funds for ongoing recruitment and retention of prosecution support.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$828,030	\$828,030
26.4	<i>Increase funds for one District Attorney, four Assistant District Attorneys, one investigator, one victim advocate, two secretaries and travel costs for the West Georgia Judicial Circuit pursuant to SB424 (Session 2024).</i>		
	State General Funds	\$1,586,960	\$1,563,960
26.5	<i>Increase funds for four Assistant District Attorney positions in the Coweta Judicial Circuit that were transferred to the West Georgia Judicial Circuit. (H:Increase funds for two Assistant District Attorney positions in the Coweta Judicial Circuit that were transferred to the West Georgia Judicial Circuit)</i>		
	State General Funds	\$903,561	\$451,781
26.6	<i>Increase funds to annualize additional Assistant District Attorney positions for new judgeships in Tifton and Houston Judicial Circuits.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$201,409	\$201,340
26.7	<i>Increase funds for three additional Assistant District Attorney positions for new judgeships in the Alapaha, Augusta, and Douglas Judicial Circuits. (H:Increase funds for three additional Assistant District Attorney positions for new judgeships in the Alapaha, Augusta, and Douglas Judicial Circuits effective January 1, 2026)</i>		
	State General Funds	\$539,239	\$269,620
26.8	<i>Increase funds for the Teachers Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 20.78% to 21.91%.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$149
26.9	<i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$19,197
26.10	<i>Increase funds for the Judicial Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 6.43% to 8.89%.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$21,446
26.11	<i>Reduce funds for one Assistant District Attorney position for a new judgeship in the Douglas Judicial Circuit created in SB347 (2024 Session) which did not pass.</i>		
	State General Funds		(\$79,076)

26.1000 District Attorneys	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is for the District Attorney to represent the State of Georgia in the trial and appeal of criminal cases in the Superior Court for the judicial circuit and delinquency cases in the juvenile courts per Ga. Const., Art. VI, Sec. VIII. Para I and OCGA 15-18.</i>		
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$127,347,084	\$124,809,937
State General Funds	\$127,347,084	\$124,809,937
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$2,239,803	\$2,239,803
State Funds Transfers	\$363,611	\$363,611
Agency to Agency Contracts	\$363,611	\$363,611
Federal Funds Transfers	\$1,876,192	\$1,876,192
FF Child Support Enforcement Title IV-D CFDA93.563	\$1,876,192	\$1,876,192
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$129,586,887	\$127,049,740

Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist Georgia's District Attorneys and State Court Solicitors.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PAC) is composed of 9 members (6 DAs and 3 State Court Solicitors) who establish policies that guide the day-to-day work of the council staff. PAC is meant to assist DAs and State Court Solicitors. Council staff provides several services including training, professional development, continuing legal education opportunities, legal research assistance, professional responsibility guidance, legislation review and analysis, trial and appellate practice support, information technology management, human resources support, and fiscal services.

Noteworthy: In Georgia, misdemeanor cases (cases where the maximum punishment cannot exceed 12 months in jail) are prosecuted by the Solicitor-General. The Solicitor-General is an elected county officer who represents the State of Georgia in the trial and appeal of misdemeanor criminal cases in the State Courts and performs other duties as required by law. There are 30 full-time Solicitors-General with

a staff of assistants, investigators and administrative personnel; in the remaining counties, there are 34 part-time Solicitors-General who may maintain a private law practice, as well as practice criminal defense outside of the county they serve. In those areas without a State Court, and in Brooks, Chatham, Dougherty, Early, Sumter and Rockdale counties, misdemeanor cases are prosecuted by the District Attorney who also is responsible for prosecuting felony cases. Although full-time Solicitors-General handle only criminal cases, some part-time Solicitors-General may also serve as the attorney for the county.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$10,419,950	\$10,419,950
State General Funds	\$10,419,950	\$10,419,950
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$10,419,950	\$10,419,950
27.1	<i>Increase funds to provide for year one of a revised pay scale and one-step increase for attorneys to support recruitment and retention needs.</i>	
State General Funds	\$218,694	\$218,694
27.2	<i>Increase funds to provide for ongoing recruitment and retention of prosecution support.</i>	
State General Funds	\$154,226	\$154,226
27.3	<i>Increase funds for a Deputy General Counsel.</i>	
State General Funds	\$261,452	\$0
27.4	<i>Increase funds to support Tracker Case Management development.</i>	
State General Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
27.5	<i>Increase funds for personnel for one victim advocate.</i>	
State General Funds	\$60,469	\$0
27.6	<i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.</i>	
State General Funds		\$5,320
27.7	<i>Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenses.</i>	
State General Funds		(\$12,346)

27.1000 Prosecuting Attorneys' Council	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is to assist Georgia's District Attorneys and State Court Solicitors.</i>		
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$12,114,791	\$11,785,844
State General Funds	\$12,114,791	\$11,785,844
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$12,114,791	\$11,785,844

Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission

The purpose of this appropriation is to address daily expense allowances to occur with the carrying out of duties associated with investigative and hearing panels on the conduct of district attorneys and solicitors-general, as well as funding administrative personnel and operations.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission has the power to discipline, remove and cause involuntary retirement of appointed or elected District Attorneys (DAs) or Solicitor Generals (SGs). The Commission consists of 8 appointed members: 5 Investigative Panel members and 3 Hearing Panel members. There are currently three full time employees. The Investigative Panel is responsible for the investigative, prosecutorial and administrative functions of the Commission, while the Hearing Panel is responsible for the adjudication of formal charges filed by the Investigative Panel, issuing disciplinary and incapacity orders, issuing formal advisory opinions and standards on its own initiatives or on the recommendation of the Investigative panel.

Location: The Commissioners are located across the state. Most meetings can be and are held virtually, but some meetings and ALL hearings are in person and require travel. The Administrative Office, with three fulltime employees, is located in Savannah, Ga.

Noteworthy: The Commission is governed by Ga Code Section 15-18-32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, which was amended in 2024, allowing the Commission to set up and begin work in July of 2024.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000
State General Funds	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000
28.1	<i>Increase funds for operations.</i>	
State General Funds	\$80,500	\$0
28.998	<i>Transfer funds to reflect the relocation of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission to Judicial Council.</i>	
State General Funds		(\$1,125,000)

28.1000 Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is to address daily expense allowances to occur with the carrying out of duties associated with investigative and hearing panels on the conduct of district attorneys and solicitors-general, as well as funding administrative personnel and operations.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,205,500	\$0
State General Funds	\$1,205,500	\$0
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,205,500	\$0

Section 9: Superior Courts

Council of Superior Court Judges

The purpose of this appropriation is for the operations of the Council of Superior Court Judges and is to further the improvement of the Superior Court in the administration of justice through leadership, training, policy development and budgetary and fiscal administration.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Council of Superior Court Judges (CSCJ) provides centralized payroll, accounting, travel reimbursements, personnel management, budget management, legal support for court rules, jury instructions, and death penalty habeas cases, and logistics for judge training.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,950,532	\$1,950,532
State General Funds	\$1,950,532	\$1,950,532
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sales and Services	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,975,532	\$1,975,532

29.1000 Council of Superior Court Judges **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is for the operations of the Council of Superior Court Judges and is to further the improvement of the Superior Court in the administration of justice through leadership, training, policy development and budgetary and fiscal administration.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,950,532	\$1,950,532
State General Funds	\$1,950,532	\$1,950,532
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sales and Services	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$1,975,532	\$1,975,532

Judicial Administrative Districts

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide regional administrative support to the judges of the superior court. This support includes managing budgets, policy, procedure, and providing a liaison between local and state courts.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: Georgia is divided into ten Judicial Administrative Districts (JADs). Each JAD has one District Court Administrator (DCA) and one secretary who assist the Superior Court judges within their district.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$3,487,043	\$3,487,043
State General Funds	\$3,487,043	\$3,487,043
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$11,125	\$11,125
Intergovernmental Transfers	\$11,125	\$11,125
Authority/Local Government Payments to State Agencies	\$11,125	\$11,125
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$3,498,168	\$3,498,168

30.1000 Judicial Administrative Districts **Appropriation (HB 68)**

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide regional administrative support to the judges of the superior court. This support includes managing budgets, policy, procedure, and providing a liaison between local and state courts.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$3,487,043	\$3,487,043
State General Funds	\$3,487,043	\$3,487,043
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$11,125	\$11,125
Intergovernmental Transfers	\$11,125	\$11,125
Authority/Local Government Payments to State Agencies	\$11,125	\$11,125
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$3,498,168	\$3,498,168

Superior Court Judges

The purpose of this appropriation is to enable Georgia's Superior Courts to be the general jurisdiction trial court and exercise exclusive, constitutional authority over felony cases, divorce, equity and cases regarding title to land, provided that law clerks over the fifty provided by law are to be allocated back to the circuits by caseload ranks.

Program Overview

Summary of Activities: The Superior Court Judges program contains the salaries for the 227 Superior Court judges and the statutory court personnel. Funds within the program also make payments for unemployment insurance, emeritus retirement program, court reporter stipends, judge travel expenses, county reimbursement for habeas filing fees, usage fees for PeopleSoft accounting system and other payments to state agencies as required by law. Lastly, this program includes funding for Senior Judges, emergency equipment needs, and legal research software fees.

Noteworthy: The salaries for superior court judges are set in Georgia statute. The statutory salary for a superior court judge is \$126,265, however, the Judges currently earn \$138,790 base salary plus \$6,000 Accountability Court Supplemental payment for a total \$144,790 annually. In addition, the Superior Court judges are eligible to receive a locality supplement from the respective county they preside in.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$86,718,434	\$86,718,434
State General Funds	\$86,718,434	\$86,718,434
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$45,000	\$45,000
Royalties and Rents	\$45,000	\$45,000
Royalties and Rents Not Itemized	\$45,000	\$45,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$86,763,434	\$86,763,434

31.1 *Increase funds for the employer contribution rate for Judicial Retirement System from 6.43% to 8.89%.*

State General Funds	\$808,538	\$808,538
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31.2 *Reduce funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Douglas Circuit effective January 1, 2025, created in SB347 which did not pass during the 2024 Legislative Session but was funded in the FY2025 Appropriations Act (HB916).*

State General Funds	(\$218,555)	(\$218,555)
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31.3 *Increase funds to annualize the cost of the new judgeship in the Houston Circuit created in HB960 (Session 2024).*

State General Funds	\$218,555	\$218,555
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31.4 *Increase funds to annualize the cost of the new judgeship in the Tifton Circuit created in HB906 (Session 2024).*

State General Funds	\$218,555	\$218,555
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31.5 *Increase funds to implement the Judicial Salary Restructuring Plan. (H:Increase funds to implement new salary structure pursuant to HB85 (2025 Legislative Session), effective January 1, 2026)*

State General Funds	\$19,286,902	\$14,465,177
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31.6 *Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Alapaha Circuit, effective July 1, 2025. (H:Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Alapaha Circuit, effective January 1, 2026)*

State General Funds	\$451,693	\$225,847
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31.7 *Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Douglas Circuit, effective July 1, 2025. (H:Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Douglas Circuit, effective January 1, 2026)*

State General Funds	\$451,693	\$225,847
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31.8 *Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Augusta Circuit, effective July 1, 2025. (H:Increase funds for the creation of one additional judgeship in the Augusta Circuit, effective January 1, 2026)*

State General Funds	\$451,693	\$225,847
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31.9 *Reduce initial equipment set-up funds for the Atlantic Circuit new judgeship created in SB66 (Legislative Session 2023).*

State General Funds	(\$30,250)	(\$30,250)
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31.10 *Reduce initial equipment set-up funds for the Coweta Circuit new judgeship created in HB243 (Legislative Session 2023).*

State General Funds	(\$30,250)	(\$30,250)
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31.11 *Reduce initial equipment set-up funds for the Dougherty Circuit new judgeship created in HB77 (Legislative Session 2023).*

State General Funds	(\$30,250)	(\$30,250)
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31.12 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.

State General Funds \$7,673

31.13 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenses.

State General Funds \$7,030

31.1000 Superior Court Judges Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to enable Georgia's Superior Courts to be the general jurisdiction trial court and exercise exclusive, constitutional authority over felony cases, divorce, equity and cases regarding title to land, provided that law clerks over the fifty provided by law are to be allocated back to the circuits by caseload ranks.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$108,296,758	\$102,812,198
State General Funds	\$108,296,758	\$102,812,198
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$45,000	\$45,000
Royalties and Rents	\$45,000	\$45,000
Royalties and Rents Not Itemized	\$45,000	\$45,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$108,341,758	\$102,857,198

Section 10: Supreme Court

Supreme Court of Georgia

The purpose of this appropriation is to support the Supreme Court of Georgia which exercises exclusive appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving: the construction of a treaty, the Constitution of the State of Georgia or of the United States, the constitutionality of a law, ordinance, or constitutional provision that has been drawn in question, and all cases of election contest per Ga. Const. Art. VI, Section VI, Para. II. The purpose of this appropriation is also to support the Supreme Court of Georgia in its exercise of jurisdiction in cases per Ga. Const. Art. VI, Section VI, Para. III and its administration of the Bar Exam and oversight of the Office of Reporter of Decisions.

Program Overview

Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appellate filings	1,374	1,328	1,227	1,405
Revenue from Appellate Court fees	\$154,239	\$160,001	\$154,108	\$146,324
Average Caseload per Justice for cases filed	1,374	1,328	1,227	1,405

Summary of Activities: The Supreme Court is the State’s highest court and is responsible for reviewing decisions made by all other state courts in both civil and criminal cases. In order to establish and maintain a coherent and consistent body of authoritative decisional law for the benefit of the bench, the bar, and the public, the Supreme Court conducts monthly oral argument sessions and issues rulings by published opinions on complex questions involving the constitutionality of state statutes, all criminal appeals in capital cases, all equity and extraordinary remedies cases involving death sentences, all habeas corpus cases, and petitions for review of decisions of the Court of Appeals. A constitutional limitation requires the Supreme Court to decide appeals within two court terms. In addition to opinions, the Supreme Court issues final orders on hundreds of petitions for review filed each year. The Supreme Court also bears administrative and regulatory responsibilities including regulating admission to the bar, establishing the uniform rules of practice and procedure for all classes of courts, regulating the practice of law, and chairing the Judicial Council.

Timing: Opinions deciding appeals are published, on average, twice per month. Orders on petitions for review and on other matters are issued on a daily basis.

Continuation Budget

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$18,968,827	\$18,968,827
State General Funds	\$18,968,827	\$18,968,827
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$1,859,823	\$1,859,823
Sales and Services	\$1,859,823	\$1,859,823
Bar Applicant Fitness Board Fees	\$1,150,376	\$1,150,376
Bar Exam Administration per OCGA15-19-2	\$709,447	\$709,447
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$20,828,650	\$20,828,650

32.1 Increase funds to annualize agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services (DAOS) administered self-insurance programs.

State General Funds \$2,589 \$2,589

32.2 Increase funds to annualize Georgia Building Authority (GBA) rental rates to provide for additional Capitol police security and operations.

State General Funds \$13,343 \$13,343

32.3 Increase funds to annualize an adjustment to agency premiums for State Accounting Office (SAO) TeamWorks.

State General Funds \$1,293 \$1,293

32.4 Increase funds to annualize funds for Georgia State Patrol (DPS) Trooper agreement with the Supreme Court.

State General Funds \$10,253 \$10,253

32.5	<i>Increase funds for personnel to annualize salary enhancement to Supreme Court Justices' salaries consistent with Judicial Council proposal. (H:Increase funds to implement new salary structure pursuant to HB86 (2025 Legislative Session))</i>	\$668,437	\$611,168
State General Funds			
32.6	<i>Increase funds for phase one of a multi-year recruitment and retention plan for attorneys and professional staff with large disparities between current salaries and market values due to critical turnover of experienced senior-level staff.</i>	\$86,312	\$86,312
State General Funds			
32.7	<i>Increase funds for phase one of a multi-year recruitment and retention plan for salary increases for court staff due to critical turnover.</i>	\$459,781	\$459,781
State General Funds			
32.8	<i>Increase funds for a one-time information technology upgrade to the public electronic records (docket) to make ADA compliant.</i>	\$99,110	\$99,110
State General Funds			

32.1000 Supreme Court of Georgia	Appropriation (HB 68)	
<i>The purpose of this appropriation is to support the Supreme Court of Georgia which exercises exclusive appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving: the construction of a treaty, the Constitution of the State of Georgia or of the United States, the constitutionality of a law, ordinance, or constitutional provision that has been drawn in question, and all cases of election contest per Ga. Const. Art. VI, Section VI, Para. II. The purpose of this appropriation is also to support the Supreme Court of Georgia in its exercise of jurisdiction in cases per Ga. Const. Art. VI, Section VI, Para. III and its administration of the Bar Exam and oversight of the Office of Reporter of Decisions.</i>		
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$20,309,945	\$20,252,676
State General Funds	\$20,309,945	\$20,252,676
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$1,859,823	\$1,859,823
Sales and Services	\$1,859,823	\$1,859,823
Bar Applicant Fitness Board Fees	\$1,150,376	\$1,150,376
Bar Exam Administration per OCGA15-19-2	\$709,447	\$709,447
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$22,169,768	\$22,112,499

Section 33: Law, Department of

Law, Department of

The purpose of this appropriation is to serve as the attorney and legal advisor for all state agencies, departments, authorities, and the Governor; to provide binding opinions on legal questions concerning the state of Georgia and its agencies; and to prepare all contracts and agreements regarding any matter in which the state of Georgia is involved.

	Program Overview			
Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Department turnover rate	12.09%	16.67%	19.17%	17.50%
Percentage of payments made by check	19.22%	16.33%	12.37%	11.49%
Number of complaints and inquiries received and responded to by the Consumer Protection Unit	25,445	26,078	30,737	28,240

Summary of Activities: The Department of Law program includes all personnel and operations involved in the Attorney General meeting the Constitutional obligations as the attorney and legal advisor for Georgia. The Attorney General represents the State of Georgia in all capital felony appeals before the Supreme Court of Georgia, in all civil cases before any court, and in all cases appearing before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Attorney General also prosecutes gang activity, human trafficking, cybercrime, public corruption cases, conducts special investigations, and initiates civil or criminal actions on behalf of the State of Georgia.

Fund Sources: The Department of Law collects revenue from DOAS insured billing, as well as reimbursements from clients for the hiring of outside counsel, also known as Special Assistant Attorney Generals (SAAGs).

Noteworthy: In FY24, settlements with the Attorney General's office resulted in payments to State Treasury in the amount of \$23.31 million, an increase of \$1.67m million or 7.70% over FY23 settlements, \$21.64m.

		Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS		\$44,251,259	\$44,251,259
State General Funds		\$44,251,259	\$44,251,259
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS		\$848,040	\$848,040
Sales and Services		\$848,040	\$848,040
Collection/Administrative Fees		\$347,040	\$347,040
Regulatory Fees		\$500,000	\$500,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized		\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS		\$79,200,000	\$79,200,000
State Funds Transfers		\$79,200,000	\$79,200,000
Legal Services - Monthly Billings		\$600,000	\$600,000

Legal Services - Client Reimbursable per OCGA45-15-4	\$72,000,000	\$72,000,000
Legal Services - Dept. of Administrative Services Cases	\$6,600,000	\$6,600,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$124,299,299	\$124,299,299

238.1 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.

State General Funds	\$66,081	\$66,081
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238.2 Increase funds for the third and final phase of a merit-based retention initiative for attorney positions. (H:Increase funds for a merit-based retention initiative for attorney positions)

State General Funds	\$1,594,143	\$1,594,143
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238.3 Increase funds for Georgia Building Authority rent due to relocation to the renovated Law building.

State General Funds	\$1,109,919	\$1,109,919
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238.4 Increase funds for four positions to expand the Gang Prosecution Unit to Savannah region.

State General Funds	\$536,928	\$536,928
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238.5 Increase funds to annualize six positions to expand the Human Trafficking Unit to the Macon and Augusta regions.

State General Funds	\$748,143	\$748,143
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238.6 Increase funds for the Judicial Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution rate from 6.43% to 8.89%.

State General Funds	\$212	\$212
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238.7 Increase funds to retain an additional \$125,000 in Lemon Law fees for a total of \$625,000. (G:YES)(H:YES)

Collection/Administrative Fees	\$0	\$0
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238.1000 Law, Department of Appropriation (HB 68)

The purpose of this appropriation is to serve as the attorney and legal advisor for all state agencies, departments, authorities, and the Governor; to provide binding opinions on legal questions concerning the state of Georgia and its agencies; and to prepare all contracts and agreements regarding any matter in which the state of Georgia is involved.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$48,306,685	\$48,306,685
State General Funds	\$48,306,685	\$48,306,685
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$848,040	\$848,040
Sales and Services	\$848,040	\$848,040
Collection/Administrative Fees	\$347,040	\$347,040
Regulatory Fees	\$500,000	\$500,000
Sales and Services Not Itemized	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL INTRA-STATE GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$79,200,000	\$79,200,000
State Funds Transfers	\$79,200,000	\$79,200,000
Legal Services - Monthly Billings	\$600,000	\$600,000
Legal Services - Client Reimbursable per OCGA45-15-4	\$72,000,000	\$72,000,000
Legal Services - Dept. of Administrative Services Cases	\$6,600,000	\$6,600,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$128,354,725	\$128,354,725

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

The purpose of this appropriation is to serve as the center for the identification, arrest, and prosecution of providers of health services and patients who defraud the Medicaid Program.

Program Overview

Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Dollar value of recovery	\$6,678,929	\$3,351,952	\$19,695,046	\$3,226,353
Number of cases opened	170	154	131	180
Percentage of cases resolved within one year	30.00%	22.00%	19.00%	45.00%
Number of cases closed	264	168	133	337
Average collections per auditor	\$834,866	\$478,850	\$2,813,578	\$537,726

Summary of Activities: The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) program is responsible for investigation and prosecution of fraudulent or illegal acts in connection with any aspect of the provision of medical assistance or health care services funded through joint federal-state programs, or the recovery of federal and state health care funds gained through fraudulent, abusive or illegal acts by healthcare providers and others. This includes investigating complaints of abuse or neglect of patients in facilities that receive Medicaid funds.

Fund Sources: Medicaid fraud control activities are matched federally at 75%.

Noteworthy: According to the Department of Law, for Federal FY2023 (Oct. 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2024), MFCU secured seven new indictments and six new convictions associated with fraud, abuse, neglect or exploitation which resulted in more than \$700,000.00 in restitution being ordered and obtained more than \$1.8 million in civil judgments and settlements associated with its enforcement of the Georgia False Medicaid Claims Act.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,684,408	\$1,684,408
State General Funds	\$1,684,408	\$1,684,408
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$3,633,332	\$3,633,332
State Medicaid Fraud Control Units CFDA93.775	\$3,633,332	\$3,633,332
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$5,317,740	\$5,317,740

239.1 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.

State General Funds	\$2,219	\$2,219
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239.2 Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenditures.

State General Funds	(\$24,419)	(\$24,419)
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239.3 Increase funds for the third and final phase of a merit-based retention initiative for attorney positions.

State General Funds	\$30,821	\$30,821
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239.1000 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit	Appropriation (HB 68)
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The purpose of this appropriation is to serve as the center for the identification, arrest, and prosecution of providers of health services and patients who defraud the Medicaid Program.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,693,029	\$1,693,029
State General Funds	\$1,693,029	\$1,693,029
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$3,633,332	\$3,633,332
State Medicaid Fraud Control Units CFDA93.775	\$3,633,332	\$3,633,332
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$5,326,361	\$5,326,361

Section 37: Public Defender Council, Georgia

Public Defender Council

The purpose of this appropriation is to fund the Office of the Georgia Capital Defender, Office of the Mental Health Advocate, Central Office, and the administration of the Conflict Division.

	Program Overview			
Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Capital cases per attorney	6	4	6	4
Mental health cases per attorney	68	71	67	54
Percentage of clients contacted at least once per month	74.50%	91.50%	92.10%	94.09%
Cases assigned by all judicial circuits	126,852	136,213	142,651	167,823
Number of cases closed by all judicial circuits (includes cases opened in past years)	114,974	135,222	121,421	162,363
Number of new conflict cases assigned	13,557	12,410	12,784	17,473

Summary of Activities: This program provides funding for administrative components of the Georgia Public Defender Council, which is responsible for providing adequate and effective legal representation, independent of political consideration or private interest, to indigent persons in keeping with the promises of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the United States Constitution and Gideon v. Wainwright (1963). The Central Office directly administers and supports the defender system, overseeing statewide services, professional development, and multi-defendant (conflict/gang/ RICO) representation. Central oversees the Office of the Georgia Capital Defender (O.C.G.A. 17-12-12), which is responsible for direct and co-counsel representation, assistance, and resources in death penalty cases and related appeals. Central also oversees the Office of the Mental Health Advocate (O.C.G.A. 17-12-11), which provides services to attorneys representing criminal defendants with mental health challenges, as well as direct representation for NGRI (not guilty by reason of insanity) and IST (incompetent to stand trial) cases.

Noteworthy: GPDC represents approximately 80-85 percent of all criminal defendants in Georgia each year. The agency has observed a trending increase in large multi-defendant cases requiring conflict-free representation post-pandemic.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$9,439,841	\$9,439,841
State General Funds	\$9,439,841	\$9,439,841
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$5,000	\$5,000
State Court Improvement Program CFDA93.586	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$1,840,000	\$1,840,000
Interest and Investment Income	\$340,000	\$340,000
Clerk's and Sheriff's Trust Accounts	\$340,000	\$340,000
Sales and Services	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Collection/Administrative Fees	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$11,284,841	\$11,284,841

253.1 *Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.*

State General Funds	(\$19,244)	(\$19,244)
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253.2 *Increase funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenditures.*

State General Funds	\$3,899	\$3,899
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253.1000 Public Defender Council	Appropriation (HB 68)
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The purpose of this appropriation is to fund the Office of the Georgia Capital Defender, Office of the Mental Health Advocate, Central Office, and the administration of the Conflict Division.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$9,424,496	\$9,424,496
State General Funds	\$9,424,496	\$9,424,496
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$5,000	\$5,000
State Court Improvement Program CFDA93.586	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$1,840,000	\$1,840,000
Interest and Investment Income	\$340,000	\$340,000
Clerk's and Sheriff's Trust Accounts	\$340,000	\$340,000
Sales and Services	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Collection/Administrative Fees	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$11,269,496	\$11,269,496

Public Defenders

The purpose of this appropriation is to assure that adequate and effective legal representation is provided, independently of political considerations or private interests, to indigent persons who are entitled to representation under this chapter; provided that staffing for circuits are based on O.C.G.A. 17-12; including providing representation to clients in cases where the Capital Defender or a circuit public defender has a conflict of interest.

	Program Overview			
Performance Measures:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total number of conflict cases assigned	25,833	25,560	25,977	23,042
"Total number of second-level, monthly contract (C2) conflict cases assigned"	4,381	4,063	6,571	8,205
" Total number of last-level, per-case contract (C3) conflict cases assigned"	3,289	2,217	1,269	1,311

Summary of Activities: This program funds Circuit Public Defender Offices (44 Circuit Offices) contracted with the agency and services to those circuits. The program also funds 12 Alternate Defender Regional Offices, representing clients in multidefendant cases.

Location: A GPDC Circuit Public Defender Office in 44 of 50 Judicial Circuit across Georgia. Circuit Offices provide direct representation to clients.

Noteworthy: Six judicial circuits (Bell-Forsyth, Blue Ridge, Cobb, Douglas, Gwinnett, and Houston) maintain their own county-level alternate delivery systems separate and apart from GPDC and the state system.

	Continuation Budget	
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$73,087,636	\$73,087,636
State General Funds	\$73,087,636	\$73,087,636
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$165,762	\$165,762
Indigent Defense CFDA16.836	\$165,762	\$165,762
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
Intergovernmental Transfers	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
Authority/Local Government Payments to State Agencies	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$104,753,398	\$104,753,398

254.1 *Increase funds for the Teachers Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 20.78% to 21.91%.*

State General Funds	\$139	\$139
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254.2 *Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs.*

State General Funds	(\$155,933)	(\$155,933)
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254.3 *Increase funds to reflect an adjustment for TeamWorks billings to meet projected expenditures.*

State General Funds	\$9,152	\$9,152
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254.4 *Increase funds to annualize one Public Defender, one investigator, and two administrative positions for the West Georgia Circuit pursuant to SB424 (2024 Session).*

State General Funds	\$417,813	\$417,813
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254.5	<i>Increase funds to annualize two Assistant Public Defender positions for additional judgeships in the Tifton and Houston Judicial Circuits.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$74,963	\$74,963
254.6	<i>Increase funds for a Juvenile Conflict Division manager position.</i>		
	State General Funds	\$226,517	\$0
254.7	<i>Reduce funds for one Assistant Public Defender in the Douglas Judicial Circuit due to SB347 failing to pass during the 2024 legislative session.</i>		
	State General Funds	(\$61,188)	(\$61,188)
254.8	<i>Increase funds for three Assistant Public Defender positions for new judgeships in the Alapaha, Augusta, and Douglas Judicial Circuits effective January 1, 2026.</i>		
	State General Funds		\$211,169

254.1000 Public Defenders	Appropriation (HB 68)
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The purpose of this appropriation is to assure that adequate and effective legal representation is provided, independently of political considerations or private interests, to indigent persons who are entitled to representation under this chapter; provided that staffing for circuits are based on O.C.G.A. 17-12; including providing representation to clients in cases where the Capital Defender or a circuit public defender has a conflict of interest.

TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$73,599,099	\$73,583,751
State General Funds	\$73,599,099	\$73,583,751
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$165,762	\$165,762
Indigent Defense CFDA16.836	\$165,762	\$165,762
TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
Intergovernmental Transfers	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
Authority/Local Government Payments to State Agencies	\$31,500,000	\$31,500,000
TOTAL PUBLIC FUNDS	\$105,264,861	\$105,249,513