

Senate Bill 33

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Chance of the 16th, Davis of the 22nd, Hill of the 32nd,
Staton of the 18th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, known as the "Budget Act," so as to provide for the application of zero-base
3 budgeting to the budget process; to provide for analysis of departmental and program
4 objectives; to provide for consideration of alternative funding levels; to provide for
5 departmental priority lists; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to
6 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 known as the "Budget Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "45-12-75.1.

12 (a) The Governor in preparing his or her budget report under Code Section 45-12-75, and
13 budget units in preparing their budget estimates under Code Section 45-12-78, shall make
14 use of zero-base budgeting as provided in this Code section. The requirements of this Code
15 section shall apply to the budget report presented to the General Assembly in January of
16 2013 and each year thereafter.

17 (b) It is the intent of this Code section that in any given year the Governor's budget report
18 shall include zero-base budgeting for the agencies and programs as identified by the House
19 Budget Office and Senate Budget Office in consultation with The Governor's Office of
20 Planning and Budget. The House Budget Office and Senate Budget Office in consultation
21 with The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shall require each agency to use
22 zero-base budgeting at least once every ten years and shall not require any agency or
23 program to use zero-base budgeting more often than once every eight years. The House
24 Budget Office and Senate Budget Office in consultation with The Governor's Office of
25 Planning and Budget shall balance the number of agencies and programs submitting
26 zero-base budgets with staff available for preparing a budget and staff available for

conducting review and analysis of the budget submission. The Governor and the Office of Planning and Budget shall prescribe the forms and format for zero-base budgets and serve as the entity designated for coordinating the preparation of zero-base budgets by the executive branch.

(c) In the years in which zero-base budgeting applies, each budget unit shall include in its budget estimate an analysis summarizing the prior two fiscal years and proposed spending plans by program, object class, and revenue source. Information presented shall include the following:

(1) A statement of the budget unit's departmental and program purposes; effectiveness, efficiency, and equity measures; and program size indicators; and

(2) A priority listing encompassing all alternative funding levels for all programs.

(d) In the years in which an agency or program submits a zero-base budget, the Governor shall include in the budget report relevant materials related to each budget unit's submission under subsection (c) of this Code section and such other relevant material as deemed appropriate by the Governor.

(e) Without in any way limiting the generality of the other provisions of this Code section, it is specifically provided that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia shall be a budget unit subject to this Code section and the programs of the board of regents shall be periodically subject to zero-base budgeting as provided for in this Code section and in keeping with the Constitution.

(f) Without in any way limiting the generality of the other provisions of this Code section, it is specifically provided that in the budget report presented to the General Assembly in January of 2013 the Department of Education's budget shall be submitted as a zero-base budget according to the guidelines contained in this Code section.

(g) The judicial branch is encouraged to participate in the zero-base budgeting process.

(h) The Joint Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee, as authorized under Code Section 28-5-23, may review all information and materials related to any zero-base budget request to include hearings as necessary.

(i) The Office of Planning and Budget and the Joint Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee shall maintain effectiveness, efficiency, and equity measures related to zero-base budgeting.

(j) This Code section shall be automatically repealed on June 30, 2020, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.