

Senate Bill 392

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Tillery of the 19th, Still of the 48th, Hufstetler of the 52nd,  
Gooch of the 51st and others

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 intent; to provide for analysis of departmental  
4 and program objectives; to provide for consideration of alternative funding levels; to provide  
5 for departmental priority lists; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to  
6 provide for short titles; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Waste Reduction Act of 2026" and shall  
10 also be known and may be cited as the "Zero-Base Budgeting Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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

14 "45-12-75.1.

15 (a) The Governor in preparing his or her budget report under Code Section 45-12-75, and  
16 budget units in preparing their budget estimates under Code Section 45-12-78, shall make  
17 use of zero-base budgeting as provided in this Code section. The requirements of this Code  
18 section shall apply to the budget report presented to the General Assembly in  
19 January, 2027, and each year thereafter.

20 (b) It is the intent of this Code section that in any given year the Governor's budget report  
21 shall include zero-base budgeting for the agencies and programs as identified by the House  
22 Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office in consultation with  
23 the Office of Planning and Budget. The House Budget and Research Office and Senate  
24 Budget and Evaluation Office in consultation with the Office of Planning and Budget shall  
25 require each agency to use zero-base budgeting at least once every ten years and shall not  
26 require any agency or program to use zero-base budgeting more often than once every eight  
27 years. The House Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office  
28 in consultation with the Office of Planning and Budget shall balance the number of  
29 agencies and programs submitting zero-base budgets with staff available for preparing a  
30 budget and staff available for conducting review and analysis of the budget submission.  
31 The Governor and the Office of Planning and Budget shall prescribe the forms and format  
32 for zero-base budgets and serve as the entities designated for coordinating the preparation  
33 of zero-base budgets by the executive branch.

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

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

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

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

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

49 (f) Without in any way limiting the generality of the other provisions of this Code section,  
50 it is specifically provided that in the budget report presented to the General Assembly in  
51 January, 2027, the Department of Education's budget shall be submitted as a zero-base  
52 budget according to the guidelines provided in this Code section.

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

54 (h) The fiscal affairs subcommittee of each house, as authorized under Code Section  
55 28-5-23, may review all information and materials related to any zero-base budget request  
56 to include hearings as necessary.

57 (i) The Office of Planning and Budget and the fiscal affairs subcommittee of each house  
58 shall maintain effectiveness, efficiency, and equity measures related to zero-base  
59 budgeting."

60 **SECTION 3.**

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