

Amended Fiscal Year 2026 – House Changes to Governor’s Recommendations
(Balanced to \$42.268 Billion State Dollars)

Yellow highlight = Changes from the House

Statewide

- **\$611.76 Million Added** to provide a \$2,000 one-time supplement to full-time, benefit-eligible state and Regents employees, formula earned K12 teachers, school administrators, custodians, nutrition workers, school nurses, and bus drivers.
- **Reduce funds** to reflect a reduction in the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit Plan from 29.454% to 20.264% effective June 1, 2026.

Dept. of Administrative Services

Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund

- **\$4.8 Million Added** to establish the Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund under the State Treasury pursuant to SB 244 (2025 Session).
- **\$200,000 Added** for the Office of State Administrative Hearings for hearings and adjudication of claims pursuant to SB 244 (2025 Session).
- **Budget Direction:** Change the name of the Compensation Per General Assembly Resolutions program to the Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund program to reflect the passage of SB 244 (2025 Session)

Payments to Georgia Technology Authority

- **\$35 Million Added** for the Department of Community Health Integrated Eligibility System (IES) modernization.
- **Budget Direction:** Utilize existing funds (\$7,930,340) relating to interest revenue accrued in the Technology Empowerment Fund for the ERP modernization timeline extension

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and additional components of the State Ethics Commission e-filing software project due to the passage of HB 199 (2025 Session).

Dept. of Agriculture

Consumer Protection

- **\$1.05 Million Added** for personnel to reflect increased retention of Consumer Protection positions
- **\$234,000 Added** for new licensing and inspection software for the Food Safety division.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Adult Forensic Services

- **\$243,750 Restored** for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail. \$243,750

Dept. of Community Affairs

Housing Initiatives

- **\$50 Million Added** for one-time funds for the State Housing Trust Fund to address homelessness through matching funds to local governments and nonprofit organizations.

Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

- **\$50 Million Added** for rural infrastructure for economic development.

Dept. of Community Health

Departmental Administration

- **\$5,349 Added** for a \$3,000 salary enhancement for Katie Beckett Medicaid caseworkers for parity with Department of Human Services Medicaid caseworkers.
- *Budget Direction:* The Department shall submit a 1915(i) waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a comprehensive suite of services as benefits to members enrolled in the Therapeutic Care Model program.
- **\$2.5 Million Added** to support spinal injury services.

Healthcare Access & Improvement

- **\$4.8 Million Added** to establish a grant program to support the creation of new rural medical and dental clinics.
- **\$800,000 Added** in one-time funds for hospital infrastructure and emergency power.

- **\$155,251 Added** in one-time funds for two portable training ultrasound machines.
- **\$250,000 Added** for rural colorectal screenings

Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled

- **\$226.98 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. rec. = \$223.98 Million Add)
- **\$26.34 Million Added** for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums. (Gov. rec. = \$25.82 Million Add)
- **\$3.2 Million Added** for Medicare Part D Clawback payment. (House adjusted the governor's rec slightly)
- **\$11.62 Million Removed** high-cost drugs based on projected utilization
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$4,783,831 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$27,902,969 in state general funds with nursing home provider fees.
- **\$2.65 Million Added** for ambulance provider fees based on projected revenue.
- **\$3 Million Added** for supplemental quality incentive payments at skilled nursing facilities.

Medicaid - Low Income

- **\$149.93 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. Rec. = \$141.29 Million Reduction)
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$42,206,820 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

PeachCare

- **\$7.85 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. rec. = \$7.21 Million Reduction)

GA Board of Healthcare Workforce

- House said **NO** to the Governor's recommendation to "Redirect existing funds (\$734,438) for grants for graduate medical education programs based on the use of Medicaid Reimbursements for new residency slots pending approval of a State Plan Amendment to fund the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University."
- **\$6.84 Million Reduced** due to delayed approval of a State Plan Amendment. - -
- **\$1.17 Million Added** for the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University.

- **\$17.81 Million Added** in one-time funds for the expansion of graduate medical education programs in South Georgia.
- **\$100,000 Added** to promote rural residency programs.
- *Budget Direction:* Change program name from Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education to Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Healthcare Education Programs to include nursing education.

Dept. of Corrections

Food & Farm Operations

- **\$2.45 Million Added** for food services across state facilities contracted with Georgia Correctional Industries due to rising food costs
- **\$1.08 Million Added** for the purchase of meat during processing equipment upgrades
- **\$1.02 Million Added** for food and farm equipment and software upgrades

Health

- **\$31.9 Million Added** for the physical health contract for a per diem increase and additional beds (\$16,903,986) and outside-the-wire care (\$15,000,000) (Gov. rec. = \$38.9 Million Added for the physical health contract for a per diem increase (\$10,946,108), outside-the-wire care (\$15,000,000), and to reflect the opening of additional beds (\$12,923,790).)
- **\$374,587 Added** for the dental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$479,411 Added** for the mental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$312,500 Added** for residential substance abuse treatment centers effective April 1, 2026
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize prior year funds (\$20,402,982) for physical health risk share obligations.

Offender Management

- **\$6.24 Million Added** for jail subsidy payments to local jails for housing Department of Corrections inmates.
- **\$1.5 Million Added** for rural local county jail reimbursement where more than 20% of jail capacity utilization is occupied by detainees unable to make bail on contraband or drone-related charges.

Private Prisons

- **\$1.06 Million Added** for Jenkins Correctional Institution and Riverbend Correctional Institution to fully utilize available beds at correct tier rate added in HB 68 (2025 Session). (Gov. rec. = \$1.05 Million Add)

State Prisons

- **\$9.74 Million Added** for additional correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios based on improved retention. (Gov. rec. = \$4.98 Million Add)
- **\$964,650 Added** for start-up costs for six canine handlers.
- **\$0 Added** for a pilot program at Autry State Prison to provide for peer led programming. (Gov. rec. = \$150,000 Add)
- **\$93,672 Added** for required staff needed to meet accreditation requirements to operate a high school diploma program.
- **\$137,802 Added** for start-up costs for three security threat group regional coordinators.
- **\$13.39 Million Added** for managed access and drone detection systems to prevent contraband in facilities.
- **\$2.48 Million Added** for the purchase of public safety supplies and equipment. (Gov. rec. = \$2.45 Million Add)
- **\$93,179 Added** for additional programming at Metro Reentry Facility.
- **\$880,104 Added** for operations at five modular correctional units
- **\$3.88 Million Added** for operations at Lee Arrendale State Prison. (Gov. rec. = \$1.54 Million Add)
- **\$764,220 Added** for offender call monitoring contract due to an increase in usage
- **\$1.9 Million Added** for data intelligence maintenance and integration costs
- **\$284,398 Added** for contracted food services due to rising food and labor costs
- **\$725,992 Added** for central repair funds for capital projects.

Dept. of Defense

Youth Educational Services

- **\$1.04 Million Reduced** in state funds match to reflect a loss of federal funding from lower graduation targets.

Dept. of Early Care and Learning

Pre-K Program

- **\$17.22 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned teachers and assistant teachers

Departmental Administration

- **\$10 Million Added** for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority for infrastructure and security costs related to the 2028 Super Bowl.

Dept. of Education

Agricultural Education

- **\$172,465 Added** for a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for area teachers and young farmers.
- **\$268,157 Eliminated** for camp-affiliated staff. (See [HB 68](#) intent language considered nonbinding by the Governor.)

Business & Finance Administration

- **\$1.15 Million Added** for facilities

Charter Schools

- **\$1 Million Added** for one-time funds for a completion schools planning grant for Southern Rivers Completion High School to support the opening of up to six locations.

Curriculum Development

- **\$1.38 Million Added** for college preparatory exams based on increased utilization.

Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)

- **\$2.07 Million Added** for a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned certified educators and administrative staff.

Non Quality Basic Education Formula Grants

- **\$35,200 Reduced** in formula funds to reflect a data correction for Residential Treatment Facilities.
- **\$557,245 Added** for sparsity to reflect accurate count of eligible schools.
- **\$19.58 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for custodians.

Nutrition

- **\$28.61 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for nutrition workers.

QBE Local Five Mill Share

- **\$1.92 Million Adjusted Downward** for the Local Five Mill Share for four new State Commission Charter Schools. (Gov. rec. = \$2.37 Million Adjusted Downward)

Quality Basic Education Program

- **\$43.88 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment based on enrollment growth. (Gov. rec. = \$43.47 Million Add)
- **\$27.09 Million Added** for the State Commission Charter School supplement for a total supplement of \$292,144,723. (Gov. rec. = \$26.86 Million Add)
- **\$16.08 Million Added** to reflect growth in the Special Needs Scholarship. (Gov. rec. = \$14.48 Million Add)
- **\$57,601 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant. (Gov. rec. = \$44,952 Add)
- **\$58,834 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the local charter school grant.
- **\$3.86 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment to the State Commission Charter School supplement for training and experience.
- **\$1.72 Million in formula funds Added** for the Completion Special Schools Supplement. (Gov. rec. = \$1.63 Million Add)
- **\$1.4 Million Added** for the employer share of TRS (Teacher Retirement Systems) for non-certified school management positions pursuant to O.C.G.A 47-3-63.
- **\$248,820 Added** to reflect corrected data for certified SHBP (State House Benefits Plan) enrollee count.

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)

- **\$389,568 Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned certified educators and administrative staff.

School Security Grants

- **\$6.16 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures for student advocacy specialist grants.
- **\$550,000 Added** in one-time funds for an emergency response system pilot program.

Student Support Services

- **\$1.3 Million Added** for mental health support grants to reflect accurate count of middle and high schools.
- **\$1.38 Million Added** to fully fund grants for social work services.
- **\$750,000 Added** in one-time funds for grants to districts to pilot programs that assist in maximizing reimbursement for mental health services.

Technology/Career Education

- **\$50,000 Added** in one-time funds for youth leadership programming.

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

- **\$50 Million Added** to strategically invest in increasing the funded ratio in order to improve long-term financial viability of the pension system and support state retirees.

Office of the Governor

Governor's Emergency Fund

- **\$3.5 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

- **\$5.7 Million Added** to meet federal matching requirements for emergency preparedness.
- **\$1 Million Transferred** from the Department of Public Safety to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for the protection of communities through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.
- **\$9.97 Million Added** and \$5 Million of existing funds used to facilitate the transition to Next Generation 911 emergency services.
- **\$500,000 Added** for emergency services

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

- **\$9 Million Added** for start-up costs and implementation of new responsibilities to support Top State for Talent initiatives including a Career Navigator system.

Governor's Office of Student Achievement: Literacy Initiative Coordination

- **\$282,688 Reduced** to reflect dyslexia screener savings.
- **\$300,250 Added** for one-time funds for America250 literacy initiatives. (Gov. rec. = \$300,000)

Dept. of Human Services

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention - Special Project

- **\$15 Million Added** for an integrated child welfare reporting system.

Child Support Services

- **\$2.63 Million in one-time funds Added** to maintain software applications on the Georgia Technology Authority mainframe.

Child Welfare Services

- **\$371,500 Transferred** for community action teams to deter child welfare involvement from Out-of-Home Care to Child Welfare Services to align budgets with expenditures.

Federal Eligibility Benefit Services

- **\$6.21 Million Added** for Gateway system modifications to reduce the SNAP payment error rate and ensure federal compliance.

Out-of-Home Care

- **\$82.74 Million Added** for utilization growth and increased costs of care prioritizing reunification services, assessments, and specialized services for high-acuity youth. (Gov. rec. = \$41.53 Million Added for utilization growth and increased costs of care.)
- **\$1.6 Million Added** to restore the cancellation of state office contracts for supportive services (\$1,349,601) and implement funds to place foster youth closer to their biological families as directed in the FY 2026 budget (\$250,000).

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

Reinsurance

- **\$25 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Regional Investigative Services

- **\$294,420 Added** to annualize three human trafficking positions.
- **\$0 Eliminated** for one-time connectivity to the statewide gang case management system. (Gov. rec. = \$800,000 Elimination)

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- **Budget Direction:** Utilize existing funds (\$133,867) from rental savings and increase funds for grant system connectivity. (Total: \$435,330) (Gov. rec. = Utilize existing funds (\$133,867) from rental savings for grant system connectivity.)
- **\$185,241 Added** for eight Child Advocacy Centers and 19 satellite office locations that meet minimum standards to provide specialized services not currently state funded effective April 1, 2026.
- **\$4.53 Million Added** in one-time funds to domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers for operational and facility needs.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)

- **\$2.54 Million Added** for personal services due to decreased turnover

Dept. of Public Health

Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion

- **\$150,000 Added** for charitable dental care.

Departmental Administration

- **Budget Direction:** The department is directed to develop a strategy to promote awareness and prevention measures for colorectal and prostate cancer and report findings to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee, the House Budget and Research Office, the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, and the Office of Planning and Budget by September 1, 2026.

Dept. of Public Safety

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

- **\$582,527 Added** for the new Metro Academy in Austell effective November 3, 2025.

University System of Georgia Board of Regents

Regents Central Office

- **\$300 Million total Added** to Provide state match for endowment for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program. (Gov. rec. = \$325 Million total Added for a state match for endowment (\$300,000,000) and scholarship funds (\$25,000,000) for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program.)
- **\$67,000 Added** to support GALILEO access.

Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics

- **\$200,000 Added** to expand the current partnership with Clark Atlanta University for prostate cancer research

Public Libraries

- **\$146,233 Added** for the Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES) program to offset the rising cost burden of providing increased access to library resources to residents throughout the state.

Dept. of Revenue

Taxpayer Services

- House said **NO** to the governor's recommendation to "utilize **\$1.17 Billion** in prior year undesignated state surplus to provide a one-time additional refund for tax year 2025 of \$250 for single filers, \$375 for head of household filers, and \$500 for married filing jointly." **Instead** the House said to "Utilize undesignated state surplus to provide one-time property tax relief for homeowners and permanent relief through the passage of HR 1114 (2026 Session)."

Georgia Student Finance Commission

Dual Enrollment

- **\$18.45 Million Added** to meet projected enrollment.

Engineer Scholarship

- **\$160,000 Reduced** to meet projected need.

Georgia Military College Scholarship

- **\$439,652 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

HERO Scholarship

- **\$280,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need.

HOPE Scholarship – Private Schools

- **\$927,063 Added** to meet projected need.

HOPE Scholarships - Public Schools

- **\$11.27 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant

- **\$1 Million Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need.

North Georgia Military Scholarship Grants

- **\$554,815 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

Promise Scholarship

- **\$85.96 Million Decreased** to meet projected need based on eligible applications for the 2025- 2026 academic year.

Public Service Memorial Grant

- **\$540,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet projected need.

Service Cancellable Loans

- **\$3.2 Million Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need for the Peace Officers Loan Repayment Program.
- **\$140,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need for the Georgia Medical Examiner Loan Repayment Program.

Tuition Equalization Grants

- Utilize existing funds (\$1,885,174) to meet projected need.

Dept. of Transportation

Airport Aid

- **\$15 Million Added** for Airport Aid

Capital Construction Projects

- **\$36.98 Million Added** based on projected motor fuel excise tax revenue for increased project capacity.
- **\$85 Million Added** state general funds for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges.
- **\$200 Million Added** in state general funds for SR 316 interchange conversions.

Capital Maintenance Projects

- Governor recommended \$100 Million Added in state general funds for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges, but the House said **NO** “Reflect funding for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges in the Capital Construction Projects program.”

Local Road Assistance Administration

- **\$250 Million Added** for additional support of local transportation infrastructure projects

Payments to State Road and Tollway Authority

- **\$1.72 Billion Added** in state general funds for the extension and bi-directional expansion of I-75 express lanes in Clayton and Henry counties. (Gov. rec. = \$1.8 Billion)

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund

Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

- **\$40 Million Added** for additional major rehabilitation and renovation projects, statewide.
- **\$15.3 Million Added** to design and construct the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering building, Georgia Institute of Technology. (Gov. rec. = \$88.2 Million)
- **\$5.6 Million Added** to design the School of Nursing at the University of Georgia, Athens, Clarke County.
- **\$11.43 Million Added** to equip the School of Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, Clarke County.
- **\$29.8 Million Added** to design, construct, and equip the retrofit of the 301 Building to establish the College of Optometry, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Bulloch County.
- **\$5 Million Added** to design, construct, and equip the Arts and Sciences Renovation, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Baldwin County.

Technical College System of Georgia

- **\$48 Million Added** to provide for additional major rehabilitation and renovation projects, statewide.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- **\$20.74 Million Added** for a 40-bed forensic restoration facility at East Central Regional Hospital, Augusta, Richmond County.
- **\$27 Million Added** to begin design and construction of new Georgia Regional Hospital - Atlanta to address mental health and forensic bed capacity.

Dept. of Corrections

- **\$84.6 Million Added** to design and construction to replace locking controls, statewide.
(Gov. rec. = \$89.6 Million)
- **\$84.66 Million Added** to design and construct fire alarm replacement, perimeter security and lighting, thermal cameras, and CCTV, statewide.
- **\$220 Million Added** in undesignated state surplus to construct a new 480-bed private prison facility to meet need for additional bed capacity.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

- **\$600,000 Added** to replace Muscogee YDC CCTV system, Columbus, Muscogee County.
- **\$2.83 Million Added** for facility repairs and sustainment, statewide.

GA Bureau of Investigations

- **\$2.73 Million Added** to design, construct, and equip the renovation of the Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta, Richmond County.