

2022 SESSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND MOTOR VEHICLES BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Development

- #1 State in which to do business for eight consecutive years according to Site Selection Magazine.
- \$4 billion in direct film production spending in Georgia, an increase of 181% over FY 2020.
- \$7.4 billion in total investments and the creation of 24,100 jobs; \$6 billion and 14,298 jobs created outside of Atlanta's metro region.
- 1,321 companies from 141 Georgia counties worked to export their products globally, with 84% of these small businesses employing 100 people or less.
- Georgia's Global Commerce team worked to increase investments in Georgia by 46%.
- 74% of new project locations and expansions, along with 69% of total investments, occurred outside of the 10-county metro Atlanta region.
- Through the work of the Explore Georgia campaign, Georgia increased its ranking from 7th to 5th among all 50 states and territories in overnight visitation. Additionally, Explore Georgia: awarded more than \$75,000 in Tourism Product Development Grants to 13 new and expanding projects across the state; distributed \$1.5 million in Tourism Recovery Marketing Grants to 35 destinations in 28 Georgia counties; and distributed nearly \$500,000 in matching co-op programs to 51 tourism industry partner organizations.

Budget Highlights

- The Amended FY 2022 Budget (HB 910) includes \$28.8 million to complete the roof replacement of the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC). GWCC has an average of 3.32 million visitors and an economic impact of \$1.6 billion annually.
- HB 910 includes \$9.1 million for the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority to make infrastructure repairs and improvements throughout the Georgia National Fairgrounds.
- The FY 2023 budget (HB 911) provides the Department of Community Affairs with \$110,000 for the Resource Conservation and Development Councils, which increases each council's base funding by \$10,000, for a total of \$30,000 each. The Georgia Rural Water Association is appropriated an additional \$250,000 to address the increasing demands of state emergency response and resource fulfillment needs

- More than \$3.7 million in additional funding is provided to the Department of Economic Development to support tourism in Georgia, including: \$2.8 million to refurbish exhibits and install two new memorials at the National Infantry Museum; \$470,251 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change for facilities improvements and educational exhibits; \$250,000 for the Georgia World Congress Authority to begin public safety and security preparation for the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup events, and an additional \$7 million for renovations.
- With the expansion of the electric vehicle industry in Georgia, HB 911 includes \$448,250 for two new positions within the department to manage the emerging workforce needs.
- HB 911 includes \$82,250 to annualize the funds needed to maintain the Public Service Commission's e-filing system and \$846,293 to restore seven positions reduced in FY 2021 that are needed to regulate utilities. Legislative Highlights
- HB 508 (Rep. Kasey Carpenter, 4th) makes it unlawful for a person to advertise or conduct a performance or production in Georgia by using any false, deceptive, or misleading affiliation, connection, or association without authorization. Each advertisement, performance, or production in violation of this Code section constitutes a separate infraction. Section 2 of the bill creates the Georgia 'True Origin of Digital Goods Act,' which requires a person who owns or operates a website or online service that distributes commercial recordings or audiovisuals to consumers to clearly disclose its physical address, telephone number, and email address on such website or online service. This legislation is supplemental to provisions of state and federal criminal and civil law that impose prohibition or provide penalties, sanctions, or remedies against the same conduct. A violation of these provisions is considered an unfair or deceptive act or practice of the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975.'
- HB 1044 (Rep. Clay Pirkle, 155th) allows for the creation of regional development authorities by a group of three to five contiguous counties. The bill stipulates that at least half of the members of the governing body from each county complete a basic economic development training course certified by the Department of Community Affairs. Each regional development authority is an active authority with a board of directors that meets quarterly, develops an operational business plan, owns property lying within one or more of the participating counties, and maintains an active agreement for sharing expenses and proceeds. A county cannot belong to more than one regional development authority. The bill provides a tax credit for each new quality job in qualifying investment properties for the lowest tier participating county within the regional development authority. HB 1044 clarifies the definitions of cable and video services related to franchise fees. Cable and video services shall not include video programming accessed via a service that enables users to access content offered over the internet, including streaming content. Video service shall not include any video programming provided by a direct broadcast satellite service provider.

- HB 1516 (Rep. Houston Gaines, 117th) repeals provisions for joint operations between the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and instead allows for joint operations between the Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority and the Classic Center Authority.
- SB 562 (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) prohibits companies owned or operated by the governments of Russia or Belarus from bidding on or submitting a proposal for a state contract. The bill requires a company that submits a bid or a contract proposal to certify that the company is not owned or operated by the governments of Russia or Belarus. A company's false certification will result in civil liability, termination of contract, and ineligibility for future contracts.
- SR 477 (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) creates the Georgia Music Heritage Study Committee to examine: the economic impact of the music industry in Georgia, as well as ways to measure, expand, and promote the state's music economy and foster integration with other creative industries, including film, digital media, and gaming; the current state of the music tourism sector in Georgia and ways to support, promote, and grow that sector; musical tour and theatrical productions in Georgia and ways to develop, promote, and attract investment from that sector of the industry; and the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and its awards ceremony and ways that the institution can promote music in the state while providing for continued economic development. The committee is composed of 14 members: six members of the Senate and eight members of the House of Representatives. This committee is abolished on December 1, 2022.

Transportation and Motor Vehicles Budget Highlights

- The General Assembly maintains \$1.2 million for the Department of Driver Services to complete the construction of a commercial driver's license testing pad, which helps the state address a national driver shortage of approximately 80,000 drivers.
- House Bill 911 includes the first appropriation from the newly established Transportation Trust Fund and the Transit Trust Fund (HB 511, 2021 Session). These trust funds are collected and reserved for specific uses to support Georgia's transportation network. The FY 2023 budget recognizes that Transportation Trust Fund revenues are dedicated to the maintenance and construction of the roads in this state as well as a 10% maximum carve out for transit, that is appropriated as \$151 million to the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Transit program within the Department of Transportation, and debt service payments. The FY 2023 budget recognizes \$15.9 million in the Transit Trust Fund generated by ride-share fees, and dedicates those funds to transit projects statewide, including \$2.8 million for rural transit initiatives and \$11.9 million to larger transit initiatives.
- House Bill 911 includes four new programs in the Department of Transportation: Airport Aid, Ports and Waterways, Rail, and Transit. Formerly the Intermodal program, these are now standalone programs and appropriations to each is clearly outlined in the budget document.

- The FY 2023 budget provides an increase of \$9 million in Airport Aid.
- The Rail program includes an increase of \$8 million to continue the upgrade of rail lines to Class II standards. The budget also includes \$2.96 million in the FY 2023 bond package for rail, and when combined with the Amended FY 2022 funding of \$10.6 million (HB 910, 2022 Session), the total rail investment is \$21.6 million during this budget cycle.
- The Capital Construction Projects program receives an additional \$14.3 million in motor fuel funds and Capital Maintenance Projects receives an increase of \$85.3 million for resurfacing projects. Legislative Highlights
- HB 1009 (Rep. Todd Jones, 25th) provides definitions and operation guidelines for personal delivery devices. Local authorities are authorized to enact ordinances related to the operation and regulation of personal delivery devices within the local authority's jurisdiction, subject to specified limitations. Personal delivery devices are prohibited from operating within a surface transportation project.
- SB 586 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) authorizes counties to use the design-build contracting method.
- SR 463 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) creates the Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation.

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