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HOUSE BILLS

1611 Bills Introduced

269 Passed Both Chambers

SENATE BILLS

760 Bills Introduced

92 Passed Both Chambers

TOTAL BILLS

388 Bills Sent to Governor Kemp

CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING

Over the last two sessions, we have passed more than \$4 billion in relief for Georgia taxpayers - with two \$1 billion tax rebates, \$1 billion of property tax relief, \$1 billion of gas tax relief, and the largest income tax cut in state history. Georgia Republicans have worked to let Georgians keep more of their hard-earned money again this year.

2024 BUDGET - HOUSE BILL 19

- \$13.1 billion to fully fund Georgia's K-12 education system.
- \$4,000 pay raises for all law enforcement officers serving across 12 state agencies, including Department of Public Safety, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Department of Corrections, and Georgia Drug and Narcotics Agency
Additional \$2,000 raises (\$6,000 total pay raise) for frontline law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every single day.
- \$2,000 pay raises for teachers and other state employees.
- \$50.2 million to fully fund 100% of HOPE scholarships for students who qualify.
- \$6.3 million to provide public school students from low-income families with breakfast and lunch.
- \$1.25 million to establish and operate a State Patrol satellite post in Buckhead area of Atlanta.
- \$5.4 million to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the creation of cold case specialty unit.
- \$9.4 million to fund 500 additional New Options Waiver slots for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- \$1.6 million to support the behavioral health needs of children across the state.
- \$1 million to enhance statewide capacity for court appointed special advocates.

- \$500 for all retired state employees.
- \$3.9 million for new graduate and undergraduate medical education
- \$3.2 million to establish a law enforcement officer loan repayment program for law enforcement officers

HOUSE BILL 18 - 2023 AMENDED BUDGET (Signed into Law)

- \$1 billion in property tax relief grants for Georgia taxpayers with an estimated \$500 of relief for every homeowner
- \$138.8 million in school security grants to make our schools safer - providing \$50,000 per school to enhance safety at each facility in the state
- \$128.2 million to the Department of Education for midterm adjustment reflecting an increase in nearly 13,000 students over last year
- \$56.4 million in funds for technology, safety, and security projects at state prison facilities to make our prison facilities more secure, keeping Corrections staff safe as they protect us
- \$3.5 million for GBI to maintain the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)
- \$35.7 million to establish the Rural Workforce Housing Fund

HEALTHCARE

House Republicans continue to work diligently to expand access to healthcare services in underserved areas and to those in Georgia most in need - passing measures that incentivize healthcare workers and ensure cancer patients receive biomarking testing covered by insurance policies.

Additionally, 500 slots were added this year to the NOW/COMP waiver program to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with an appropriation of \$9.4 million.

HOUSE BILL 203 - TELEMEDICINE VISION EXAMS

Allows state-licensed optometrists or ophthalmologists to conduct vision exams for contact lens prescription renewals electronically for patients who are between 21-50 years old and do not have certain preexisting health conditions

HB 203 Requires that patients have in-person eye exams every two years to remain eligible for these electronic prescriptions Makes care more convenient and affordable for Georgians who use contact lenses

HOUSE BILL 85 - BIOMARKER TESTING

- Requires that vital testing to determine the appropriateness and effectiveness of treatments be covered by health insurance policies
- Helps patients both save personal funds and time, particularly ones with cancer, while going through the process of determining treatment decisions

SENATE BILL 246 - NURSING LOANS

Incentivizes nurses to work in Georgia by creating a loan forgiveness program. Loan forgiveness applicants must be licensed and practicing in Georgia with a minimum of a master's degree and be currently employed for at least one year as a faculty member of a nursing program at a postsecondary institution. It creates tuition grants for students in our universities with intellectual disabilities attending IPSE programs who were previously ineligible for tuition assistance - \$1 million is included in this year's budget to fund the initiative.

HOUSE BILL 82 - RURAL HEALTHCARE (Passed in House, Was Not Voted

On By Senate)

- Addresses the shortage of healthcare providers in rural Georgia

- Creates a \$5,000 annual tax credit for physicians and dentists who decide to practice in rural counties in the next five years after May 15, 2023.

SENATE BILL 65 - HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

- Allows Georgia to establish its own online marketplace for health insurance through the Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety.
- State - based Exchange Replaces the federal exchange. Georgia would be the 18th state to establish its own marketplace.

SENATE BILL 1 - COVID VACCINATION

- Removes the June 30, 2023, sunset on the existing Georgia law that prohibits state and local governments and agencies from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination to receive government services

**HOUSE BILL 143 - GLUCOSE MONITORS (Passed in House,
Was Not Voted
On By Senate)**

Requires that the Georgia Department of Community Health cover continuous glucose monitors. Glucose Monitors would be covered through Medicaid as a pharmacy benefit.

SENATE BILL 20 - CATCH ACT

- **The Consumer Access to Contracted Healthcare (CATCH) Act** updates the “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” to require that insurers contract with and maintain a sufficient number of participating network providers, including primary and specialty care, pharmacies, clinical laboratories and facilities.
- Prohibits insurers from denying preauthorization of services rendered by an in-network provider just because the referring provider is out-of-network.

HELPING FAMILIES

House Republicans remain focused on common sense policies for the wellbeing of families.

across Georgia.

HOUSE BILL 520 - MENTAL HEALTH (Passed in House, Was Not Voted On By Senate)

- Develops a definition of “severe mental illness” so that data is consistent and accurate across law enforcement agencies.
- Requests a “bed study ” to determine the amount of mental health beds available as well as how many are needed to meet the needs of a growing population
- Requests a study to determine mental health workforce and identify recruitment and retainment challenges
- Requests for a study to be conducted to examine licensing requirements of behavioral health experts in Georgia compared to surrounding states to identify any roadblocks to certifying metal health professionals
- Expands student loan cancelation program for mental health professionals to address workforce shortage

HOUSE BILL 462 - RAISING AGE FOR PROSECUTION (Passed in House,

Was Not Voted on By Senate)

HB 462 ensures that non-violent minors who come in contact with the criminal justice system are not prosecuted as adults before they turn 18 years old in an effort to reduce recidivism among young offenders. The proposed age change would not apply to violent felonies.

HB 462 will be implemented over time with assurance that agencies have funding and are prepared, with stopgaps to pause implementation if needed.

- Georgia is just one of 3 states in which 17-year-olds are currently charged as adults.

HOUSE BILL 404 - HOUSING (Passed in House, Was Not Voted on By Senate)

Requires landlords to provide rental homes that are “fit for human habitation”.

- Forbids turning off air conditioning during eviction process
- Increases protections for tenants facing eviction due to late rent payments by allowing a three-business day period for tenants to pay rent before eviction process begins
- Caps security deposits on rentals

HOUSE BILL 298 - JURY DUTY EXEMPTION (Passed in House, Was Not Voted On by Senate)

Allows for natural or adoptive mothers of children six months of age and younger to defer or be exempted from Jury Duty.

HOUSE BILL 162 - TAX REBATE (Signed into Law)

Provides another \$1 billion rebate for taxpayers.
Provides a one-time credit for taxpayers who have filed in 2021 and 2022 of \$250 for single filers, \$375 for head of household and \$500 for joint filers.

HOUSE BILL 155 - EXPANDING THE WORKFORCE

Enhances opportunities for employment for many professionals moving to Georgia.
Allows for professionals in good standing that hold licenses from other states to obtain a GA license by endorsement.
Expands access to services for Georgia consumers.

HOUSE BILL 129 - TANF

Expands eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits to pregnant women.
Helps low-income expectant mothers.

HOUSE BILL 167 - DISCRETIONARY PERMITS (Passed in House, Was Not

Voted On by Senate)

Provides judges discretion to issue limited driving permits for the purpose of driving to and from work to those paying child support whose license has been suspended.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 66 - GAS TAX

Ratifies Governor Kemp's executive order that suspended the gas and diesel tax, saved Georgia families over \$1 billion at the pump.

HOUSE BILL 101 - TAX CREDITS (Passed in House, Was Not Voted on By

Senate)

Increases the tax credit limit for contributions to rural hospital organizations by \$5 million totaling \$80 million to support our rural hospitals.

Increases the School Scholarship Organization (SSO) tax credit by \$10 million totaling \$130 million by 2024 to help provide choices for students across the state.

SENATE BILL 3 - EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

Removes certain requirements for working for the state.
Reduces red tape for individuals to obtain a state government job.

EDUCATION

House Republicans have invested in our children by fully funding Georgia's public schools, giving teachers a \$2,000 pay raise and granting funds to boost security at every single school in the state, prioritizing early literacy and expanding access to free breakfast and lunch for children from low-income families.

HOUSE BILL 87 - SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Authorizes the Georgia Board of Education to establish and finance "completion special schools".

Completion schools create opportunities for students struggling to complete high school to obtain a Diploma.

HOUSE BILL 402 - WATER SAFETY

Requires public and local school systems to provide water safety education information upon initial enrollment to parents and guardians of students under 18 years of age and directly to k-12 students.

HOUSE BILL 318 - EMPOWERING PARENTS OF STUDENTS

Moves the current existing Office of Charter School Education Compliance from the Georgia Department of to the State Charter Schools Commission

- Requires that charter school authorizers itemize, and value services provided to each local charter school in exchange for administrative fees withheld from the school to provide financial transparency
- Ensures that local school boards fund charter schools based on student enrollment rather than projected enrollment as long as the school has not exceeded the school-wide enrollment cap outlined in its charter contract.

HOUSE BILL 81 - IMPROVING SCHOOLS (Passed in House, Was Not Voted

On By Senate)

Addresses grant funding for k-12 school systems with facilities that need improvements.

Facilities must be at least 35 years old to receive funding which will ensure the schools most in need of improvements are prioritized.

HOUSE BILL 338 - OBSCENITY ON SCHOOL DEVICES (Passed in House,

Was Not Voted on By Senate)

Filters and flags obscene and non-grade appropriate material on school issued state owned devices.

Involves the Georgia Department of Education by giving their technology department the ability to determine best practices and digital citizenship.

HOUSE BILL 538 - EARLY LITERACY ACT

Requires State Board of Education approve high-quality instructional materials for grades K-3

- Ensures the use and reporting of universal reading screeners for all Georgia public schools grades K-3
 - Requires professional standards commission to ensure students completing teacher certification programs have the knowledge and skills to teach reading.
 - Adds resources to focus on the skill critical to all learning. Puts children on a pathway to academic success and expands the skilled workforce that our state needs.

SENATE BILL 211 - LITERACY COUNCIL

Ensures local school systems develop and implement five-year literacy plans.

Establishes the Georgia Council on Literacy.

SENATE BILL 86 - CTAE EXPANSION

Expands access to HOPE grant program to high school students who are preparing to join the workforce by earning college credit before graduation.

Allows eligible dual enrollment students to access HOPE grant funds for eligible career, technical and agricultural education (CTAE) courses.

SENATE BILL 233 (Passed in Senate, failed to receive support in the House for passage)

Would create what is called the “Georgia Promise Scholarship Act”. It would provide \$6500 per student of taxpayer funds appropriated for public schools to some families for education-related expenses outside of their local public school system, including for private schools. It would limit eligibility to students attending the bottom 25% of all Georgia schools.

More information on Senate Bill 233 can be found [here](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY

Republicans in the House continue to pass legislation that prioritizes public safety - including.

measures that incentivize law enforcement officers, cracks down on gangs, and fights human trafficking.

HOUSE BILL 88 - COLD CASE JUSTICE

Allows families of victims to petition for the reopening of cases to provide new leads.

- Creates a reporting mechanism to create a statewide record of total cold cases.

Enables families to receive a timely death certificate to assist in aftermath of homicide.

SENATE BILL 92 - DISTRICT ATTORNEY OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Establishes a panel to hold prosecutors accountable, just as the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

provides a check on judges.

This panel would have the ability to remove prosecutors who display willful misconduct in office, have failed to perform their duties, or have been convicted of a crime.

SENATE BILL 42 - FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Increases penalties associated with the failure to properly comply with the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline.

Penalizes those who fail to properly report incidents of human trafficking.

HOUSE BILL 500 - BURNING POLICE CARS (Passed in House, Was Not

Voted On by Senate)

Arson of a law enforcement vehicle is punishable with a \$100,000 fine or 5 to 20 years in prison.

SENATE BILL 44 - TOUGH ON GANGS

Discourages violent gangs from recruiting Georgia youth. Establishes mandatory minimum sentencing for recruiting minors and the disabled.

HOUSE BILL 147 - KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Establishes a voluntary school safety and anti-gang endorsement.

Requires intruder alert drills for students and staff.

Ensures school safety plans are submitted to Georgia Emergency.

- Management and Homeland Security

OTHER LEGISLATION

SENATE BILL 146 - ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- Encourages the expansion and growth of the EV industry by creating electric vehicle charging station regulations and taxes in a manner like retail fuel pumps.

SENATE BILL 93 - TIKTOK

- Protects the integrity and security of Georgia 's data by banning platforms owned by foreign adversaries from being used on State owned devices.

SENATE BILL 62 - HOMELESSNESS

- Ensures local municipalities and governments are enforcing regulations related to camping and designated areas.
- Provides taxpayers with transparency by allowing public funds given to nonprofit homeless services to be audited.

SENATE BILL 56 - DIGITAL PURCHASES AND TAX CUT

- Updates tax code to amend the computation of state taxable net income, effective January 1, 2024, to include

\$24,000 standard deduction for a married couple filing jointly or \$12,000 for a single taxpayer, head of household, or married taxpayers filing separately.

- Technical changes allow us to early phase in some of the provisions of last year's tax cut more quickly.

This will allow us to help more hard-working Georgians keep more money in their pockets sooner - meaning a tax cut for Georgians.

- Provides a digital facilitator to capture lost revenue that is no longer being collected from brick-and-mortar stores as online purchases continue to replace more purchases traditionally made in stores on certain products - does not impact subscriptions or rentals.

SENATE BILL 222 - ELECTIONS

- Ensures elections are funded through only lawfully appropriated funds, not influenced by outside funding sources, such as additional drop boxes provided by nonpublic dollars in limited areas.
- Creates independence of the State Elections Board by ensuring it is its own separate line item in the budget.
- Blocks government employees and election officials from receiving funds or goods over a value of

\$500 from third-party groups for the use of conducting elections and prohibits counties or municipalities from accepting donations for the purpose of election administration.

HOUSE BILL 189 - TRUCKING WEIGHT LIMITS

- Allows a variance up to 88,000 pounds for certain commodities
- Puts Georgia more in line with surrounding states and removes competitive disadvantage.
- Sunsets on July 1, 2025, to allow for review of impact.
- Continues to help supply chain after Governor Kemp's executive order that allowed variance up to 95,000 pounds expired.
- Creates efficiencies and helps with trucking workforce shortage.
- Results in fewer trucks on the road.

HOUSE BILL 374 - LEAF BLOWERS

Prohibits local governments from banning gas leaf blowers or from limiting fuel types used by homeowners.

HB 121 - Wakeboarding/Wakesurfing

Except in certain circumstances, no person is to engage in either of these two defined activities between sunset and sunrise, within 200 feet of a shoreline or structure located on the water, or without wearing a personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Language is added further defining multipurpose off-highway vehicles and regarding license plates for such vehicles. It requires multipurpose off-highway vehicles manufactured after January 1, 2000 to be registered and issued a title.

Such vehicles are permitted to operate on highways that are part of county road systems but are limited to crossing highways that are a part of a municipal street or state highway system.

Passed the House 165 - 2 and the Senate 51 - 2.

SB 121 - Prohibit Local Governments from banning water wells -Prohibits the denial by a local government of permitting to drill, service, or repair new or existing water wells on one acre or larger lots.

Passed the House 171 -0 and the Senate 52 - 1.

SB 140 - Gender Dysphoria treatment - Signed into law. Protects Georgia's children by prohibiting the use of sex reassignment surgeries and hormone replacement therapies

on minors in a licensed institution for the treatment of gender dysphoria. Exceptions include treatment of sex development disorders, androgen insensitivity syndrome, and other medical conditions. Additionally, minors who began hormone replacement therapies before July 1, 2023 are exempt. Licensed physicians in violation will be held administratively responsible by the medical board.

Passed the House 97 - 74 and the Senate 31 - 21;
signed into law by the Governor.

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