

FY 2019 Amended Budget Overview

The FY 2019 budget approved during the 2018 Special Session set spending at \$26.4 billion for the current year. House Bill 30, the Amended FY 2019 budget, recognizes \$435.7 million in additional revenue or 1.6% over the current budget. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2019 to \$26.9 billion.

Economic Development

- A key item in the Amended FY 2019 budget is the addition of \$20 million for emergency disaster relief assistance to Georgia farmers in counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. This add builds upon the \$55 million appropriated to the Georgia Development Authority to assist farmers during the 2018 Special Session. To date, 436 applications totaling more than \$100 million have been submitted, and the authority has already approved 197 applications totaling \$54.4 million. Area landowners suffered \$1.6 billion in commodity losses to agriculture, \$763 million in commodity losses for forest products, and \$63 million in equipment losses.
- HB 30 also includes \$14 million in the OneGeorgia Authority for statewide water planning to support Lake Lanier water storage and the state's estimated future water needs.

Education

- The safety and well-being of children at school and state facilities is a priority in this budget. HB 30 includes \$69.4 million to provide school security grants of \$30,000 each for 2,314 school facilities including charter schools, college and career academies, GNETS facilities, and the three state schools.

General Government

- In the Department of Natural Resources, \$1.1 million in additional revenue from the lifetime sportsman license is recognized for the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which is used for conservation efforts, management of wildlife and fishery resources, and purchasing land. An additional \$5.6 million is recognized in the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund bringing the total appropriation in the current budget to \$9.6 million for cleanup activities.

- The Amended FY 2019 budget includes an additional \$33.7 million to fund Forestland Protection Act grants in the Department of Revenue, bringing the total amount of funding for the program to \$47.8 million. These funds will be used to reimburse county governments and school systems for property tax revenues and will satisfy all outstanding applications received by the department.

- The budget provides the Department of Revenue with \$901,680 for revenue processing information technology security upgrades. It also adds \$1.2 million for contractual services to facilitate Integrated Tax Solution system improvements for online sales tax remittance per HB 61 (2018 Session) and the implementation of Georgia tax reform per HB 918 (2018 Session).
- HB 30 includes \$906,083 for the Department of Driver Services for DRIVES implementation expenses. An additional \$82,412 is provided for enhanced security measures at high volume customer service centers.

Health

- The Amended FY 2019 budget includes \$5.6 million to replace the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). Funding is also provided to keep vulnerable Georgians safe 3 February 22, 2019 including \$495,264 to provide background checks for owners and employees of long-term care facilities, and \$25,000 in existing funds to design, develop and implement a caregiver registry pursuant to SB 406 (2018 Session).
- The budget provides \$1.6 million in state funds, to be matched with \$1 million in federal funds, for an external consultant to review, analyze, and recommend 1115 Medicaid and Section 1332 waiver options to the governor.
- HB 30 increases funding for Medicaid by \$32.1 million for: enrollment growth; gene therapy drug coverage; Medicare Part B premiums and Part D Clawback payment; the addition of long-term acute care hospitals and intermediate rehabilitation facilities; and the revision of the hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) reimbursement model.
- The budget provides \$9.3 million for the Mercer University School of Medicine to establish a four-year medical school campus in Columbus.
- An additional \$18.7 million for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for private deemed and non-deemed hospitals, bringing the total appropriation to the Indigent Care Trust Fund to \$418.4 million.
- The House and the Senate agree to add \$500,000 for Augusta University for recruitment to advance basic science and clinical translational research in women's and childhood cancer as well as \$350,000 for the Department of Public Health to conduct an Alzheimer's disease public awareness campaign. • One-time funds in the amount of \$2 million are provided to compensate hospitals impacted by Hurricane Michael located in rural counties with a population less than 35,000.
- An additional \$5 million in super speeder collections and reinstatement fees as well as \$805,214 in the fireworks excise tax is recognized in the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission bringing the total funding to \$22.5 million.

Human Services

- The governor recommends, and the General Assembly agrees, to add \$8.4 million in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to expand the Georgia Apex Program by providing support counselors for mental health services in high schools. The program currently serves more than 17,000 students in 418 schools.
- HB 30 includes \$8.5 million to meet the funding needs of the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) to increase the efficiency and support of services delivered.
- The budget adds \$790,801 to the Substance Abuse Prevention program to prevent opioid abuse.

- Within the Department of Human Services, \$9.8 million is added to the Out-of-Home Care program to recognize a 7.1% increase in utilization. Currently, there are more than 13,000 children in foster care.
- As passed, the budget includes an increase of \$250,000 for home-delivered meals to reduce the waitlist in each Area Agency on Aging (AAA).
- The Amended FY 2019 budget instructs the Department of Human Services to utilize \$750,000 in existing funds for predictive data analytics software to increase efficiency in the delivery of welfare services. The budget further directs the department to utilize existing funds to develop an outreach initiative pilot to connect families of at-risk juveniles with community resources. Public Safety
- HB 30 provides the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with \$700,000 for maintenance of the criminal justice e-filing pilot initiative.
- Funds in the amount of \$751,396 are added to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for equipment and 15 vehicles to bring the GBI unit at the Cyber Crime Center in Augusta to full operating capacity. The Amended FY 2019 budget includes \$75,000 for the design of the Northwest GBI Crime Lab and Region One Investigative Office Complex and \$240,000 to equip five scientists and one lab technician to address the backlog at the crime lab. One-times funds in the amount of \$350,000 are provided to enhance the “See Something Send Something” app to allow students to anonymously report school threats and other school safety issues.
- Within the Department of Public Safety, \$613,013 is provided for equipment and other one-time costs associated with a 50-person trooper school and 20 additional positions for the Criminal Interdiction Unit; \$270,000 is provided for vehicle purchases for the new Office of Public Safety Officer Support (HB 703, 2018 Session).
- HB 30 also recognizes \$585,610 in additional revenue from fireworks excise tax collections for the Georgia Firefighter Standards Training Council and \$90,689 in additional funds for driver education and training to reflect the intent of Joshua’s Law (HB 806, 2016 Session). 5 February 22, 2019 Transportation and Infrastructure • The Amended FY 2019 budget supplements one-time funding with \$491,361 in new state funds for the Atlanta-region Transit Link (ATL) Authority for additional expenses. These funds are necessary for the ATL to carry out its mandated task of developing a regional transit plan (HB 930, 2018 Session).