

**2023
LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE**



Bills By the Numbers

850 House Bills

331 Senate Bills

761 House Resolutions

429 Senate Resolutions



HB 193 – Raises Bid Threshold For Local Government

Current Law:

Requires counties and municipalities to provide public notice and open procurement for public works construction projects over \$100,000

New Law:

Raises limit to \$250,000 so construction projects valued at less than \$250,000 do not have to be publicly procured

HB-128 –
MBE
Expanded
to include
Women
and
Veterans

Current law gives income tax break for payments to minority subcontractors

Changes terminology from “Minority Business Enterprise” to “Classified Subcontractor”

Classified subcontractor includes minority owned, women owned, or veteran owned small business

Payments to classified subcontractors are eligible for tax break

SB-59

Office of Inspector General



- Office of Inspector General was created by Executive Order in 2002
- Legislation codifies role of Inspector General
- Investigates claims of fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption
- Has jurisdiction over any official, officer, employee, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency in the executive branch of state government
- No law enforcement powers but may recommend action to law enforcement

SB-93 – Tik Tok

Bans social media services such as TikTok from state employee devices if they're owned by "foreign adversaries"

Foreign Adversaries are defined by Federal Regulation and include China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela






Income Tax Cut

Income Tax Refund –
Single tax filers and married individuals who file separately could receive a maximum refund of \$250, head of household filers could receive a maximum refund of \$375, and married individuals who file joint returns could receive a maximum refund of \$500



Property Tax Cut

Amended FY 2023 budget included funds for a one-time Property Tax Relief Grant. The grant will go to directly to the counties to reduce the assessed value of each homestead exemption property by \$18,000 resulting in property tax savings.



HB 319 General Assembly approval of Tuition Increases

Requires General Assembly approval for University System tuition increases greater than 3% from previous year's rate.

Governor Kemp vetoed this legislation on the grounds that it was unconstitutional.

HB 18

Amended FY 23 Budget

In FY 23, the General Assembly funded many construction projects with cash that would normally be bond funded. The amended budget added additional cash funded projects.

Total cash funding for FY 23 for construction, equipment, and repairs totaled \$1.4 billion.

Amended FY 23 Budget added cash to many agencies, including the following projects:

Quick Start Pooler, Bryan Co, Walton Co -	\$73,125,000
Ogeechee Tech Industrial Robotics Training Center -	\$19,905,000
GWCC Escalator replacement-	\$8,288,577
Major Maintenance and Renovations State Prisons-	\$32,490,000
Replace cabins at Rock Eagle 4-H Center-	\$3,000,000
Design Military Leadership Center Exp, UNG-	\$1,300,000



HB 19

FY24 Budget Highlights

- Funds to provide a \$2,000 cost of living adjustment for all full time benefit eligible state employees
- Funds state law enforcement officers \$4,000-\$6,000 raises
- Cuts \$66 million from Gov. Brian Kemp's proposal for the University System of Georgia's teaching budget
- Includes cash for construction projects such as Quick Start
- Includes bond funded projects totaling \$724 million

HB -541 Safe Passage Act

Requires drivers approaching any stopped vehicle displaying hazard lights to change lanes or slow down to 10mph less than posted speed. Also applies to passing mail carriers and garbage men





SB -129

Voting Leave
for State
Employees

Gives State Employees 2 hours of
voting leave

Removes previous shift restriction

HB-189 – Truck Weights

Raises the maximum weight of logging trucks and tractor trailers carrying vegetables, solid waste, and recycling materials.





HB-147 Safe Schools Act

- Current law requires schools to submit safety plans
- Plans now have to be approved by Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency
- Requires all public schools to conduct annual intruder alert drills for students based upon guidance from GEMHSA

SB 62

Homeless Enforcement

Prohibits hospitals from dumping homeless patients outside the county or area where hospital operates

Prohibits Counties and Municipalities from adopting policies not to enforce no camping/no loitering/sidewalk obstruction ordinances



SB -92 – District Attorney Oversight

Creates Prosecuting
Attorney's Qualifications
Commission

Commission has power to
discipline, remove and cause
involuntary retirement of
prosecutors



HB -374 Leaf Blowers

Prohibits local governments from regulating gas leaf blowers differently than electric leaf blowers



SB-146 EV Charging

- New law adds 2.84 cents per kWh tax to EV Charging Stations in addition to flat \$212 annual fee
- Tax applies even to free EV Charging Stations
- Requires EV Charging stations to charge per kWh, not time
- Allows gas stations to add EV charging stations





HB – 408

Tax Exemption for Projects

Extends the tax exemption for sales of tangible personal property used for and in the construction of a competitive project of regional significance.

“Competitive project of regional significance” is defined as the location or expansion of some or all of a business enterprise’s operations in Georgia where the commissioner of economic development determines that the project would have a significant regional impact.

SB-140 – Transgender Minors

Prohibits medical professionals from giving transgender children certain hormones or surgical treatment that assists them in aligning with their gender identity. It would not ban medication that slows or stops puberty, but it would ban health care professionals from giving hormones such as estrogen or testosterone to transgender minors.





Coleman- Baker Act HB 88

- Creates a Cold Case Unit of the GBI
- GBI will review cases that are 3 years or older at the request of the family
- Bill allows coroners and medical examiners to list a generic cause of death in cases where listing the cause of death could hinder an investigation.

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