

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMENDED 2018 AND FY 2019 BUDGETS:

HB 683

[Ralston, David 7th](#)

http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2018_FiscalYear/AFY_2018_Final_Bill_As_Passed_House_and_Senate.pdf

AMENDED FY 2018 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

HB 683 makes adjustments to the state budget for the current fiscal year which runs through June 30, 2018. The FY2018 supplementary budget (also called the “little budget”), makes necessary, mid-year adjustments to the current state budget. Governor Deal signed the \$25.4 billion amended budget on March 9, 2018 at a ceremony in Polk County. The budget included \$1.2 million for hospitals to offset costs due to the high number of flu cases.

HB 684

[Ralston, David 7th](#)

http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2019_FiscalYear/FY_2019_Tracking_Sheet_Conf_Cmte.pdf

FY 2019 BUDGET

House Bill 684, the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$26.2 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion, or 4.9 percent, over the FY 2018 original budget. Nearly 90 percent of the new revenue is consumed by non-discretionary education, health and human services expenses. Specifically, \$724.4 million (60 percent) is budgeted for education, to include full funding for the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula; \$359.7 million (29.2 percent) is budgeted for health and human services; and \$127.4 million (10.4 percent) in remaining new funds is appropriated to public safety, economic development and general government agencies, as well as debt service.

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HOUSE BILLS/RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

HB 513

[\) Dickerson, Pam 113th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/513>

The Department of Human Services shall develop standards for a sign that shall be posted at any medical facility, fire station, or police station to inform the general public that such facility is an authorized location to **leave a newborn child - avoiding criminal prosecution**

HB 635

[Cooper, Sharon 43rd](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/635>

"Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act," - provide for the establishment of at-risk adult protective investigative/coordinating teams to coordinate the investigation of and responses to suspected instances of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of disabled adults or elder persons

HB 673

[Carson, John 46th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/673>

HB 673 is the '**Hands-Free Georgia Act**' The bill includes....

While operating a motor vehicle on a highway of this state, ...

no individual shall (relative to a wireless telecommunications device or a stand-alone electronic device):

*physically hold or support the device with any part of their body

*write, send or read any text based communication with device

*watch a video or movie with device

*record or broadcast a video with device

Bill includes the allowed fines and points for offenses and other.....

HB 732

[\) Silcox, Deborah 52nd](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/732>

Relating to **trafficking of persons** for labor or sexual servitude, so as to expand the offense of trafficking an individual for sexual servitude; to change the punishment for a certain type of trafficking an individual for sexual servitude

HB 769

[\) Jasperse, Rick 11th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HB/769>

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies and health, respectively, so as to implement recommendations from the **House Rural Development Council** relating to health care issues; to revise provisions relative to pharmacy practices; to provide for and revise definitions; to revise provisions relative to credentialing and billing; to provide for the establishment of the Rural Center for Health Care Innovation and Sustainability; to revise provisions relative to certificate of need; to provide for the establishment of micro- hospitals; to provide for a grant program for insurance premium assistance for physicians practicing in medically underserved rural areas of the state; other

HB 803

[\) Willard, Wendell 51st](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/803>

Relating to protection of elder persons, so as to prohibit **trafficking a disabled adult, elder person**, or resident; to provide for definitions; to provide for elements of the crime; to provide for penalties, mandatory sentences, and exceptions;

HB 818

[\) Hawkins, Lee 27th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HB/818>

Relating to insurance generally, so as to provide that a **health care provider shall choose the method by which such provider shall be reimbursed** by an insurer for health care services performed;

HB 831

[\) Rogers, Terry 10th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HB/831>

Relating to establishing the **Employment First Georgia Council**; to provide for legislative findings and declarations; to provide for membership, duties, terms of office, meeting requirements, committee appointments, compensation, and expense allowances; to provide for a biannual report to the Governor and the General Assembly

HB 844

[\) Houston, Penny 170th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/844>

Relating to handicapped persons generally, so as to revise provisions relating to the **Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons**; to provide for definitions; to expand the membership of the commission; to establish a task force; to require use of existing assessments; to monitor individual children's language and literacy progress; to develop a state-wide coordinated longitudinal data management system for all children who are deaf or hard of hearing; to require information sharing and collaboration among state agencies; to provide integrated and seamless services from birth through literacy; to require public reporting mechanisms

HB 909

[\) Silcox, Deborah 52nd](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/909>

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to provide for the designation of **perinatal facilities**; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for criteria for levels of care; to provide for applications from perinatal facilities; to require the department to post a list of designated facilities; to provide for a self-assessment tool; to provide for statutory construction; to limit advertisement as a designated facility unless approved by the state

HB 918

[1\) Efstrotation, Chuck 104th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/918>

Reduce individual and corporation Georgia income taxes. Major features of the bill include:
Reduction in top Individual Income Tax Rate. Includes a two-phased reduction in the top individual income tax rate. Currently, the top rate of 6 percent applies to income above \$7,000 for an individual and above \$10,000 for a married couple filing jointly. The bill lowers that rate to 5.75 percent in 2019 and 5.5 percent in 2020. The second step down to 5.5 percent would require a joint resolution by Georgia lawmakers and the governor during the 2020 legislative session.
Reduction in Corporate Income Tax Rate. Includes a two-phased reduction in the corporate income tax rate. Phase one reduces the rate from 6.0 percent to 5.75 percent starting in 2019. Rate lowered to 5.5 percent in 2020. The second step down to 5.5 percent would require a joint resolution by Georgia lawmakers and the governor during the 2020 legislative session.

2018 HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEES APPROVED

HR 1257

[1\) Petrea, Jesse 166th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/HR/1257>

House Study Committee on Workforce Shortage & Crisis in Home & Community Based Settings

HR 1374

[\) Harrell, Brett 106th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HR/1374>

House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and Funding

HR 1160

[\) Hill, Dewayne 3rd](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/173444.pdf>

House Study Committee on Risks Associated with Kratom

SENATE BILLS/RESOLUTIONS PASSED

SB 118

[Unterman, Renee 45th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/118>

Relating to **insurance coverage for autism**, so as to change the age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders TO 20 YEARS and expand the annual limit to \$35,000

SB 127

[1\) Kennedy, John 18th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SB/127>

SB 127 is companion legislation for SR 146, also known as **MARCY'S LAW**, to provide a process for victims to be heard by the court. When the victim of a crime makes a written request to the prosecuting attorney to be notified of all proceedings, has provided appropriate contact information, and asserts that no notification has been provided, the victim can make a motion to the court to be heard on the matter. Such a motion shall be filed no later than 20 days after the claimed denial. Moreover, the court's decision on such a motion is final and not subject to appeal.

SR 146

[1\) Kennedy, John 18th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SR/146>

Proposed constitution amendment - SR 146, known as **MARCY'S LAW**, is the companion legislation to SB 127 and provides for the constitutional rights to the victims of crime. The rights for the victims are as follows: reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of court proceedings involving the alleged act; reasonable and timely notice upon the release or escape of the accused; inclusion in any scheduled court proceedings; and the opportunity to be heard at any scheduled proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused. These rights do not: create a cause of action against the State of Georgia; confer the right for a victim to appeal, challenge, or provide standing to become a party to a criminal or delinquency proceeding; nor restrict the inherent authority of the courts to maintain order in the courtroom.

SB 315

[Thompson, Bruce 14th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SB/315>

SB 315 creates the **crime of "unauthorized computer access"**. Any person who intentionally accesses a computer or computer network with knowledge that such access is without authority is guilty of a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature, except when: such persons are members of the same household; access is a legitimate business activity; performing cybersecurity active defense measures that are designed to prevent or detect unauthorized access; or based upon violations of terms of service agreements.

SB 321

[Tillery, Blake 19th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SB/321>

Relating to **civil penalties for false or fraudulent Medicaid claims**, so as to increase the civil penalties that shall be imposed in order to allow this state to recover the maximum penalty authorized by federal law; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other *(doubles penalties)*

SB 336

[Unterman, Renee 45th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/336>

SB 336 **prohibits the provider of electronic communication services from notifying a subscriber that the provider has been issued a subpoena concerning the subscriber's usage of the electronic communication service regarding minors. (recommended by GBI)** In addition, SB 336 allows for certain state agencies that, as a condition of employment, require **fingerprint criminal background checks** to opt-in to a program where the Federal Bureau of Investigation retains the fingerprints for the duration of the individual's employment. Violations of law in other states can be transmitted to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and then to the applicable state agency. Moreover, the bill provides that the individual's fingerprints be purged from the database within 10 days when that person is no longer employed by the state agency.

SB 406

[Strickland, Brian 17th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SB/406>

Requires comprehensive **FBI background checks and fingerprinting for direct care employees** of nursing homes, personal care homes, assisted living communities, private home care providers and adult day care centers.

SB 357

) [Burke, Dean 11th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/357>

SB 357 establishes the **Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia**. The 18-member council includes: a new position for a director of health care policy and strategic planning; the commissioner of the Department of Community Health; the commissioner of the Department of Public Health; the commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; and the executive of director of the Division of Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Related Disorders. Six additional members are appointed by the governor for four-year terms. Appointments shall be made to ensure that the council always includes: a dentist, a pharmacist, a primary care physician and a member representing a private health care industry. The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House of Representatives each have one appointment. The council will create an annual report of its business, which is to create a forum for innovative ideas, evaluation, maximize resources, and organize a health care approach.

The new position is responsible for the management and coordination of health care delivery on all government levels, in addition to coordinating data-driven decision-making between the Health Coordination and Innovation Council and the state. The director may hire staff to perform these functions.

This bill also creates a 13- to 19-member advisory board to the council, which may not have government employees as members. The governor will appoint all members who have experience to address the needs of the council, such as reviewing and commenting on all health care grant applications. The following entities shall provide required reporting to the council, the: Maternal Mortality Review Committee; Office of Women's Health; Commission on Men's Health; Renal Dialysis Advisory Council; Kidney Disease Advisory Committee; Hemophilia Advisory Board; Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness; Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council; Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission; Behavioral Health Coordinating Council; Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry; Office of Cardiac Care; and Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund.

SB 364

) [Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/364>

Relating to delegation of authority to **physician assistants**, so as to authorize a **higher supervisory ratio** for physician assistants who have completed a board approved anesthesiologist assistant program - INCREASES FROM 4 TO 8 THE NUMBER OF PAs WHO CAN BE SUPERVISED BY A PHYSICIAN

2018 SENATE STUDY COMMITTEES/RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

SR 506

) [Dugan, Mike 30th](#)

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SR/506>

Senate Study Committee on the Excessive and Duplicative Regulatory Oversight of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Services

SR 593 [\) Seay, Valencia 34th](#)
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SR/593>
A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to establish a policy whereby public facilities shall be required to provide adult changing stations; and for other purposes.

SR 467 [1\) Unterman, Renee 45th](#)
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SR/467>
Senate Study Committee on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally Impaired Persons; create

SR 489 [\) Ligon, Jr., William 3rd](#)
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SR/489>
Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications; create

SR 832 Senator Mullis of the 53rd
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SR/832>
Senate Study Committee on Risks Associated with Kratom; create

SR 1063 [1\) Watson, Ben 1st](#)
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SR/1063>
Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform; create