



House Budget and Research Office

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 412
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-5050

MARTHA R. WIGTON
DIRECTOR

AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2014 STATE BUDGET HOUSE BILL 743 HIGHLIGHTS

The original FY 2014 budget approved during the 2013 Session set spending at \$19.9 billion. House Bill 743, the Amended FY 2014 Budget, sets spending at a slightly higher amount, \$20.2 billion, based on revised revenue projections. This additional revenue of \$313.9 million represents an increase of 1.57% over the original FY 2014 budget.

This budget exemplifies the spirit and intent of an “amended” budget and is limited to making only the changes needed to balance within the new revenue estimate, funding the mid-term adjustment for K-12 education, and realigning agency budgets based on need. Highlights of those changes include:

K-12 Education

- \$129.5 million is provided for midterm enrollment growth and \$316,638 is provided for extended day/year activities in the Agriculture and Career/Technical Education programs within the Department of Education.
- The budget includes \$25 million in the OneGeorgia Authority to provide competitive grants to local school systems for acquisition of increased network bandwidth, wireless connectivity, live online instruction, and other digital education platforms for students and teachers.

Higher Education

- The budget includes \$1.4 million in one-time funds for the Board of Regents for equipment upgrades to the PeachNet infrastructure. This funding, along with \$25 million in OneGeorgia and \$14 million in bonds for local school systems in the FY15 budget, will provide infrastructure for local school systems to dramatically improve instructional technology.
- HB 743 provides the Georgia Student Finance Commission with \$5.7 million for the Accel program to fund an additional 7,100 awards.

Public Safety

- The AFY 2014 budget includes an increase in funding for Juvenile Court Judges of \$111,779.
- Within the Department of Corrections, the House championed and the Senate agreed to increase county jail subsidy reimbursements to counties to \$30 per day. The budget also includes \$2 million to replace the loss of 340B pharmaceutical pricing.
- Funding is provided to the Department of Driver Services (\$704,900) for 53 part-time positions at high volume Customer Service Centers to help keep wait times low.
- The budget includes \$115,290 for the Department of Public Safety for operating expenses associated with Life Flight helicopters, \$1.4 million for operating expenses for a new state patrol post, and \$782,473 to maintain the Georgia Interoperability Network system.
- HB 743 provides \$30,000 to the Office of Highway Safety for the planning and implementation of Joshua’s Law driver education programs per SB 231 (2013 Session).

Economic Development

- HB 743 contains an infusion of funds focused on economic development including \$10 million in additional funds for Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) grants and \$15 million for the OneGeorgia Authority for economic development projects.
- The AFY 2014 budget provides \$1.5 million to keep the Xpress buses running through the end of the fiscal year. Xpress buses operate in 13 metro counties, but draw riders from 40 counties statewide.
- The budget provides \$25.7 million for additional service agreements for routine maintenance in the Department of Transportation.

Health

- The AFY 2014 budget appropriates \$14.4 million in state funds and \$1.4 million in other funds to draw down Disproportionation Share Hospital (DSH) payments for all deemed and non-deemed hospitals. The net effect to these hospitals is \$46.4 million in additional funds.
- The budget includes \$4.1 million for the extension of the Planning for Healthy Babies (P4HB) waiver, including prenatal care for Medicaid eligible members at risk of delivering low birth weight babies through June 30, 2014. This addition draws down \$34 million in total funds.
- HB 743 also recognizes \$116 million in reserve funds for the State Health Benefit Plan to enhance the plan by replacing co-insurance with co-pays for medical and pharmacy benefits retroactive to January 1, 2014. This will help relieve members from increased out-of-pocket expenses in 2014.

Human Services

- The budget reflects additional funding for child welfare services including \$455,936 for 16 new positions in the Child Protective Services Intake Communication Center (CCIC) and \$150,000 for an evaluation of foster care admissions procedures.
- Funds were added to prevent the loss of 88 child support agents (\$1.2 million).
- HB 743 includes \$5.4 million for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute to assist the hospital with expenses associated with the management transition to Georgia Regents University.

General Government

- HB 743 includes \$5.5 million for the Governor's Emergency Fund for services provided during inclement weather.
- The AFY 2014 budget also includes \$1.25 million to maintain the Fraud Detection contract in the Department of Revenue. This contract has yielded more than \$30 million in cost avoidance.
- The budget also includes an additional \$26.1 million to fully fund reimbursements for the Forestland Protection Act Grants through tax year 2013 by July 2014.