



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable David Ralston
Speaker of the Georgia House
of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I have identified language to disregard for the following sections in House Bill 81:

Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard:

1. Section 14, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 39, line 65.2.
2. Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources, page 127, line 229.1.
3. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 140, line 253.1.
4. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 142, line 256.2.
5. Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 142, line 257.2.
6. Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation, page 186, line 344.2.
7. Section 50, pertaining to the State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 194, line 353.110.

The message for the above referenced item is attached.

Sincerely,


Brian P. Kemp

BPK:rbw

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State
The Honorable Chris Carr, Attorney General
The Honorable Blake Tillery, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Terry England, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. David A. Cook, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Rick Ruskell, Legislative Counsel

HB 81 – FY 2022 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Intent Language Considered Non-Binding

Section 14, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 39, line 65.2:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$300,000 to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to utilize \$300,000 for contracts for facility support. The funding would provide for facility support services already in place. As the Department's patient census has decreased due to community placements, such contracts could create a funding obligation for facilities no longer in active use. Therefore, the Department is authorized to utilize the funds appropriated on page 39, line 65.2 to facilitate maintenance, repair, and disposition of unused state-owned assets and facilities.

Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources, page 127, line 229.1:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$119,873 to create two new job classes of sworn personnel within the Department of Natural Resources to address agency retention. Retention for all public safety employees is a priority of the legislature and my administration. However, the creation of new job classes may cause unintended disparities between agencies. Therefore, the Department is hereby instructed to disregard the language included on page 127, line 229.1, and to instead utilize the funds appropriated to address retention needs in sworn personnel positions within the existing pay grades.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 140, line 253.1:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$13,046 to create two new job classes of sworn personnel within the Department of Public Safety to address agency retention. Retention for all public safety employees is a priority of the legislature and my administration. However, the creation of new job classes may cause unintended disparities between agencies. Therefore, the Department is hereby instructed to disregard the language included on page 140, line 253.1, and to instead utilize the funds appropriated to address retention needs in sworn personnel positions within the existing pay grades.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 142, line 256.2:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$796,788 to create two new job classes of sworn personnel within the Department of Public Safety to address agency retention. Retention for all public safety employees is a priority of the legislature and my administration. However, the creation of new job classes may cause unintended disparities between agencies. Therefore, the Department is hereby instructed to disregard the language included on page 142, line 256.2, and to instead utilize the funds appropriated to address retention needs in sworn personnel positions within the existing pay grades.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 142, line 257.2:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$167,343 to create two new job classes of sworn personnel within the Department of Public Safety to address agency retention. Retention for all public safety employees is a priority of the legislature and my administration. However, the creation of new job classes may cause unintended disparities between agencies. Therefore, the Department is hereby instructed to disregard the language included on page 142, line 257.2, and

to instead utilize the funds appropriated to address retention needs in sworn personnel positions within the existing pay grades.

Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation, page 186, line 344.2:

The General Assembly seeks to recognize \$307,399,260 in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) funds for Federal Urbanized Transit Grants for regional priorities within the Payments to Atlanta-region Transit Link (ATL) Authority program. The specific uses of these funds are subject to guidelines that have yet to be published. Therefore, the Department is instructed to disregard the language included on page 186, line 344.2, and to distribute the funds to the appropriate local transit entity in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration's apportionment formula requirements.

Section 50, pertaining to the State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 194, line 353.110:

The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Education to utilize \$2,000,000 in general obligation debt for the purchase of alternative fuel school buses and to conduct a feasibility study of a fully electric school bus fleet. The Georgia Constitution authorizes the state to issue debt to provide educational facilities for county and independent school systems. *See* GA. CONST. art. VII, § IV, ¶ I. As a feasibility study does not constitute a capital asset or educational facility in accordance with the Georgia Constitution, it is not an eligible use of general obligation bonds. Therefore, the Department is instructed to disregard the language included on page 194, line 353.110 and to instead utilize the authorized funds for the purchase of alternative fuel school buses only. The Department is also authorized to identify funds within the Department's existing operating budget to conduct the feasibility study.