

---

**GOVERNOR BRIAN P. KEMP**  
**2025 SESSION OF THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**VETO MESSAGES AND SIGNING STATEMENT**

---

**VETO 1**

**House Bill 308** would, among other things, empower trial courts to order the installation of an “intelligent speed assistance device” when the registered owner of a vehicle used that vehicle to commit the offense of reckless stunt driving. While this provision is well-intentioned, as such devices could be a valuable tool for preventing street racers from becoming repeat offenders, the bill does not provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure this punishment would be consistently and effectively applied.

For the foregoing reasons, **I VETO HOUSE BILL 308.**

**VETO 2**

**House Bill 380** would dissolve the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority.

At the request of the sponsor, **I VETO HOUSE BILL 380.**

**VETO 3**

**House Bill 433** would allow the Department of Human Services (“DHS”) to access the full criminal history file maintained by the Georgia Criminal Information Center (“GCIC”)—including cases resulting in acquittals, sealed files, dismissed charges, and arrests that never resulted in charges—of any prospective or existing employee or contractor of DHS, any prospective or existing foster parent, or any adult in the home of such foster parent. Separate statutes limit the information on which DHS can base any adverse employment or application decision to criminal convictions, nolo contendere pleas, and pending charges. *See, e.g.*, Code Section 49-2-14.1. These limitations protect such individuals from being adversely treated based on charges that were dropped or never brought. There may be some circumstances in which DHS’s interest in protecting the vulnerable

populations it cares for outweighs the privacy interest of the individuals on whom DHS conducts records checks. Because DHS could not take any action based on this restricted information, however, this bill would only create unnecessary invasions of privacy and risks of litigation.

For the foregoing reasons, **I VETO HOUSE BILL 433.**

#### **VETO 4**

**House Bill 532** would allow counties with 20,000 acres or more of unimproved land owned by the Department of Natural Resources, with such land constituting ten percent or more of the taxable real property in the county, to draw on multiple grant programs concurrently. Current law allows counties to access only one grant program, as each program independently compensates the affected counties for lost property tax revenue. The state's budget for fiscal year 2026 provides appropriations for the full value of lost property tax revenue for eligible counties without requiring any eligible county to draw on both programs. There is no reason, therefore, to allow duplicative grant payments to counties under both programs.

For the foregoing reasons, **I VETO HOUSE BILL 532.**

#### **VETO 5**

**House Bill 846** would create a homestead exemption from Cherokee County ad valorem taxes in an amount dependent on revenue collected from a retail homestead option sales and use tax, contingent on the passage of legislation authorizing such a tax. Such legislation did not pass the General Assembly.

At the request of the sponsor, **I VETO HOUSE BILL 846.**

#### **VETO 6**

**Senate Bill 46** would, among other things, require every state "department, agency, division, board, bureau, commission, authority, entity, or instrumentality" outside the University System of Georgia to designate a "lead agency service delivery official" who would report to a new "State of Georgia Government Service Delivery Lead" within the Georgia Technology Authority. The bill would also create annual reporting requirements. Such

positions and requirements, even if fulfilled by existing employees, would undoubtedly create additional costs that the General Assembly failed to fund.

For the foregoing reasons, **I VETO SENATE BILL 46.**

### **VETO 7**

**Senate Bill 238** changes the composition of the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners from a county-wide elected chairperson and two commissioners to five commissioners elected on an at-large basis with the chairperson selected among the commission members. Rockdale County voters elected a new chairperson to serve their county commission for a four-year term on November 5, 2024. Senate Bill 238 would circumvent the will of the voters by cutting the chairperson's four-year term short and reassigning the chair to a newly created commission seat. Such a significant overhaul of the county's government structure deserves more thorough consideration by the Rockdale County government and the local delegation than is possible before this year's general election.

For the foregoing reasons, **I VETO SENATE BILL 238.**

## **SIGNING STATEMENT 1**

**Senate Bill 255** codifies the procedure by which committees of either chamber of the General Assembly issue subpoenas in furtherance of the General Assembly's inherent oversight function. Senate Bill 255 was vigorously debated throughout the legislative session. After careful analysis, I signed Senate Bill 255.

Senate Bill 255 neither creates nor limits the power of the General Assembly to issue subpoenas; it merely provides a procedure for the issuance and enforcement of such subpoenas. Other statutes already affirm the General Assembly's power to conduct investigations and compel testimony, and "[n]o law enacted by the General Assembly shall be construed to limit its powers." GA. CONST. ART. III, § 6, ¶ III. Even if Senate Bill 255 was not signed into law, the General Assembly's authority would remain unchanged. Senate Bill 255 provides needed clarity on the procedural elements of legislative subpoenas.

I caution the General Assembly, however, that the procedures set forth in Senate Bill 255 should be used judiciously and sparingly. The General Assembly has a well-earned reputation for putting the business of legislating—and the people of Georgia—first. Americans of all political leanings have lamented the ineffectiveness of the United States Congress, in no small part due to the abundance of politically motivated "investigations" which only generate sound bites and distract from important legislation. I sincerely hope that in the future, Georgians do not similarly lament the General Assembly.

++