



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp  
GOVERNOR

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Burt Jones  
Lieutenant Governor  
240 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable Jon Burns  
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 of House Bill 68:

**Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard:**

1. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 57, line 91.9.
2. Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 107.9.
3. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 94, line 142.9.
4. Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 97, line 147.5.
5. Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 119, line 186.2.
6. Section 28, pertaining to the Department Human Services, page 132, line 210.1.
7. Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 144, line 228.6.
8. Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 181, line 284.5.
9. Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 204, line 327.2.

The messages for the above referenced items are attached.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp

BPK:rbw

Attachment

The Honorable Burt Jones  
The Honorable Jon Burns  
May 9, 2025  
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cc: The Honorable Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State  
The Honorable Chris Carr, Attorney General  
The Honorable Blake Tillery, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Matt Hatchett, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
Mr. James M. Tripp, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives  
Ms. Betsy Howerton, Legislative Counsel



## **HB 68 – FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

### INTENT LANGUAGE CONSIDERED NON-BINDING

**Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 57, line 91.9:**

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the Department of Community Health to establish a grant program within the Department Administration (DCH) program for emergency generators pursuant to the passage of HB 262. HB 262 was not passed by the General Assembly during the 2025 Session and no funding was appropriated for this purpose. Therefore, the Department may disregard the language included in line 91.9.

**Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 107.9:**

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the Georgia Composite Medical Board to implement technology for the credentialing of licensed doctors and physician assistants pending passage of SB 162. SB 162 was not passed by the General Assembly during the 2025 Session and no funding was appropriated for this purpose. Therefore, the Department may disregard the language included in line 107.9.

**Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 94, line 142.9:**

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$268,157 in state general funds to the Department of Education for camp-affiliated staff in the Agricultural Education program. These funds would be used for expenses related to existing administrative staff within the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation. The additional state funding would be used to supplant existing foundation funds used to support these positions and would not result in expanded or enhanced services to students in agricultural education programs across the state. As these funds would be used to supplant existing support for non-state employees rather than for expansion of student programming, the Department is directed to disregard the language included in line 142.9 and withhold spending the associated appropriation.

**Section 24, pertaining to the Department of Education, page 97, line 147.5:**

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the Department of Education to utilize existing funds within the Curriculum Development program to provide one Cambridge International program exam for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The budget as passed does not include any additional funding necessary to implement this provision and could direct funds away from other currently authorized program activities. Therefore, the Department is directed to disregard the language included in line 147.5.

**Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 119, line 186.2:**

The General Assembly seeks to instruct the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to establish the Georgia Resilience Office to plan and coordinate statewide resilience and disaster recovery. The agency already conducts planning and coordination of statewide resiliency and recovery efforts through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. Therefore, as establishing a separate Georgia Resilience Office would be duplicative of current state efforts, the Agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 186.2.



**Section 28, pertaining to the Department Human Services, page 132, line 210.1:**

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$89,937 in state general funds to the Department of Human Services for the Council on Aging for personnel. These funds would be used in part to transition a current part-time administrative assistant position to a full-time position. The Council has not seen an administrative workload increase over the prior fiscal year that would necessitate establishing additional full-time staff, nor would such a staffing increase directly result in expanded or enhanced services to the aging community. Therefore, the Department is directed to disregard the language included in line 210.1 and withhold spending the associated appropriation of \$56,379.

**Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 144, line 228.6:**

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$33,558 in state general funds to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to increase funds for operational expenses. These funds would be used to provide salary increases for specific staff outside of a statewide cost-of-living adjustment for state employees. Targeted salary increases for staff should be aligned with identified workload or retention needs, which the Council has not identified. Therefore, the Council is directed to disregard the language in line 228.6 and withhold spending the associated appropriation.

**Section 41, pertaining to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, page 181, line 284.5:**

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$450,000 in state general funds to the Agricultural Experiment Station program for five new positions dedicated to applied research for specifically listed commodity groups. As the University of Georgia already works closely with agricultural commodity groups in established industry research efforts, the University should have the flexibility to determine specific job titles and assignments for the additional positions based on the greatest needs and opportunities of the state's agricultural industry. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 284.5 and hire and assign positions to ensure maximum statewide benefit.

**Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 204, line 327.2:**

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$600,047 in state general funds to the Secretary of State for the State Elections Board program for operations. As the General Assembly specifically directs that the additional appropriated funds should be to address increased operational expenses, the Board should not utilize funds for new positions. Additional personnel should not be hired by the Board until the impact of positions added in the FY 2025 budget has been assessed and new funds are appropriated specifically for such purpose. Therefore, the Board is directed to utilize the funds included in line 327.2 for technology to support the Board's existing staff and operations.