STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

May 10, 2019

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 line-item vetoed the appropriations below and identified language to disregard for the following sections in House Bill 31:

Vetoes:

Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission, page 215, line 312.100;

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 243, line 355.219;

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 247, line 355.261;

Section 51, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 247, line 355.262;

Section 51, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 253, line 355.514; and

Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard:

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 50, line 71.8;

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 54, line 78.13;

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 55, line 79.7;

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 57, line 84.3;

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 101.3;

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health,
page 71, line 102.3;
Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor,
page 119, line 175.6;
Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation,
page 146, line 216.1;
Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law,
page 155, line 225.8;
Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law,
page 155, line 225.10;
Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources,
page 159, line 231.4;
Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety,
page 179, line 260.5;
Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety,
page 183, line 265.5;
Section 41, pertaining to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents,
page 189, line 273.4;
Section 41, pertaining to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents,
page 197, line 287.7; and
Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation,
page 232, line 347.4.

The messages for each item referenced are attached.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp

BPK:rcb

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State
The Honorable Chris Carr, Attorney General
The Honorable Jack Hill, 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 31 – FY 2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

LINE-ITEM VETOES BY THE GOVERNOR

Section 44, pertaining to the Georgia Student Finance Commission, page 215, line 312.100:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $1,000,000 in Lottery Proceeds to the Dual Enrollment program to establish the Early HOPE program. The Early HOPE program would provide financial assistance for additional postsecondary education courses to high school students who have exceeded the maximum number of semester hours covered by the Dual Enrollment program as established in House Bill 444. House Bill 444 was not passed by the General Assembly during the 2019 Legislative Session. As a result, there are currently no limits on the number of semester hours an eligible dual enrollment student may earn through the traditional program. Therefore, as Lottery Proceeds are not needed to provide additional financial assistance to dually enrolled students, I veto the Lottery Proceeds of $1,000,000 for the Dual Enrollment program (page 215, line 312.100).

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 243, line 355.219:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $214,000 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, specifically for the construction of a multidisciplinary greenhouse complex at the University of Georgia, through the issuance of $2,500,000 in 20-year tax-exempt general obligation bonds. The authorized funding is insufficient to complete the project, providing only half of the amount necessary for construction and thereby obligates the state to additional capital funding needs in future fiscal years. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 243, line 355.219) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $214,000.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 247, line 355.261:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $363,200 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Technical College System of Georgia, specifically for the design, construction, and equipment of a new facility for Georgia Piedmont Technical College in South DeKalb, through the issuance of $4,000,000 in 20-year taxable general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Additionally, this project would create additional space to expand programming and enrollment on the campus, impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the college. Projects impacting future enrollment and operational costs for the Technical College System should be vetted

by the Technical College System Board to ensure a strategic approach to enrollment growth at higher education institutions in Georgia. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 247, line 355.261) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $363,200.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 247, line 355.262:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $79,904 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Technical College System of Georgia, specifically for the purchase and renovation of the Center for Education and Entrepreneurship for Southern Crescent Technical College, through the issuance of $880,000 in 20-year taxable general obligation bonds. This project was not requested by the Technical College System and was not identified as a priority in the system's capital plan. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 247, line 355.262) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $79,904.

Section 50, pertaining to the Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund, page 253, line 355.514:
The General Assembly authorizes the appropriation of $61,632 in debt service for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Department of Driver Services, specifically for the construction of a customer service center in Rome, through the issuance of $720,000 in 20-year tax-exempt general obligation bonds. The agency does not have a plan in place at this time to construct a new customer service center in this location, and the facility was not included in the agency's capital funding request. Therefore, I veto this authorization (page 253, line 355.514) in the provisions relative to Section 50 State of Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund and the state general funds of $61,632.

INTENT LANGUAGE CONSIDERED NON-BINDING

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 50, line 71.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $15,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the Departmental Administration (DCA) program to be used for expenses incurred as a result of administrative services provided to the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. These funds should have been appropriated to the Commission directly to leverage other funds available for these expenses and to allow the Department of Community Affairs to properly allocate full administrative costs across departmental programs and attached agencies. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in

line 71.8 and instead continue to fund administrative costs through a memorandum of understanding with the Commission.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 54, line 78.13:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Community Affairs to establish criteria in conjunction with the Georgia Food Bank Association to determine funding eligibility in disaster situations. The state does not currently have a program dedicated to providing state funded support to local food banks. Additionally, funding aid associated with disaster assistance is distributed to impacted organizations through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency during a disaster declaration in order to leverage federal emergency management assistance and provide oversight on the use of disaster funds. Providing financial assistance or oversight for assistance during a declared disaster is outside the scope of the State Community Development Programs and the Department of Community Affairs. Therefore, the agency is instructed to disregard the language included in line 78.13 and is instead authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 55, line 79.7:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $50,000 in state general funds to the Department of Community Affairs for the State Economic Development Programs program for marketing for the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. The purpose of State Economic Development Programs is to provide grants and loans to local governments and businesses and to leverage private investment in order to attract and promote economic development and job creation. The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame is a state entity administratively attached to the Department of Economic Development. This appropriation falls outside the scope of the purpose of the State Economic Development Programs program, and funds for the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame should be appropriated through the Department of Economic Development. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 79.7.

Section 16, pertaining to the Department of Community Affairs, page 57, line 84.3:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the OneGeorgia Authority to utilize existing funds of $200,000 for the Defense Community Economic Development grant program. The use of OneGeorgia funds is directed through and requires approval by the OneGeorgia Board and cannot be appropriated through the legislative process. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 84.3 to fund Defense Community Economic Development grants through the OneGeorgia Authority.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 70, line 101.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $150,000 in state general funds for a medical director to improve the complaints process. The board is instructed to disregard the language included in line 101.3.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 71, line 102.3:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $184,940 in state general funds for a data management system to track and manage investigations. The agency is instructed to disregard the language included in line 102.3.

Section 27, pertaining to the Office of the Governor, page 119, line 175.6:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to promote and encourage real time detection of metallic and non-metallic weapons entering or attempting to enter public facilities. The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency already works closely with state and local partners to identify and deter threats to safety in public facilities and should continue to do so in a way that prioritizes the available resources and needs of an individual community. Therefore, the agency is instructed to disregard the language included in line 175.6.

Section 30, pertaining to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, page 146, line 216.1:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $390,000 in state general funds to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to provide state support for one additional domestic violence shelter ($150,000) with priority funding given to providing specialized services in areas not currently served by a state certified shelter; and six additional sexual assault centers ($240,000) with priority funding given to sexual assault centers providing emergency medical examinations to victims on-site. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee is authorized to develop a grant application process and criteria for awards for domestic violence and sexual assault centers not currently receiving state support in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the council.

Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 155, line 225.8:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $201,199 in state general funds for four positions to create an Information Technology Litigation Support Team within the Department of Law with an effective date of January 1, 2020. This appropriation does not provide funding for a full fiscal year and creates additional financial obligations for future budgets in order to continue operations. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 225.8 and instead to utilize the appropriated funds for the Human Trafficking Unit

established in line 225.7 in order to provide a full annual appropriation with an effective date of July 1, 2019 for the activities of that newly established unit.

Section 33, pertaining to the Department of Law, page 155, line 225.10:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Law to utilize up to $75,000 from existing funds to evaluate pet breeding operations in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. This directive represents an unfunded mandate for the department and would divert funds from existing investigations and cases that the state is currently pursuing. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 225.10 and instead authorized to utilize existing funds to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and general law powers of the department.

Section 34, pertaining to the Department of Natural Resources, page 159, line 231.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $200,000 in state general funds to the Department of Natural Resources for the Historic Preservation program to fund the Georgia Heritage Grant program. The Georgia Heritage Grant program already receives ongoing state support through the sale of historic preservation license plates. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 231.4.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 179, line 260.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $495,177 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Field Offices and Services program to recognize the new classification of criminal interdiction officers. The department should use the funds to meet the highest priority needs within the Criminal Interdiction Unit as determined by the department. Therefore, the department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 260.5.

Section 39, pertaining to the Department of Public Safety, page 183, line 265.5:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $119,820 in state general funds to the Department of Public Safety for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to restructure positions within the Fiscal Services division. The appropriations act provides funds to each agency for merit-based pay adjustments, employee recruitment, or retention initiatives effective July 1, 2019, including $244,330 for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Therefore, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center should use funds appropriated for recruitment and retention efforts for restructuring efforts and is instructed to disregard the language included in line 265.5.

Section 41, pertaining to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, page 189, line 273.4:
The General Assembly seeks to appropriate $250,000 in state general funds to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents for the Enterprise Innovation Institute program for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership with the Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (GA CATT) in order to provide mentor coaches to train mentors in teaching and testing apprentices. The department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 273.4.

Section 41, pertaining to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, page 197, line 287.7:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the University System of Georgia Board of Regents to establish policies to meet the ongoing support ratio based on the creation of the Optional Retirement Plan for the Teachers Retirement System. The FY 2020 appropriations act fully funds the established Board of Regents higher education funding formula for the employer contribution rate for retirement as determined by the most recent Teachers Retirement System actuarial valuation report. Therefore, the board is instructed to disregard the language included in line 287.7.

Section 47, pertaining to the Department of Transportation, page 232, line 347.4:
The General Assembly seeks to direct the State Road and Tollway Authority to give priority to grants for Tier I and II counties for projects funded from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB). The criteria for awarding grants and loans from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank funds is determined by the State Road and Tollway Authority Board and cannot be directed through the legislative process. The department is instructed to disregard the language included in line 347.4 regarding priorities for funding Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank grants and maintain Board established criteria for funding awards.

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