

House Bill 569

By: Representatives Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Hutchinson of the 107<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,  
2 so as to provide for a state program coordinated by the Governor related to employing  
3 individuals in Georgia; to provide for a short title; to provide for declarations; to create a  
4 commission; to define certain terms; to limit the application of the chapter; to provide for  
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended  
9 by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

10 "CHAPTER 41

11 50-41-1.

12 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'State Revenue Investment and  
13 Employment Act of 2019' or the 'STRIVE Act.'

14 50-41-2.

15 The General Assembly hereby declares that:

16 (1) It is the policy of the State of Georgia to foster free competitive enterprise, the  
17 investment of private capital in trade and commerce, and the development of the natural  
18 resources of the State of Georgia;

19 (2) All Georgians able to work and seeking work have the right to useful, remunerative,  
20 regular, and full-time employment, and it is the policy of the State of Georgia to assure  
21 the existence at all times of sufficient employment opportunities to enable all Georgians  
22 to freely exercise this right;

23 (3) In order to carry out the policies set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Code  
 24 section and in order to:

25 (A) Promote the general welfare of Georgia;

26 (B) Raise the standard of living of Georgia's people;

27 (C) Provide adequate employment opportunities for veterans;

28 (D) Contribute to the full utilization of our natural resources;

29 (E) Develop trade and commerce among the counties of Georgia; and

30 (F) Preserve and strengthen competitive private enterprise, particularly small business  
 31 enterprise.

32 it is essential that continuing full employment be maintained in the State of Georgia;

33 (4) In order to assist industry, agriculture, labor, and county and local governments in  
 34 achieving continuing full employment, it is the responsibility of the state government to  
 35 pursue such consistent and openly arrived at economic policies and programs as will  
 36 stimulate and encourage the highest possible levels of employment opportunities through  
 37 private and other nonstate investment and expenditure;

38 (5) To the extent that continuing full employment cannot otherwise be achieved, it is the  
 39 further responsibility of the state government to provide such volume of state investment  
 40 and expenditure as may be needed to assure continuing full employment; and

41 (6) Such investment and expenditure by the state government shall be designed to  
 42 contribute to the state wealth and well-being and to stimulate increased employment  
 43 opportunities by private enterprise.

44 50-41-3.

45 As used in this chapter, the term:

46 (1) 'Commission' mean the State Revenue Investment and Employment (STRIVE)  
 47 Commission.

48 (2) 'Estimated aggregate volume of prospective investment and expenditures' means the  
 49 aggregate volume of prospective investment and expenditure by private enterprises,  
 50 consumers, counties, municipalities, authorities, political subdivisions, instrumentalities  
 51 of the state, state agencies, and state government, which shall not take into account any  
 52 increased or decreased investment or expenditure which might be expected to result from  
 53 the programs set forth in the State Investment Plan.

54 (3) 'Full employment volume of production' means the dollar value of the estimated  
 55 aggregate volume of investment and expenditure by private enterprises, consumers,  
 56 county and local governments, and the state government required to produce such volume  
 57 of the gross national product, at the expected level of prices, as will be necessary to  
 58 provide employment opportunities for such labor force.

59 (4) 'State Investment Plan' means the plan transmitted by the commission to the General  
60 Assembly in accordance with this chapter.

61 50-41-4.

62 (a) The commission shall transmit to the General Assembly at the beginning of each  
63 regular session the State Investment Plan, which shall set forth in summary and in detail  
64 for the ensuing fiscal year or such longer period as the commission may deem appropriate:

65 (1) The estimated size of the labor force, including the self-employed, in industry and  
66 agriculture;

67 (2) The full employment volume of production; and

68 (3) The estimated aggregate volume of prospective investment and expenditures.

69 (b)(1) The extent, if any, by which the estimated aggregate volume of prospective  
70 investment and expenditures for any fiscal year or other period, as set forth in the State  
71 Investment Plan in accordance with paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section,  
72 is less than the estimated aggregate volume of investment and expenditures required to  
73 assure a full employment volume of production, as set forth in the State Investment Plan  
74 in accordance with paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section, shall for the  
75 purposes of this title be regarded as a prospective deficiency in the State Investment Plan.

76 (2)(A) When there is a prospective deficiency in the State Investment Plan for any  
77 fiscal year or other period, the commission shall set forth in such State Investment Plan  
78 a general program for encouraging such increased nonstate investment and  
79 expenditures, particularly investment and expenditures which will promote increased  
80 employment opportunities by private enterprise, as will prevent such deficiency to the  
81 greatest possible extent.

82 (B) The commission shall also include in such State Investment Plan such  
83 recommendations for legislation relating to such program as it may deem necessary or  
84 desirable. Such program may include, but need not be limited to, current and projected  
85 state policies and activities with reference to banking and currency, monopoly and  
86 competition, wages and working conditions, agriculture, taxation, the development of  
87 natural resources, and such other matters as may directly or indirectly affect the level  
88 of nonstate investment and expenditures.

89 (c)(1) To the extent, if any, that such increased nonstate investment and expenditures as  
90 may be expected to result from actions taken under the program set forth in accordance  
91 with subsection (b) of this Code section are deemed insufficient to provide a full  
92 employment volume of production, the commission shall transmit a general program for  
93 such investment and expenditures as will be sufficient to bring the estimated aggregate

94 volume of prospective investment and expenditures up to the level required to assure a  
95 full employment volume of production.

96 (2)(A) Such program shall be designed to contribute to the state wealth and well-being  
97 and to stimulate additional nonstate investment and expenditures.

98 (B) Any of such programs calling for the construction of public works by the state  
99 government shall provide for the performance of the necessary construction work by  
100 private concerns under contracts awarded in accordance with applicable laws, except  
101 where the performance of such work by some other method is necessary by reason of  
102 special circumstances or is authorized by other provisions of law.

103 (d) If the estimated aggregate volume of prospective investment and expenditures for any  
104 fiscal year or other period, as set forth in the State Investment Plan in accordance with  
105 paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section, is more than the estimated aggregate  
106 volume of investment and expenditures required to assure a full employment volume of  
107 production, as set forth in the State Investment Plan in accordance with paragraph (2) of  
108 subsection (a) of this Code section, the commission shall set forth in such State Investment  
109 Plan a general program for preventing inflationary economic dislocations or for  
110 diminishing the aggregate volume of investment and expenditures to the level required to  
111 assure a full employment volume of production, or both.

112 (e) The programs referred to in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this Code section shall  
113 include such measures as may be necessary to assure that monopolistic practices with  
114 respect to prices, production, or distribution, or other monopolistic practices, will not  
115 interfere with the achievement of the purposes of this chapter.

116 (f) The State Investment Plan shall include a report on the distribution of the state income  
117 during the preceding fiscal year, or such longer period as the commission may deem  
118 appropriate, together with an evaluation of the effect upon the distribution of the national  
119 income of the programs set forth in such State Investment Plan.

120 (g) The commission may from time to time transmit to the General Assembly such  
121 supplemental or revised estimates, information, programs, or legislative recommendations  
122 as it may deem necessary or desirable in connection with the State Investment Plan.

123 50-41-5.

124 (a) The State Investment Plan shall be prepared under the general direction and  
125 supervision of the Governor in consultation with the commission and other heads of  
126 departments and organizations.

127 (b) The Governor shall transmit to the several departments and organizations such  
128 preliminary estimates and other information as will enable them to prepare such plans and

129 programs as may be needed during the ensuing or subsequent fiscal years to help achieve  
130 a full employment volume of production.

131 (c) The Governor may establish such advisory boards or committees composed of  
132 representatives of industry, agriculture, labor, and county and local governments, and  
133 others, as he or she may deem advisable for the purpose of advising and consulting with  
134 the commission on methods of achieving the objectives of this chapter.

135 50-41-6.

136 (a) There is hereby established a State Revenue Investment and Employment (STRIVE)  
137 Commission to be composed of single members for each of the state's congressional  
138 districts and the Governor. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the  
139 Governor. Members of the commission shall serve four-year terms and be eligible to be  
140 reappointed. The Governor shall be the chairperson of the commission.

141 (b) It shall be the function of the commission:

142 (1) To create the State Investment Plan and transmit it to the General Assembly in  
143 accordance with Code Section 50-41-4; and

144 (2) To report to the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1 of  
145 each year, its findings and recommendations with respect to the State Investment Plan,  
146 together with a joint resolution setting forth for the ensuing fiscal year a general policy  
147 with respect to such State Investment Plan to serve as a guide to the several committees  
148 of the General Assembly dealing with legislation relating to such State Investment Plan.

149 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall not affect the power of the  
150 remaining members to execute the functions of the commission and shall be filled in the  
151 same manner as in the case of the original appointment.

152 (d) The commission, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and  
153 act at such places and times, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such  
154 witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such  
155 oaths, to take such testimony, to procure such printing and binding, and to make such  
156 expenditures as it deems advisable.

157 (e) The commission is empowered to appoint and fix the compensation of such experts,  
158 consultants, technicians, and clerical and stenographic assistance as it deems necessary and  
159 advisable. The commission may utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services as it  
160 deems necessary and is authorized to utilize the services, information, facilities, and  
161 personnel of the departments and organizations.

162 (f) The expenses of the commission shall be paid one-half from the contingent fund of the  
163 Senate and one-half from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives upon  
164 vouchers signed by the chairperson or vice chairperson.

165 (g) All reports by the commission shall be posted onto its website for the public to view.  
166 (h) To inform the creation of the State Investment Plan, the commission shall hold five  
167 public hearings around the state. Three of the five hearings shall be had outside of the  
168 metro Atlanta region. The hearings shall be live streamed online, and the commission shall  
169 consider comments submitted both in-person at a hearing and through online submission.  
170 (i) The commission shall not submit the initial State Investment Plan until the commission  
171 determines that the trust fund has adequate funding levels. The commission shall transmit  
172 its determination to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of  
173 Representatives at the time that the trust fund has adequate revenue for implementation.

174 50-41-7.

175 (a) The Governor shall review quarterly all state investment and expenditures for the  
176 purpose of ascertaining the extent to which the current and anticipated levels of nonstate  
177 investment and expenditures warrant any change in the volume of such state investment  
178 and expenditures.

179 (b) Subject to such principles and standards as may be set forth in applicable  
180 appropriations Acts and other statutes, the rate of state investment and expenditures may  
181 be varied to whatever extent and in whatever manner the Governor may determine to be  
182 necessary for the purpose of assisting in assuring continuing full employment, with due  
183 consideration being given to current and anticipated variations in savings and in investment  
184 and expenditures by private business, consumers, county and local governments, and the  
185 state government.

186 50-41-8.

187 (a) The commission is charged with reinvesting state resources, fostering free enterprise,  
188 and ensuring that all Georgians seeking regular, full-time employment have a right to  
189 employment. To accomplish these priorities, the appropriated funds shall be used in the  
190 following ways:

191 (1) Infrastructure investments and maintenance preference for the construction of mass  
192 transit;

193 (2) Bringing Georgia toward 100 percent renewable energy;

194 (3) Hiring subsidies or wage subsidies in high demand careers and small businesses  
195 based on businesses' annual revenue;

196 (4) Hiring additional state employees such as teachers, public defenders, social workers,  
197 prosecutors, and police officers; and

198 (5)(A) Moonshot project, which involves a significant societal, technological, or  
199 infrastructure challenge such as eliminating disease, cancer, and prolonging life.

200 averting significant natural disasters and climate change, developing sustainable energy  
 201 solutions, improving transit, transportation, and others as deemed appropriate by the  
 202 Governor and the commission.

203 (B) The Governor shall submit the moonshot project in the first year of his or her term  
 204 to the commission. If a majority of the commission approves, the moonshot project  
 205 shall be included in the STRIVE Plan.

206 (C) Moonshot projects are only adopted once every Governor's term with the  
 207 expectation that the moonshot project will be completed or have made significant  
 208 progress toward the project's goal by the end of the Governor's term.

209 50-41-9.

210 (a) Anyone employed under a project funded by the commission shall:

211 (1) Receive a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour or the equivalent of other state  
 212 employees in similar positions, whichever is higher; and

213 (2) Receive full health care, dental, vision, retirement benefits, and other benefits  
 214 comparable to existing benefit options available to current state employees.

215 (b) The state shall not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex,  
 216 sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, family status, or national origin.

217 50-41-10.

218 (a) There is hereby established the State Investment Plan Fund.

219 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any revenue raised by the taxing of  
 220 legalized marijuana or tobacco products be dedicated to the State Investment Plan Fund.

221 50-41-11.

222 The heads of departments and organizations shall, at the request of any committee of either  
 223 house of the General Assembly, furnish such committee with such aid and information with  
 224 regard to the State Investment Plan as it may request.

225 50-41-12.

226 This chapter shall not provide for or authorize:

227 (1) The operation of plants, factories, or other production facilities by the state  
 228 government;

229 (2) The use of compulsory measures of any type whatsoever in determining the  
 230 allocation or distribution of manpower;

231 (3) Any change in the existing procedures on appropriations;

232 (4) The carrying out of, or any appropriations for, any program set forth in the State  
233 Investment Plan, unless such program shall have been authorized by provisions of law  
234 other than this chapter; or

235 (5) The disclosure of trade secrets or other information, the publication of which might  
236 have a harmful effect upon the firm or person supplying such information."

237 **SECTION 2.**

238 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.