The Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Policy Committee

we were closely tracking before the legislative session was suspended. Stay tuned. We intend to report in the next GGA Policy Update on the status of those bills

There are also changes to how advocates and lobbyists provide testimony during these hearings and engage with legislators at the Capitol, including:

- transitioning to in-person (but socially distanced) hearings only recently. A few other Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee hearings began virtually in early May, favoring revenue projection was released reflecting an 11 percent reduction in revenue.

On May 1, based on then-current revenue projections, agencies were directed to update FY 21 budget proposals to incorporate a 14 percent reduction from FY 20. In June, a more

To recap, at the time the session was suspended:

- Gov. Brian Kemp had presented an FY 21 budget to the legislature that included a 6 percent reduction from FY 20, spread equally across state agencies (with exceptions for some formula- or enrollment-driven functions).
- The House had passed a version of the FY 21 budget that restored some of the funding cut in the governor's budget proposal.
- Many bills crossed over from one chamber to the next on Crossover Day (March 12) keeping them viable for ultimate passage, and as potential vehicles for all or parts of other bills that did not cross over.

On May 1, based on then-current revenue projections, agencies were directed to update FY 21 budget proposals to incorporate a 14 percent reduction from FY 20. In June, a more favorable revenue projection was released reflecting an 11 percent reduction in revenue.

Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee hearings began virtually in early May, transitioning to in-person (but socially distanced) hearings only recently. A few other committees have held hearings as well. But if has hardly been "business as usual." For example:

- Major budget decisions – including the magnitude of cuts, whether to engage in more targeted cuts vs. across-the-board cut, and whether to layoff or furlough state employees – remain in flux. Some policymakers have suggested this is the most fluid they have ever seen budget negotiations at this point in the process.
- It is still unclear whether or what other legislation will be considere other than the budget. Hearings held this week will provide greater insight into which bills may move forward over.
- Technically, 11 legislative days remain, but justification can be made to reduce that number. That too will be made clear with the passage of an Adjournment Resolution by the chambers. There are also changes to how advocates and lobbyists provide testimony during these hearings and engage with legislators at the Capitol, including:

- An elaborate series of rules and protocols, still being finalized, to protect lawmakers and the public from contracting COVID-19.
- Changes to long-held House and Senate chamber rules, in addition to new guidelines for the movement of members and the public through the Capitol and Coverdale Legislative Office Building.
- Simultaneous in-person and remote (e.g., phone or Zoom) testimony, with remote testimony restricted to remote testifying members.
- Changes to long-held House and Senate chamber rules, in addition to new guidelines for the movement of members and the public through the Capitol and Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

Stay tuned. We intend to report in the next GGA Policy Update on the status of those bills we were closely tracking before the legislative session was suspended.

Sincerely,

The Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Policy Committee

Bobbie Cleveland (Chair)
The Tull Charitable Foundation

Lydia Carrera
Director, Georgia Grantmakers Alliance

Danielle Gray
Executive Director, APEX

Bobbie Horだって
Jesse Parker Williams Foundation

For more information or questions regarding the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance, please contact GGA staff liaison, S.E. Spencer.