

SB 63: Additional Cash Bail Offenses

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[SB 63](#) adds offenses to the list that require cash bail or indefinite jail time before trial for defendants. These offenses include failure to appear before court for a traffic offense and possession of marijuana. The bill also restricts the number of times that charities can assist people who can't afford to pay bail to three (3). This bill has passed both chambers of the Georgia General Assembly.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	This will disproportionately affect low-income people as they are least likely to be able to afford to pay bail for nonviolent crimes. This will further reduce their income, as they cannot work while in jail. Sen. Kim Jackson spoke on the Senate floor about her church congregation would no longer be allowed to bail out unhoused congregants facing criminal trespass charges, as they frequently do .			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	Majority Whip Sen. Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), the chief sponsor of the bill says that the bill is to protect communities from criminals, but research shows that cash bail has no impact on failure to appear in court or committing more pretrial crime.			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	Research shows that cash bail keeps marginalized and poor people in jail and has no effect on crime rates . Beyond that, research shows that cash bail can lead to a 9% increase in reoffense of convicted criminals . A 2022 study by the ACLU Georgia found that around half of individuals detained in Fulton County's jail system were eligible for release by bond, but unable to pay. This bill would only increase this number.			
Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight financial burden	3 - No financial burden
	This will burden poor and underserved communities, keeping them in jail indefinitely pretrial, also burdening the jail systems.			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 - Split along party lines.	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	97-69 House 30-17 Senate			

Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
There is available and measured data that this bill does not account for.				