

Luke Barton

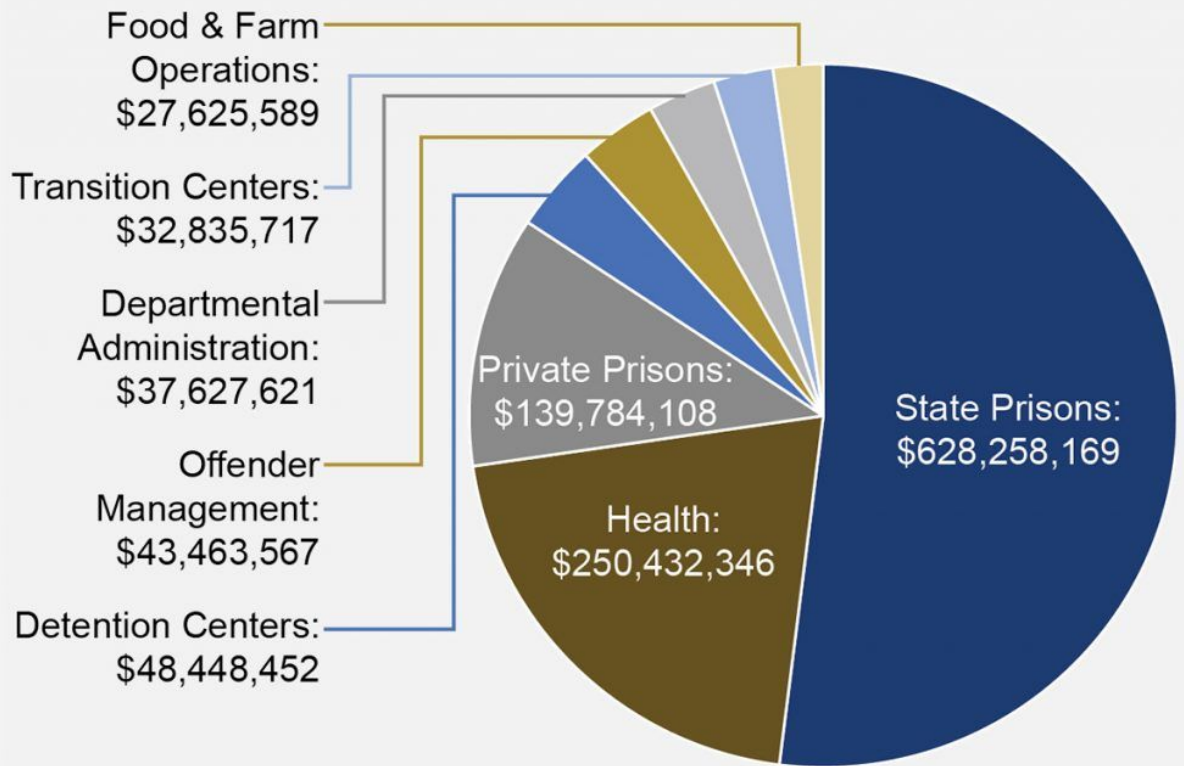
English 1101

Current Costs of Incarceration in GA (taxpayer dollars)

The amount of taxes that the citizens have paid for incarceration has grown exponentially over the past 30 years. Nathan Deal, a former judge, wanted to start considering reforms to the criminal justice and judiciary systems so he took a look at the recent history of incarceration in Georgia. Deal noticed that the state housed 56,000 inmates, which was twice as many as 20 years earlier. Deal also noticed the huge racial disparity in the prison population meaning blacks were much more likely to go to prison than whites or Mexicans. Many of these inmates are in for low-level crimes including theft, drug charges, and property crimes therefore they would pose little safety risk if they were let out.

While the number of inmates in Georgia doubled, so did the cost of keeping them in there. The taxpayers of Georgia have had to pay more over the years for the incarceration of thousands of low-risk inmates all due to the over incarceration going on in America today. In Georgia, the average cost per inmate is \$19,997 and the state spent \$921,844,210 on these inmates in total.

Most of Corrections Budget Spent on Prisons



Source: Georgia's 2020 Fiscal Year Budget (HB 31), signed by the governor

GEORGIA BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE  GBPI.org

Sources:

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