

No. 63*

(House Joint Resolution 119)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

**Reduction/Increase Budget Format, Program
Evaluation and Coordination with Executive Plans**

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to submit with the FY 1979 budget bill a detailed list from each agency of the programs, positions, and costs which it would elect to cut or increase if its budget were reduced by 10 percent or increased by 5 percent; requesting that this list be accompanied by a plan for retention of any State employees affected by proposed program eliminations; and placing certain conditions on transfers and retentions under any proposed eliminations; requesting that the Governor submit with the budget bill a statistical summary of each program; and requesting that this information be coordinated with the Executive Plans of the agencies.

WHEREAS, Inflation in the cost of State government has in recent years begun to outstrip the growth of State revenues, forcing people of the State to choose between tax increases or reductions in expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Under present budget procedures, the executive delivers to the General Assembly a single-level budget, requesting the executive's final decisions concerning spending priorities, in balance with a revenue estimate which also requests the executive's final decisions concerning taxing policies and priorities, all of which requires the General Assembly, if it is to consider alternative levels of spending and taxing, to develop such alternatives independently, to do so within the relatively short time between delivery of the executive's budget and the deadline for legislative decision, in that benefit of input from the State agencies; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly in 1976 investigated alternative budget procedures, including "zero-base budgeting" as practiced in Georgia and elsewhere, and has conducted a demonstration project in multiple-level budget presentation with the Highway Maintenance Division of the State Highway Administration, pursuant to House Joint Resolution 142 (1976 Session); and