



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

**Greg S. Griffin**  
State Auditor

February 16, 2026

Honorable Carden Summers  
Chairman, Banking and Financial Institutions  
121-J State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
Senate Bill 424 (LC 62 0280)

Dear Chairman Summers:

The bill would recognize gold and silver specie (i.e., coin) as legal tender for use in the payment of debts, taxes, fees, and other obligations in Georgia. The bill would also modify code related to Office of the State Treasurer to include the creation of a Bullion Depository Commission. The Commission would be responsible for operating a bullion depository directly or contracting with a depository agent to operate a bullion depository. The Commission must authorize an electronic payment system to enable participating vendors to receive and process payments from an account holder of a bullion depository. While gold and silver specie would be recognized as legal tender, 'persons' as defined in the bill – including individuals, corporations, state government, and local governments - would not be required to accept it as payment.

It is likely that this bill could be implemented without the use of additional state funds. For both the bullion depository and the electronic payment system, vendors typically cover up front and operational expenses and recoup their costs through services charges to the end user. Additionally, the Commission members would serve without compensation and would only be reimbursed for per diem costs. The Department of Revenue would also be able to implement the provisions of the bill with existing resources.

## **Depository**

The Office of the Treasurer would likely enter into a no cost agreement with a private operator or another state that operates a depository. Costs for storage would be borne by those with assets in the depository. The Office of the State Treasurer anticipates administrative activities such as rulemaking and contracting would be performed by existing agency staff. According to an interview with an industry official, state treasury officials typically support the commissions without dedicated staff.

We identified one state—Texas—that employs three staff for its dedicated bullion depository. In Texas, the state contracted with a vendor to build and operate a state depository overseen by the Bullion Depository Commission. The vendor provided funds for construction and operation of the depository, and it recovers its investment through fees on depositors. The state funds three positions, two who provide management oversight and a peace officer. OST officials indicated that if additional oversight of a state-contracted bullion depository were required, two officials at a combined cost of \$247,000 annually would be utilized.

**Electronic Payment System**

The bill requires the Commission to authorize an electronic payment system to facilitate transactions made pursuant to this bill. Precious metals backed electronic payment systems are digital platforms that allow users to store and transact using units backed by physical precious metals, primarily gold and silver. These systems, which currently exist, allow users to maintain accounts denominated in gold or silver and spend from those accounts using debit cards or mobile applications. If the state authorized an existing vendor, there would be no cost to the state as the fees would be paid by the user.

Respectfully,



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State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mb