



January 27, 2023

Welcome to GHLA @ the Capitol, your weekly update about news you need to know related to Georgia's lodging industry and the 2023 General Assembly. GHLA's legislative team will be your eyes and ears under the Gold Dome.

Legislative Schedule

This week the General Assembly was in session Monday-Thursday for legislative days 5-8.

The legislature will convene again on Monday, January 30 for Day 9.

For the full legislative schedule, view the [adjournment resolution](#).

2023 State of the State

On Wednesday, Governor Kemp gave his annual "State of the State" address, in which the Governor presents his goals for the upcoming year and recaps some of the highlights from the previous year. He started with the economic achievements, with Georgia earning the title of "#1 State for Business" for the 9th year in a row. That honor will hopefully be continued; in the first half of Fiscal Year 23 there are 17,500 new jobs being created, 85% being in rural areas, and more than \$13 billion in investments coming to Georgia.

Surplus money is being invested in our teachers and state workers, with an additional \$2,000 pay raise in the new budget in addition to the \$5,000 last year. Between the FY 23 and 24 budget, an additional \$1.9 billion went to education and to fully fund the QBE formula.

Other priorities of this legislative session include addressing workforce housing issues through the creation of the Rural Workforce Housing fund and continuing to focus on public safety through the Gang Prosecution Unit, proposing legislation that would increase penalties for those trying to recruit youth. Within the first 6 months of this unit, 50 gang members have already been prosecuted.

Read more about the address [here](#).

2023 Senate Priorities



On Thursday, the Senate Republican Caucus spoke on the majority party's policies goals for this session. Tax policy will be a continued priority, both in rebates for income and property taxes, as well as examining existing tax credits.

Additional priorities include:

- Laying the groundwork for the continued electrification of transportation.
- Aggressive bail bond reform for violent offenses.
- Expansion of telehealth services for rural and underserved communities.

Read more [here](#).

Legislative Tracking Update / Top Additions to GHLA's Watchlist

House

[HB40](#) - Rep. Marvin Lim (D-Norcross) - To provide an exemption from county and municipal excise taxes on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations for charges paid by

means of hotel/motel vouchers certified by the Department of Community Affairs or any local government designated as an entitlement community.

[HB68](#) - Rep. Mandisha Thomas (D-South Fulton) - Supporting Working Parents Act to increase tax benefits to available employers that offer certain childcare services for employers.

[HB78](#) - Rep. Kimberly Alexander (D-Hiram) - Requiring employers to provide paid sick leave for employees.

Senate

[SB 7](#) - Senator Brandon Beach (R- Alpharetta) - Firearm or Knife; commission of or attempt to commit certain crimes; minimum mandatory terms for certain crimes

[SB 10](#) - Senator Emanuel Jones (D- Decatur) - Offenses Against Public Order And Motor Vehicles and Traffic; knowingly attending and facilitating an illegal drag race or a laying drags exhibition; punishment; provide

[SB 11](#) - Senator John Albers (R- Roswell) - "Georgia Fights Terrorism Act"

[SB 12](#) - Senator John Albers (R- Roswell) - "Protecting Victims and Dismantling Georgia Street Gangs Act"

Hotel Tax Updates

[HB57](#)- Representative Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia) Tallulah Falls, Town of; levy an excise tax.

[HB58](#)- Representative Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia) Sky Valley, City of; levy an excise tax.

[HB59](#)- Representative Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia) Rabun County; levy an excise tax.

[HB60](#)- Representative Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia) Clayton, City of; levy an excise tax.

[HB61](#)- Representative Victor Anderson(R-Cornelia) Dillard, City of; levy an excise tax.

[SB 6](#) - Senator Max Burns (R- Sylvania) City of Sylvania;

GHLA Full Legislative Tracking Update

Please [click here to go to our Legislative tracking page](#) for the complete list of bills we are watching.