



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



January 13, 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 Session Begins

This Monday, January 9, 2023, the Georgia General Assembly convened the 2023 legislature, signifying the start of the legislative session under the Gold Dome.

Legislative Schedule

On Legislative Day 1, something historic happened, with the House and Senate setting the schedule of the entirety of the 2023 Legislative Session. The [adjournment resolution](#) scheduled all 40 non-consecutive Legislative Days with Crossover Day being March 6 and Sine Die being March 29.

Governor Kemp Sworn in for Second Term

This week, Governor Brian Kemp, along with statewide officials were officially sworn into office. Additionally, [the Governor's office released the administration's budget priorities](#). While the legislature will not be in session next week, the Appropriations committee will be hearing budget presentations from state agency leaders.

House and Senate Leadership Announcements

New leadership was confirmed on the first day of the 2023 Georgia General Assembly Session. Rep. Jon Burns (R-Newington) has been tasked with taking the role of Speaker of the House after the retirement and unfortunate passing of former House Speaker David Ralston. In the Senate, Lt. Geoff Duncan declined to seek reelection, while President Pro Tempore Butch Miller stepped down to run for higher office. Burt Jones was sworn in this week as Georgia's new lieutenant governor and President of the Senate.

Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon) will become the new President Pro Tempore. These leadership changes will make for an interesting 2023 session, where important issues are being discussed, such as healthcare, education funding, and workforce housing. With nearly 6 billion

in surplus from last year, the Governor and legislators will have much to decide about how to spend the surplus money.

Further, [this week the Senate announced committee chair assignments for this term](#), and the House is anticipated to do the same by the end of next week.

Hotel Operations and Management Standards

This week the State Board of Education approved the adoption of the [Georgia Standards of Excellence for Hotel Operations and Management](#), which will subsequently be added to the State-Funded List of K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses. The incorporation of these standards in the school curriculum will increase interest in the industry and ideally lead to more qualified individuals ready to join the hospitality workforce.

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

Workforce Housing

At the annual Georgia Chamber's Eggs & Issues breakfast this week, [Gov. Kemp noted workforce housing as a focus for his administration this session](#). He asserted that while Georgia has been successful at attracting new companies and industries to the state, the influx of new residents has created a shortage in workforce housing availability. The Governor specifically cited burdensome local regulations as a hurdle to the expansion of affordable housing. As coalitions form around this policy argument, GHLA will report on any relevant legislation.

Bills Added to Tracking

[HB1](#) - Georgia Pro-Birth Accountability Act.

[HB14](#) - Income Tax; tax credit for employers that employ certified workforce-ready graduates.

[HB15](#) - Broadband Equity Task Force.

[HB16](#) - Labor and industrial relations; use of sick leave for care of immediate family members; extend sunset provisions.

[SB1](#) - State government; automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services; remove.

[SB2](#) - Torts; certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; provisions.

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