



## **2-13-2026 GHLA Capitol Report Week 5**

Welcome to GHLA @ the Capitol, your weekly update about news you need to know related to Georgia's lodging industry and the 2026 General Assembly. GHLA's legislative team will be your eyes and ears under the Gold Dome.

### **Senate Advances Income Tax Reduction Package**

One of the Senate's top priorities this session moved forward in a significant way on Thursday, as the Georgia Senate worked well into the afternoon to pass a sweeping income tax reduction package. The legislation represents the first major step toward eliminating the state personal income tax by 2032.

The package includes SB 476 and SB 477, both sponsored by Sen. Blake Tillery. SB 476 would deduct \$50,000 from individual filers' taxable income and \$100,000 from joint filers' taxable income beginning in 2027, effectively eliminating income tax liability for roughly two-thirds of Georgia taxpayers. The proposal would be funded in large part by eliminating or sunseting roughly 10% of special interest tax credits, including a number of business-related incentives.

SB 477 provides an alternative rate-based approach, lowering the flat income tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99% in 2026, then 4.49% in 2027, and 3.99% in 2028, contingent on revenue growth benchmarks. The corporate income tax would also be reduced.

The minority party opposed the legislation, raising concerns about long-term budget impacts and characterizing the proposal as an election-year tax strategy. Supporters framed it as historic relief focused on affordability and middle-class taxpayers.

The package now moves to the House, setting up what will likely be one of the most significant negotiations of the session. While the Senate is prioritizing income tax elimination as its affordability solution, House leadership has made clear that property tax reform remains its top focus.

## **HB 1179 Heard in House Ways & Means Subcommittee**

This week, HB 1179 was heard in the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Ad Valorem.

HB 1179 strengthens oversight and transparency surrounding the use of local hotel-motel tax dollars and the designation of destination marketing organizations. The bill removes the existing revenue threshold that limits when disputes may have reviewed and instead routes concerns to the Hotel-Motel Tax Performance Review Board, while establishing clearer procedures and standards for evaluating changes.

The GHLA team spoke in favor of the legislation, emphasizing the importance of accountability, eliminating any "shenanigans," and ensuring that hotel-motel tax dollars are used strictly as intended to promote the destinations where those dollars are generated. HB 1179 is expected to be heard in the full Ways and Means Committee next week.



*GHLA Legislative Director, Trent Nesbit, testifies in support of HB1179 to the House Subcommittee of Ways and Means*

## **SB 456 - Craft Brewery Direct Sales**

GHLA is also tracking and supporting SB 456, which was heard Tuesday in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee. No vote was taken.

The bill would loosen certain restrictions on Georgia craft breweries by allowing limited direct wholesale sales to retailers within the same county and removing the daily cap on to-go purchases for individuals. Supporters argue the measure would provide needed flexibility for small breweries to build their brand locally and remain competitive. Opponents have raised concerns about changes to Georgia's long-standing three-tier alcohol distribution system.

GHLA supports SB 456 and will continue monitoring the legislation as it advances.

### **HB 61 "No Pay, No Stay" - Next Stop: Senate Rules**

HB 61 remains a top priority and has now passed out of the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill awaits consideration in the Senate Rules Committee before heading to the Senate floor. We remain extremely focused on HB 61 and will be prepared to take immediate action once the bill moves out of Rules and onto the Senate floor calendar.

### **Human Trafficking Prevention & Stop Online Booking Scams Act**

The language in HB 490 continues to be perfected, and we expect it to return to the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee next week. On the Senate side, similar training language is being used in legislation by Senator Shawn Still, with language still being refined.

GHLA also continues working closely with Senator Sonya Halpern to advance the Stop Online Booking Scams Act (SB 416), which targets deceptive third-party booking websites and requires clear consumer disclosures. The legislation remains an important consumer protection priority for the industry this session.

### **Legislative Tracking Update:**

#### **House Bills:**

[HB 1233](#) - Local government; waive development impact fees for certain projects related to development of affordable or workforce housing; authorize

[HB 1237](#) - Pollution Prevention and Producer Responsibility Act of 2026; enact

[HB 1251](#) - Right to Information for Homeowners Act; enact

[HB 1252](#) - Homes for Georgians First Act; enact

[HB 1268](#) - Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize and correct errors in omissions

[HB 1274](#) - Auto Insurance Excess Profits Act; enact

[HB 1285](#) - Sales and use tax; limit number of local sales and use taxes by authorizing counties; revise provisions

[HB 1291](#) - Income tax; certain costs in providing a transportation benefit to certain

employees; provide credit

[HB 1298](#) - Sales and use tax; exempt retail sale of electricity and natural gas for use by any residential property

[HB 1302](#) - Education and Workforce Strategy Act; enact

[HB 1306](#) - Transactional Gold and Silver Act; enact

[HB 1310](#) - State symbols; cotton as official state fabric; designate

[HB 1311](#) - Survivor Civil Protection Act; enact

[HB 1314](#) - Banking and finance; require licensees to disclose whether a transaction is reportable to a credit reporting agency

### **House Resolutions:**

[HR 1269](#) - No Lead in My Water Act; urge enactment

[HR 1348](#) - School superintendent; qualifications, duties, and salary shall be established by the board of education and elected by voters; provide - CA

### **Senate Bills:**

[SB 470](#) - "Emergency & Public Safety Signal Protection Act"; enact

[SB 474](#) - State Income Tax; overtime compensation from taxation; exclude

[SB 476](#) - "Income Tax Reduction Act of 2026"; enact

[SB 477](#) - Income Taxes; personal income tax rate; reduce

[SB 478](#) - Outdoor Stewardship; provide for a sunset

[SB 483](#) - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; covered immigration officers to wear body cameras during public immigration enforcement functions; require

[SB 486](#) - Laws and Statutes; provisions relating to the effect and enforcement of foreign laws; revise

[SB 487](#) - Education Workforce Data Governance Advisory Committee; within the Office of Student Achievement; establish

[SB 495](#) - "Age-Appropriate Design Code Act"; enact

[SB 496](#) - Annexation of Territory; certain annexations are contingent upon approval of the county in which the subject property is located; provide

[SB 498](#) - Georgia Charter School Facilities Authority; establish

[SB 502](#) - "The Affordability Act of 2026"; enact

[SB 503](#) - Insurance; rental home marketplace guarantees from the definition of property insurance; exempt

[SB 504](#) - Commissioner of Insurance; lobbying restrictions within five years after leaving office; provide

[SB 505](#) - "Georgia Prior Approval for Consumer Insurance Rates Act"; enact

[SB 507](#) - Underwriting and Rate Risking; use of credit information and credit scores in

underwriting, rating risks, adverse actions, or certain other actions by insurance companies; prohibit

[SB 508](#) - "Community Housing Options Increase Efficiency (CHOICE) Act"; enact

[SB 511](#) - "Georgia River Heritage Act"; enact

[SB 512](#) - "Consumer Inflation Reduction and Tax Fairness Act"; enact

**Senate Resolutions:**

[SR 771](#) - Senate Study Committee on Adoption and Permanency Affordability; create

**[GHLA Full Legislative Tracking Update](#)**

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

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