



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



2-20-2026 GHLA Capitol Report Week 6

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.

Tourism Day at The Capitol

Please join GHLA and our industry partners at the Capitol on March 5th to showcase the economic impact of Georgia's hospitality sector. We will gather at the Capitol steps at 1:30 PM for a special presentation to Governor Kemp. We encourage you to bring your team members to help demonstrate our industry's significant reach.

This event is also an ideal time to meet with your elected officials. Please contact their offices directly to schedule appointments. GHLA can provide talking points regarding active legislation affecting our industry.

For more details [click here](#). Registration will be available soon. You are welcome to attend any portion of the day that your schedule allows.

SB 522 - Rental Car Fee Proposal for Tourism Funding

This week, Senate Economic Development and Tourism Chairman Drew Echols introduced SB 522, which would establish a new \$5.00 per day fee on rental motor vehicles beginning July 1, 2026.

Under the proposal, rental car companies would collect the fee at the time of payment and remit the proceeds monthly to the Department of Revenue. Temporary replacement vehicles rented due to breakdown, repair, or damage would be exempt.

The legislation provides that, subject to appropriations, at least 20% of the fees collected would be made available exclusively for tourism purposes in Georgia. Chairman Echols also served as chairman of the Senate Study Committee on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism over the summer, and the introduction of this

legislation signals his continued interest in identifying mechanisms to support and strengthen the tourism industry.

GHLA will be closely monitoring this bill as it moves through the legislative process.

HB 376 - Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Revisions

HB 376, sponsored by Rep. Scott Hilton, passed out the House Ways and Means Committee this week.

The bill revises Georgia's historic rehabilitation tax credit by increasing the minimum expenditure thresholds and adjusting credit percentages and annual caps. For historic homes, the credit remains 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures, with an additional 5% available in designated target areas. For other certified structures, the credit would decrease from 25% to 20% for credits issued on or after January 1, 2026, with an additional 10% available for qualifying rural projects.

The bill also raises statewide annual cap for non-home certified structures from \$30 million to \$60 million. GHLA will continue monitoring the legislation as it moves forward.

HB 490 Advances - Human Trafficking Prevention Training

HB 490 passed out of the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee this week. GHLA testified in support of the legislation, which requires human trafficking prevention training for hotel and short-term rental properties statewide.

A senate version of the same legislation, sponsored by Senator Shawn Still, is expected to be introduced today. (2/20/2026)



GHLA's President and CEO, Chris Hardman, testifies in support of HB 490

Key Priorities - Actively Tracking

As March 6 Crossover Day approaches, several GHLA priority bills remain in motion.

HB 61 - "No Pay, No Stay"

HB 61 has cleared committee and now awaits placement on the Senate floor calendar. The bill provides needed clarity by requiring law enforcement to remove individuals from hotel and motel properties who refuse to pay and refuse to leave. We remain closely engaged and will be ready to mobilize support when the bill is called to the floor.

HB 1179 - Hotel-Motel Tax Accountability

We continue working directly with the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee to move HB 1179 forward. The legislation strengthens oversight and transparency surrounding hotel-motel tax usage and destination marketing organization governance, ensuring funds are used as intended.

SB 456 Craft Brewery Direct Sales

SB 456, which would provide additional flexibility for small brewers by loosening certain wholesale and to-go sales restrictions, was heard in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee but did not receive a vote this week. GHLA supports the bill and continues to monitor its movement.

Stop Online Booking Scams Act (SB 416)

We remain actively engaged with Senator Sonya Halpern to advance the Stop Online Booking Scams Act, which addresses deceptive third-party booking websites and requires clear consumer disclosures prior to completing a reservation.

Legislative Tracking Update:

House Bills:

[HB 1315](#) - Georgia Landowners Protection Act; enact

[HB 1317](#) - Fort Oglethorpe, City of; levy an excise tax

[HB 1321](#) - Cartersville, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption

[HB 1322](#) - Crimes and offenses; riot; repeal misdemeanor penalty and provide for a felony penalty

[HB 1326](#) - Income tax; living wage jobs; provide tax credit

[HB 1331](#) - Georgia Minimum Wage Law; minimum wage pay to workers whose compensation consists wholly or partially of gratuities; provide

[HB 1334](#) - Georgia-Africa and Caribbean Trade Commission; create

[HB 1338](#) - Savannah, City of; ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; homestead exemption; provisions

[HB 1342](#) - Highways; procedures and remedies when a highway improvement project is delayed due to removal, relocation, or adjustment of utility facilities; provide

[HB 1344](#) - Georgia Insurance Affordability and Claims Integrity Act; enact

[HB 1353](#) - Excise tax; rooms, lodgings, and accommodations; exclude usufructs from assessments

[HB 1355](#) - Workers' compensation; update law on experience modification factors, refusal of suitable employment procedures, and certain benefits

[HB 1360](#) - Revenue and taxation; refunds of taxes and license fees by counties and municipalities; prohibit class action suits

[HB 1364](#) - Property; nonjudicial foreclosures on time-share estates; provisions

[HB 1370](#) - Income tax; exclude a portion of overtime compensation and cash tips

[HB 1371](#) - Georgia Secure Tomorrow Act of 2026; enact

[HB 1372](#) - Agriculture; prohibit certain foreign persons and entities from acquiring a possessory interest in land located near critical infrastructure without prior approval by the Attorney General

[HB 1373](#) - Gambling; criminal prohibitions on gambling for coin operated amusement machines; revise certain exceptions

[HB 1379](#) - Foreign Funding Transparency and Accountability Act; enact

[HB 1386](#) - Local government; county development authorities for certain counties shall not operate within certain municipalities; provide

[HB 1387](#) - Ad valorem tax; state-wide homestead exemption in an amount as determined from proceeds generated from collection of certain ad valorem property taxes on data centers

[HB 1388](#) - Buildings; traffic impact analysis required to obtain a building permit be completed within 36 months of the project's substantial completion; require

[HB 1389](#) - Property; dispossessory proceedings; extend a notice to vacate or pay to seven days

[HB 1390](#) - Motor vehicles; declare vehicles used in the commission of reckless stunt driving offenses contraband and authorize forfeiture

[HB 1396](#) - State government; require certain privately funded organizations that operate a shelter or provide outreach services to homeless individuals participate in the Georgia Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

[HB 1399](#) - Georgia Likeness, Expression, Generative AI, and Commercial Yield (LEGACY) Act; enact

[HB 1400](#) - Georgia Artist-Promoter Fair Practices Act; enact

House Resolutions:

[HR 1371](#) - House Study Committee on Code Revisions for Autonomous Vehicles; create

[HR 1392](#) - Ad valorem tax; qualified low-income building projects may be classified as a separate class of property; provide - CA

[HR 1393](#) - House Study Committee on Rural Hospitals; create

[HR 1416](#) - Joint Study Committee on Generational Sustainability of Family Farms; create

[HR 1418](#) - State-wide sales and use tax; property tax relief in counties or consolidated governments; provide - CA

Senate Bills:

[SB 517](#) - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; use of immigration detention centers in this state for two years; prohibit

[SB 520](#) - State Income Tax Rates; revise; Code Section 20-2A-4; repeal and reserve

[SB 521](#) - Specialized Land Transactions; a residency requirement for board members and officers of condominium associations and property owners' associations; establish

[SB 522](#) - Excise Taxes on Rental Motor Vehicles; fee on rental motor vehicles; provide

[SB 527](#) - Sheriffs; candidates for the office of sheriff are certified peace officers at the time of qualifying as a candidate; require

[SB 530](#) - Georgia Property Tax Fairness Fund; create

[SB 540](#) - Online Internet Safety; certain disclosures related to conversational AI services; require

Senate Resolutions:

[SR 789](#) - Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence; create

[SR 800](#) - Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms;
create

[SR 811](#) - Georgia Property Tax Fairness Fund; General Assembly shall be authorized to
provide by law to expend or authorize the expenditure of public funds; provide -CA

GHLA Full Legislative Tracking Update

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

[Visit our main page.](#)