



## **1-23-2026 GHLA Capitol Report Week 2**

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.

### **Governor Declares State of Emergency Ahead of Winter Storm**

On January 22, Governor Brian Kemp declared a statewide State of Emergency ahead of Winter Storm Fern, which is expected to impact much of Georgia through the weekend. The declaration activates the State Operations Center and allows state agencies to mobilize resources in preparation for freezing precipitation, hazardous travel conditions, and potential power outages.

The State of Emergency runs through January 29, 2026, and includes provisions prohibiting price gouging, suspending hours-of-service limits for commercial drivers involved in response efforts, and temporarily increasing size and weight limits for vehicles transporting essential supplies. GHLA will continue monitoring developments and will share hospitality-specific guidance as conditions evolve.

For more winter weather preparedness tips, visit [gema.georgia.gov/winter](https://gema.georgia.gov/winter).

Go to [gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare/ready-georgia](https://gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare/ready-georgia) for information on developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.

### **No Room for Trafficking Press Conference**

GHLA hosted a successful No Room for Trafficking press conference Thursday afternoon at the Georgia State House alongside Attorney General Chris Carr and State Senator Shawn Still (R-District 48), reaffirming and strengthening Georgia's leadership on this issue.

Attorney General Carr and Senator Still were joined by leaders from the Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, and IHG Hotels & Resorts. Speakers emphasized the critical role hotels play in identifying and responding to trafficking and highlighted the importance of standardized prevention training across the entire lodging sector.

During the event, participants announced the Human Trafficking and Training Act, legislation that will be carried by Senator Shawn Still and would require human trafficking prevention training for all lodging businesses, including short-term rentals. The legislation represents one of GHLA's top priorities this session.

Speakers noted that human trafficking prevention training has long been standard practice at many Georgia hotels and emphasized the need to extend that standard across the broader travel ecosystem. As Georgia prepares to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the industry reiterated its commitment to sending a clear and unified message that there is No Room for Trafficking in Georgia.



### **Stop Online Booking Scams Act (SB 416) Introduced**

Last week, Senator Sonya Halpern introduced SB 416, the Stop Online Booking Scams Act, another key GHLA priority this session. The bill targets deceptive third-party hotel booking websites that misrepresent their affiliation with hotels.

SB 416 amends Georgia's Fair Business Practices Act to designate such misrepresentation as an unlawful and deceptive trade practice. The legislation would require third-party booking platforms to clearly and conspicuously disclose that they are not directly affiliated

with the hotel being booked and that the consumer is not booking directly with the property. These disclosures must appear prominently and before any personal information is entered, strengthening consumer protections while preserving brand integrity for lodging operators.

## **Budget Week Under the Gold Dome**

This week marked budget week at the Capitol, during which state agencies present their funding requests to the Joint Appropriations Committee as lawmakers begin shaping the Amended FY 2026 and FY 2027 budgets.

During the hearings, Pat Wilson, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, highlighted the Governor's proposed \$3 million increase in tourism marketing funding. Commissioner Wilson emphasized that 2026 presents a unique opportunity to maximize the global exposure Georgia will receive from the World Cup, noting plans to use the funding for a large-scale activation at the Georgia World Congress Center to showcase communities and businesses from across the state. Additional uses include website upgrades, business recruitment efforts, and \$110,000 allocation tied to America's 250th anniversary.

## **Legislative Tracking Update**

### **House Bills:**

[HB 1000](#) - Income tax; one-time tax credit for individual taxpayers who filed income tax returns for the 2024 and 2025 taxable years; provide

[HB 1001](#) - Income tax; reduce rate of tax

[HB 1007](#) - Essential Services for Renters Act; enact

[HB 1012](#) - Local government; construction or development of new data centers for a specified time; prohibit

[HB 1013](#) - State symbols; Georgia state chicken wing flavor; designate lemon pepper

### **House Resolutions:**

[HR 1032](#) - House Study Committee on Raising the Minimum Wage in Georgia; create

[HR 1033](#) - State government; changes to apportionment and districts of the General Assembly and Congress shall only be made in the first odd-numbered year subsequent to each United States decennial census; provide - CA

### **Senate Bills:**

[SB 413](#) - Landlord and Tenant; residential rental or lease agreement terminations if a tenant or a legal occupant of a residence experienced residential firearm violence; provide

[SB 414](#) - "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975"; transparency and fairness with respect to rent pricing for residential properties; encourage

[SB 415](#) - Advertising and Sale of Meat; prohibit any person from producing, selling, trading, distributing for human consumption any lab-grown meat

[SB 416](#) - "Stop Online Booking Scams Act"; enact

[SB 417](#) - Public Officers and Employees; public employees to self-organize or to be represented by a labor organization and bargain collectively with the state; authorize

[SB 419](#) - "Eric's ID Law

[SB 421](#) - "The Data Center Transparency Act"; enact

### **[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.](#)