



January 24, 2025

Welcome to GHLA @ the Capitol, your weekly update about news you need to know related to Georgia's lodging industry and the 2025 General Assembly. GHLA's legislative team will be your eyes and ears under the Gold Dome.

Legislative Schedule

The House and Senate Joint Appropriations hearings, along with several House Appropriations subcommittees, were postponed this week due to inclement weather. During budget week, the House and Senate typically hear the Governor's proposed budget and requests for annual funding from State Agencies. We are waiting to see how these hearings will be rescheduled. The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, January 27th, for Legislative Day 6.

Call to Action: Hotel Caring

You are invited to participate in the brief survey below by adding the charitable efforts led by your hotel to the Georgia Hotel Caring campaign. You're encouraged to submit all philanthropic activities that took place in 2024. Specific details such as hours of volunteering or number of room nights donated will be requested. The details collected will be used to illustrate that hospitality extends far beyond hotel walls and helps shape thriving communities.

This survey will ask about the various forms of giving that your organization could have been involved in (e.g. cash or in-kind contributions, fundraisers, food/supply drives, employee initiatives, refugee support, trainings, etc.). It is estimated to take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The details collected will be used to illustrate that hospitality extends far beyond hotel walls and helps shape thriving communities.

The survey will close on January 31st.

[\[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY\]](#)

"We invite you to share in celebrating your generosity. Our dedication to serving guests, strengthening our community, and fostering a spirit of kindness among ourselves is not about seeking praise, but about embodying the values that guide us every day." Ramon Reyes, GHLA Chairman

[Hotel Caring](#) is an initiative started by the California Hotel & Lodging Association in partnership with Oxford Economics to showcase the positive social impact our industry has on

local communities. The project was piloted in San Diego early in 2024. In 2025, the project expanded to include more states: **Georgia**, Illinois, Maryland, and Massachusetts.

Georgia hoteliers have big hearts and I hope you will make the time to complete the survey.

Call To Action: Litigation / Insurance Reform

"Support Tort Reform to Protect Georgia's Hospitality Industry – Act Today!"

Georgia's hospitality industry is the backbone of our state's economy, welcoming millions of visitors every year and creating countless jobs. But rising costs, fueled by a broken civil litigation system, are making it harder for hotels to thrive. Governor Kemp has made tort reform a top legislative priority, and now is the time to act to ensure our industry's future success.

Here's how you can help secure a better legal system for Georgia's hotels:

1. **Email Your Legislators** – Visit www.JusticeNotJackpots.com to urge your State Senator and Representative to support comprehensive tort reform.
2. **Contact Your Lawmakers Directly** – If you have relationships with your local legislators, call or text them and explain how vital tort reform is for Georgia's hospitality sector.
3. **Share This Message** – Forward this email to fellow hoteliers, industry partners, and colleagues. Encourage them to join the fight for meaningful reform that will protect our businesses.

Why this matters: Georgia's hotels and the broader hospitality industry rely on a fair and balanced legal system to operate efficiently and continue driving economic growth. Excessive litigation costs are making it harder to invest in employees, maintain properties, and deliver the world-class service our state is known for.

Let's ensure Georgia remains a premier destination for travelers and a great place to do business.

Make your voice heard today! Visit JusticeNotJackpots.com now to take action. Together, we can achieve the reform our industry needs."

Governor Kemp's Budget Proposal: AFY25 and FY26 Highlights

Appropriation hearings had been scheduled this week, but with the impact of winter weather, Governor Kemp issued a press release detailing his amended fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026 budget proposals. A summary can be found below.

Governor Kemp's proposed budget builds on six years of conservative fiscal management, prioritizing relief for Hurricane Helene recovery, tax cuts, infrastructure investment, public safety, healthcare, education, and retirement funding.

Key Initiatives:

1. Hurricane Helene Recovery (\$614M)
 - \$300M for debris cleanup, road repairs, and signage replacement.
 - \$100M for financial relief to agriculture and timber industries.

- \$150M for FEMA cost-sharing and direct aid.
 - \$50M to repair state facilities and bolster property insurance funds.
2. Tax Relief for Georgians
 - Additional \$7.5B in tax cuts over the next decade by accelerating reductions (20 basis points).
 - Total tax relief since 2021: \$7.6B.
 3. Infrastructure Investments (\$2.2B)
 - \$1.1B for community-level projects, including water and road assistance grants.
 - \$1.1B for Department of Transportation freight infrastructure projects.
 4. Education Investments (\$1B+)
 - Fully funding Pre-K to higher education.
 - Reducing class sizes, supporting HOPE scholarships, and securing K-12 schools.
 - \$141M for the new Promise Scholarship program.
 5. Healthcare Expansion
 - \$150M for medical school funding to address physician shortages.
 - \$36M for Medicaid to cover cutting-edge treatments for conditions like sickle cell disease.
 6. Public Safety Enhancements (\$603M)
 - Recruiting and retaining corrections staff.
 - Strengthening prison facilities and improving inmate management.
 - Expanding human trafficking prosecution units to new regions.
 7. Retirement System Investments (\$500M)
 - Additional \$500M to boost the funded ratio of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS).
 8. Debt Reduction
 - Funding state capital needs without issuing new debt, saving taxpayers over \$3B.

Outcomes

- Maintains Georgia's AAA credit rating.
- Strengthens the state's position as the No. 1 state for business for 11 consecutive years.
- Provides relief to families, invests in communities, and ensures long-term economic growth.

Governor Kemp's budget reflects a commitment to conservative principles, taxpayer relief, and strategic investments to keep Georgia thriving as a top place to live, work, and do business.

The Office of Planning and Budget has posted Governor Kemp's Amended Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposals [HERE](#).

"Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025"

Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced that the "Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025", a state-level deregulation initiative, will be a priority for the 2025 Legislative Session. The Act aims to reduce government regulation, boost small businesses, and expand economic opportunities throughout Georgia. It supports President Trump's DOGE plan to enhance efficiency and minimize the size and scope of government while encouraging business growth throughout our state.

The Act requires state agencies to review all agency rules and regulations comprehensively every four years and provide economic impact reports to the General Assembly for proposed major rules. It directs state agencies to reduce compliance and paperwork burdens on small

businesses and allows legislators to request a "Small Business Impact Analysis" for pending legislation to understand its potential impact on small businesses.

You can read the press release [here](#).

[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.](#)

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