



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



03-20-2026 GHLA Capitol Report Week 10

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.

HB 61 “No Pay, No Stay” Passes Senate

HB 61 passed out of the Senate today by a vote of 32–18. The bill clarifies Georgia law to ensure that individuals who refuse to pay for a hotel stay cannot claim tenant rights and force operators into lengthy eviction proceedings. It restores clear authority for law enforcement to remove nonpaying occupants and closes a loophole that has been exploited across the state.

Leading up to the vote, the team worked closely with the bill sponsor and Senator Sonya Halpern to develop a balanced amendment. The amendment provides a 10 day notice period for guests who have stayed more than 90 days, addressing concerns about long term occupants while preserving the core intent of the bill and preventing the loophole from being reopened.

This has been years of work, and today marks a major milestone. The amended bill will now return to the House for an agree motion before heading to the Governor’s desk. This is a significant win for Georgia’s lodging industry.



HB61 "No Pay, No Stay" passed out of Senate March, 20, 2026

SB 570 Human Trafficking Training Clears Both Chambers

SB 570 passed the House this week with a vote of 162-2.

The bill requires standardized human trafficking prevention training for hotel and short term rental employees statewide. It establishes clear training requirements to ensure frontline staff are equipped to recognize the signs of trafficking and report suspected activity appropriately.

Because the House adopted the Senate bill with changes, SB 570 will now return to the Senate for an agree motion before being transmitted to the Governor. Once signed, it will create a consistent statewide standard for prevention training and reinforce the hospitality industry's role in combating trafficking.

HB 376 Historic Tax Credit Expansion Passes Senate

HB 376 passed the Senate this week with a vote of 46-2.

The bill doubles the annual cap on Georgia's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, effectively keeping the program viable and competitive. By increasing the cap, the legislation supports redevelopment of historic properties, investment in downtown communities, and continued economic activity tied to rehabilitation projects.

HB 376 must now return to the House for an agree motion before being sent to the Governor for signature.

SB 430 Advances with HB 1179 DMO Cleanup Language Attached

SB 430 passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee this week with our HB 1179 Destination Marketing Organization cleanup language attached.

The HB 1179 provisions strengthen accountability and transparency surrounding the use of hotel motel tax dollars by Destination Marketing Organizations. The language clarifies reporting requirements, oversight mechanisms, and guardrails to ensure funds are used for legitimate tourism promotion purposes.

We are now working to move SB 430 out of House Rules and onto the House floor to achieve final passage before Sine Die.

Sine Die Approaching

With only five legislative days remaining before Sine Die, the pace under the Gold Dome continues to accelerate.

The team is still actively working to find a vehicle to advance the Stop Online Booking Scams Act and will continue monitoring and engaging on other key issues that may impact the industry in the final days of session. We remain focused on ensuring our priorities achieve final passage before adjournment.

Legislative Tracking Update:

House Bills:

[HB 1546](#) - Local government; requirements for local authorities retaining legal services on a contingent fee basis; provide

[HB 1554](#) - Collateral Protection Insurance Act; enact

[HB 1561](#) - Student Journalist Press Freedom Restoration Act; enact

House Resolutions:

[HR 1675](#) - House Study Committee on Community Associations; create

[HR 1703](#) - House Study Committee on Criminal Post-Conviction Litigation; create

[HR 1704](#) - House Study Committee on Dangerous Animal Attacks and Animal Control Resources in Rural Georgia; create

[HR 1707](#) - Georgia Legislative Golf Caucus; encourage creation

[HR 1747](#) - House Study Committee on Restoring Georgia's Salt-Water Ecosystems; create

Senate Bills:

Senate Resolutions:

[SR 952](#) - Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee; 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.

[Visit our main page.](#)