



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



January 26, 2024

Welcome to GHLA @ the Capitol, your weekly update about news you need to know related to Georgia's lodging industry and the 2024 General Assembly.

GHLA's legislative team will be your eyes and ears under the Gold Dome.

Legislative Schedule

This week the legislature was in session Monday through Friday for days 6-10. The legislature will reconvene on Monday, January 29 for legislative day 11. Click [here](#) to view the adjournment resolution which sets the calendar for the remainder of this session.

Workforce Development

Rep. Matthew Gambill presented [HB 982](#) to the House Higher Education Committee, which would require the State Workforce Development Board to establish a high-demand career list. The list would be based on current market forces, relevant employer data, and include region-specific career metrics to determine what is in high demand. GHLA continues the legislative engagement on workforce development and supports efforts to ensure Georgia has a well-trained workforce to keep being the number one state to do business.

Workplace Sexual Harassment

This week a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee heard [HB 381](#) sponsored by Rep. Teri Anulewicz. This bill was introduced during the 2023 session and would create a right of action for private sector employees as it relates to workplace sexual harassment. This right of action and protection against retaliatory action currently exists for local government employees but does not apply to private sector employees and employers. The business community testified in opposition to the measure, stating they believe such protections against in federal law and concerning provisions that do not cap settlements are too broad to enact in Georgia. This bill remains in the Judiciary Committee and GHLA will continue to monitor.

Human Trafficking Hotline

Senator Mike Hodges introduced [SB 370](#) this week, a bill that requires certain establishments to post human trafficking hotline information. This does not change the language that hotels currently have in their rooms and restrooms, but rather, expands the list of establishments that will display the information. SB 370 was assigned to The Senate Regulated Industries Committee.

Legislative Committee Work

[HB 398](#) by Rep. Scott Hilton was heard in the House Regulated Industries Lottery Oversight-Gaming Subcommittee on Thursday. The purpose of this bill is to give individuals the opportunity to resell their entertainment event tickets as they see fit. It reduces barriers from big ticket seller/reseller companies. HB 398 received a hearing only and no action was taken.

Rep. Deborah Silcox presented [HB 501](#) to the House Industry and Labor Committee, a bill to remove the barrier of employment certificates for minors during out of school time. During school vacations, the schools are closed and there is not an administrator to sign students' employment certificates. This bill would do away with such need while school is not in session. HB 501 passed unanimously out of Committee.

[HB 738](#), by Rep. Scott Hilton, would create the Task Force on Workforce and Safety Net Integration. The Taskforce will investigate how to better help people with their needs and find a way to decrease the amount of time for workforce recovery. Georgia currently has about 250,000 people at home and this bill would allow us to study how to get some of those people back into the workforce and streamline the delivery of Safety Net Programs. HB 738 passed unanimously out of House Industry and Labor Committee.

Legislative Tracking Update

House Bills

[HB955](#) - Georgia Equity and Fairness Commission Act; enact

[HB962](#) - Transparency and Accountability in Asset Forfeiture Act; enact

[HB964](#) - Inclusive Public Service Act; enact

[HB965](#) - Tenant Protection and Rental Notice Enhancement Act; enact

[HB969](#) - Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta) - mandates that prior to January 1, 2026, each building operator must assess the air quality of their buildings.

[HB970](#) - Rep. Robert Dickey (R-Musella) clarifies that victims of human trafficking are eligible for the REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) Scholarship.

[HB972](#) - Rep. Mitchell Horner (R-Ringgold) authorizes the City of Fort Oglethorpe to levy an excise tax.

[HB980](#) - Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta) - a transparency law that would allow applicants for benefits to obtain their files when their claims are contested by former employers

[HB982](#) - State Workforce Development Board; publish a High-demand Career List most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs; require

[HB999](#) - Local government; provide new category of district titled "special rural district"; provisions

[HB1002](#) - Lottery for education; bona fide coin operated amusement machines; provide redemption through gift cards at automated kiosks under certain conditions

[HB1009](#) - Second Amendment Preservation Act; enact

[HB1010](#) - Representative Jan Jones (R-Milton) - increases the number of paid parental leave hours for full time employees of a local education agency.

[HB1011](#) - Insurance; prohibit insurer from canceling or refusing to renew any property or casualty policy; provisions

[HB1015](#) - Representative Lauren McDonald (R-Cumming) Seeks to reduce the rate of income tax by 0.10 percent annually until the rate reaches 4.99 percent.

[HB1016](#) - City of South Fulton Public Facilities Authority Act; enact

[HB1017](#) - Representative Devan Seabaugh (R-Marietta) - amends the definition of criminal trespass to include when an individual “enters upon the land or premises and resides in such land or premises for any period of time without the knowledge or consent of the owner..”, otherwise known as “squatting.

[HB1023](#) - Income tax; match tax rate imposed on corporations to that imposed on individual taxpayers

[HB1026](#) - State government; Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as official soap box derby of the State of Georgia; designate

[HB1032](#) - Property Owner Rights and Accountability Act; enact

[HB1041](#) - Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) - would allow the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority to condemn public property to the extent allowed by the law.

House Resolutions

[HR807](#) - State goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050; support

Senate Bills

[SB362](#) - State Government; employee representation by a labor organization for employers to receive certain economic development incentives from the state; provide requirements

[SB363](#) - Georgia Public Safety Training Center law enforcement unit; establishment; provide

[SB364](#) - "Property Tax Relief Act of 2024"; enact

[SB366](#) - "Tax Expenditures Transparency Act of 2024"; enact

[SB370](#) - Senator Mike Hodges (R-Brunswick) - requires certain establishments to post human trafficking hotline information.

[SB378](#) - Senator Marty Harbin (R-Tyrone) - provides increased sentencing for persons convicted of trafficking a minor or a developmentally disabled person for sexual servitude.

[SB383](#) - Sales and Use Tax; special district mass transportation; requirements for intergovernmental agreements between counties; revise

[SB386](#) - State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide

[SB396](#) - Economic Development; Georgia State-wide Music Office; create

Senate Resolutions

[SR471](#) - Senate Study Committee on Access to Affordable Child Care; create

[SR476](#) - Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence; 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.

