



February 3, 2023

Welcome to GHLA @ the Capitol, your weekly update about news you need to know related to Georgia's lodging industry and the 2023 General Assembly. GHLA's legislative team will be your eyes and ears under the Gold Dome.

Legislative Schedule

This week the General Assembly was in session Monday to Thursday for legislative days 9-12.

The legislature will convene again on Monday, February 6, 2023.

For the full legislative schedule, view the [adjournment resolution](#).

Supplementary Budget Passes House

This week the House passed the [FY 23 amended budget](#). Rep. Matt Hatchett presented the budget priorities that reflect Gov. Kemp's policy agenda.

A few highlights:

- \$1B in statewide homeowner tax relief refunds
- \$1.1B to fill the gap for the Department of Transportation from the gas tax exemption
- Over \$150M in grants for the construction of EV car manufacturer plants (Rivian & Hyundai)

Additionally, the budget reflects a total of \$22M in tourism funding, with increases specifically for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, the Savannah Convention Center and the Georgia Historical Society.

Hotel/Motel Performance Review Board

This week Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) introduced [HB 223](#). Rep. Stephens worked closely with GHLA to place guardrails on hotel/motel tax usages and the associated authorities. The bill would require a local government prior to altering their local Convention and Visitors Bureau to first go the hotel/motel performance review board under the Dept. of Community Affairs for review.

Commercial Property Financing Options

This week [HB 206](#) was introduced by Rep. Steven Sainz (R-St. Mary's) to authorize commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing that would allow for hoteliers to take advantage of low-costs financing for energy efficient upgrades and other capital purchases. GHLA supports this additional financing option for property owners and will be working with the coalition to move this legislation through the process.

Legislative Engagement



This week the Atlanta Hotel Council heard from Sen. Sonya Halpern (D-Atlanta), the new chair of the Fulton County Delegation. Sen. Halpern talked about her caucus's priorities for the legislative session and noted her strong support for the tourism industry. As legislators work on bills to address taxation, public safety and economic development, GHLA is well positioned to be a resource and partner on bills that impact our industry.

Legislative Tracking Update / Top Additions to GHLA's Watchlist

House

[HB132](#) - Rep. David Jenkins (R- Grantville) requires the Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) to amend the Georgia state minimum standard codes to authorize certain uses of ungraded lumber.

[HB160](#) - Rep. Gerald Greene (R- Cuthbert) provides for the city of Albany to create community improvement districts.

[HB206](#) - Rep. Steven Sainz (R-St. Marys) relating to local government, so as to provide for the creation of Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Development Authorities in certain counties and municipalities.

[HB 210](#) - Rep. Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain) for Harris County to levy an excise tax.

[HB 223](#) - Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) provides procedures for certain local governments to change certain nonprofit organizations engaged to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows for such jurisdiction.

[HB225](#) - Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton) Food, drugs, and cosmetics; third-party food delivery platform to provide certain information to customers and food service establishments participating in an online order; require

Senate

[SB42](#) - Sen. Mike Hodges (R-Brunswick) Human Trafficking Hotline Information: model notice requirements: increase fine for failure to comply.

[SB49](#) - Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta) Waste Management; the distribution of certain bags made of plastic film and items made of polystyrene foam by certain retail establishments; prohibit

[SB57](#) - Senator Billy Hickman (R-Statesboro) "Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act," authorize and provide for the regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state, to provide for such a corporation to be governed by the Georgia Sports Betting Commission.

[SB61](#) - Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members; sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements; repeal.

Hotel Tax Local Update

[HB 210](#) - Representative Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain) Harris County; levy an excise tax

GHLA Full Legislative Tracking Update

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

Upcoming Event



Join Us February 16 for the Georgia Hotel Conference

Join fellow hoteliers from across Georgia for an afternoon of networking and learning about the latest policy issues impacting your hotel at the 2023 Georgia Hotel Conference. You'll hear from guest speakers and industry leaders including Chip Rogers, President and CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and Jim Sprouse, Executive Director of the Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association (GHLA). Register now for this complimentary program featuring:

- Exclusive information on new policies impacting hotels;
- Georgia area market trends;
- Industry updates and area forecasts from JLL; and
- Special networking with appetizers and drinks.

[Click here](#) to secure your complimentary registration today! This event will be held February 16 from 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Atlanta.