



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



February 9, 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 Tuesday through Friday for days 15-18. The House and Senate passed a new adjournment calendar on Thursday this week.

Click [here](#) to see the rest of the legislative calendar. The legislature will reconvene on Monday, February 12 for Legislative Day 19.

CPACE Bill

[HB 206](#) by Rep. Steven Sainz (R-St. Mary's) passed the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee this week and GHLA spoke in support of the measure. This bill authorizes commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing and allows hoteliers to take advantage of low-cost 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.



Alcohol Update

Sunday Sales

[HB 843](#) by Rep. Stephens passed out of the House Regulated Industries Subcommittee on Alcohol and Tobacco on Legislative Day 15. This bill would provide for the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages for locally designated special entertainment districts. [HB 843](#) would benefit entertainment venues in Atlanta, such as Underground Atlanta, by allowing these sites to maintain the status of a special entertainment district even with private development in the future.

Craft Beer Distribution Bill

[SB 163](#), sponsored by Senator Hufstetler, received a hearing only in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee on Legislative Day 15. The Craft Beer Distribution Bill would allow small brewers to sell their product within their county without the need for a distributor, cutting costs to the small businesses.

Repealing COVID Mandates

This week [SB 430](#) by Sen. Greg Dolezal passed the Senate Economic Development Committee. This bill would repeal certain warning requirements relating to COVID-19 liability warnings for Georgia businesses and specifically allow businesses to remove warning signs relating to COVID-19. GHLA is supportive of this guidance.

Labor Unions

[SB 362](#) requires companies that agree to accept certain state economic development incentives to provide a secret ballot election, if employees seek to be recognized by a union for collective bargaining purposes. The company must also agree to not

voluntarily disclose an employee's personal contact information to a labor organization or third party on behalf of the organization, without an employee's prior written consent, unless otherwise required by state or federal law. [SB 362](#) applies prospectively meaning it does not apply to any agreement executed between the state and an employer prior to Jan 1, 2025.

Cash Mandate Bill

[HB 940](#) by Rep. Todd Jones requires retail stores and restaurants to accept cash. The bill sponsor made changes to allow for a few exceptions such as venues that host live events, airports, and wholesale membership clubs. The bill is currently in House Rules.

Legislative Tracking Update

House Bills

[HB 1156](#) - Representative Derrick Jackson (D-Tyrone) - repeals Code Section 44-7-19, which puts restrictions on rent regulation by local governments.

[HB 1197](#) - Representative Penny Houston (R-Nashville) - expands the revitalization zone tax credits to include rehabilitation of historic residential structures.

[HB 1201](#) Sponsored by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens) provides for the vacating of sentences of victims of trafficking.

Senate Bills

[SB 470](#) - Senator Ed Setzler (R-Acworth) - provides for removal of unlawful occupants on land or tenements.

Senate Resolutions

[SR579](#) - Senator Bill Cowser (R-Athens) - authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for sports betting regulation and allocation of revenues.

GHLA Full Legislative Tracking Update

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