



March 24, 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.

Sine Die, Coming Soon!

This week the General Assembly was in session Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for legislative days 36-38.

The legislature will reconvene on Monday, March 27 for Day 39, Tuesday will be a committee workday and Wednesday March 29 is Sine Die, the final day of the legislative session.

The final days of the legislative session are notoriously long and hectic. Legislators and special interests look to bills still alive in the process as potential targets to place language that did not gain traction earlier in the session. GHLA is consistently monitoring these developments in real time to ensure that our industry is well supported and protected.

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

Legislative Priorities

[SB 127](#), sponsored by Sen. Billy Hickman (R-Statesboro), would require a local government, prior to altering their local Convention and Visitors Bureau, to first go to the hotel/motel performance review board under the Dept. of Community Affairs for review.

We are happy to report that SB 127, GHLA's priority legislation, passed unanimously out of Ways & Means without any amendments. This bill is pending in House Rules and GHLA is working hard to ensure final passage.

This week the House Governmental Affairs Committee attached the following language to [SB 145](#) by Sen. Shawn Still, that was originally the LEAF Act, relating to gas-powered leaf blowers:

- [HB 206](#), by Rep. Steven Sainz (R-St. Mary's), authorizing 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.

- [HB 438](#), by Rep. Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia), a bill to preserve consumers' ability to choose the fuel source that best meets their needs. In addition, the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee amended [HB 374](#) with this same language.

SB 145 is pending in House Rules and HB 374 is on the Senate floor calendar for Monday.

Third Party Food Delivery

[HB 528](#), by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens), a proposal on online account renewal transparency, was amended to include the third-party food delivery language originally proposed in [SB 34](#), by Sen. Elena Parent (D-Atlanta). The bill places guardrails on third-party delivery companies, requires an agreement between the restaurant and the delivery company, as well as a food safe container. This bill is eligible for a vote by the Senate on Monday, March 27.

Alcohol Delivery

This week [HB 170](#), by Rep. Kasey Carpenter, related to the taxation on digital sales, was amended to also include alcohol delivery expansion language, allowing for up to 25 miles from the origin. This bill is pending in Senate Rules.

Soap Box Derby and Sports Betting

This week the House revived the soap box derby bill (originally [HB 237](#)), by stripping [SB 158](#) and unanimously passing the House.

The need to find a substitute for the soap box derby came after the Senate Economic Development Committee stripped HB 237 to replace it with sports betting. This bill is eligible for a Senate floor vote beginning on Monday, March 27.

Additional Legislative Changes

[HB 144](#) was amended this week to include anti-semitism language from [HB 30](#).

[HB 86](#), the aquarium bill, was amended this week with language from [SB 153](#), which adds a 2% tax on ticket sales to the bill.

Legislative Tracking Update

House Bills

[HB738](#) – Representative Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners) Task Force on Workforce and Safety Net Integration; create

[HB740](#) – Representative Al Williams (D-Midway) Hinesville, City of; levy an excise tax

[HB795](#) – Representative Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain) Crimes and offenses; criminal abortion; immaculate conception clause; enact

[HB796](#) - Representative Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain) Crimes and offenses; restrictions on performance of abortions; medical oath protection clause; enact

[HB798](#) – Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton) Georgia Data Privacy Act; enact
[HB808](#) – Representative Mike Cheokas (R-Americus) Ad valorem tax; increase a statewide exemption for tangible personal property
[HB810](#) – Representative Kenneth Vance (R-Milledgeville) Professions and businesses; electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low voltage contractors, and utility contractors; change certain provisions

House Resolutions

[HR566](#) – Representative Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners) House Study Committee on Georgia's COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness; create
[HR567](#) – Representative Brad Thomas (R-Holly Springs) House Study Committee on Workforce Innovation and Development; create

Senate Bills

[SB319](#) – Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta) State Civil Rights Law; protecting individuals from discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment; provide
[SB323](#) – Senator Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville) Special Districts for Fire Protection Services; create
[SB326](#) – Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) Airports; definition; to prohibit the construction, alteration, or growth of structures or trees within a certain area; provide

Senate Resolutions

[SR275](#) – Senator John Albers (R-Roswell) Senate Study Committee on Expanding Georgia's Workforce; create
[SR296](#) – Senator Sonya Halpern (D-Atlanta) Senate Study Committee on Excessive Vehicle Noise and Related Crimes; create
[SR308](#) – Senator Lee Anderson (R-Grovetown) Senate Study Committee on Recycling Efficiency and Economic Development; create
[SR314](#) – Senator Jason Anavittarte (R-Dallas) Senate Study Committee on the Benefits of Solar Energy in Georgia; create
[SR334](#) – Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon) Rules of the Senate; amend
[SR394](#) – Senator Carden Summers (R-Cordele) Senate Study Committee on the Creation of a Robust Wagering Ecosystem in the State of Georgia; 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.