



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



January 20, 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 not in session but the Joint House and Senate Appropriations Committee held hearings throughout the week to review the Governor's proposed budget priorities and hear annual state agency funding requests.

The legislature will convene again on Monday, January 23 for Day 5.

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

Georgia's Fiscal Outlook

This week legislators began discussions pertaining to the state budget.

[Gov. Brian Kemp's budget proposal](#) outlined several key features, such as \$1 billion in tax breaks, \$1 billion in property tax relief, and huge infrastructure investment projects.

The administration also outlined additional funding to increase teacher pay and support staff by \$2,000, as well as school safety grants. Another priority of the Governor's is additional funding to create more workforce housing throughout the state, invest in additional technical schools, and other programs to solve the workforce gap.

There is expected to be almost no revenue from the capital gains tax, so legislators are looking at keeping the budget conservative and lean. There will be a projected \$3 billion less in revenue, and a \$300 million increase going into 2024.

Other highlighted concerns from lawmakers are the lowering birth rates, looming recession, and bigger burdens on local governments. There will be \$3 billion projected to remain in the budget, which will be up to lawmakers on how to spend.

[Read more about the Governor's budget priorities here.](#)

Legislative Leadership and Committees

The beginning of the 2023-2024 biennium marks changes in leadership at the committee level under the Gold Dome.

This week the House Committee on Assignments announced committee leadership appointments for the 2023-2024 legislative session. Committee leadership is responsible for deciding which bills, if any, are brought to a vote. All bills are assigned to committees and must be voted out of the committee to be heard on the floor.

A full list of committee leadership can be found [here](#), as well as an updated list of all committee members [here](#).

Additionally, Speaker Burns (R- Newington) appointed a Special Committee on Healthcare. Rep. Butch Parrish (R- Swainsboro) will chair the committee, which will oversee house budgetary and legislative policy. All chairmen of other House health committees will sit on the Special Committee on Healthcare.

New Governor's Floor Leaders

This week the Governor announced new floor leaders for the House and Senate. Floor leaders are responsible for pushing the Governor's legislative priorities through both chambers.

The Senate floor leaders are Senator Bo Hatchett (R- Cornelia) and Senator Mike Hodges (R- Brunswick). The House floor leaders are Rep. Lauren McDonald (R- Cumming), Rep. Soo Hong (R- Lawrenceville), Rep. Will Wade (R- Dawsonville), and Rep. Matthew Gambill (R- Cartersville).

Bills Added to Tracker

[HB14](#) - Income Tax; tax credit for employers that employ certified workforce-ready graduates.

[HB16](#) - Labor and industrial relations; use of sick leave for care of immediate family members; extend sunset provisions.

[HB26](#) - Right to Breath Act; enact (amend applicable state minimum standard codes to require the installation of indoor air quality equipment and utilization of best practices in new construction permitted on or after July 1, 2024).

[HB36](#) - Ad valorem tax; language required to be included in notices of current assessment; revise.

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.](#)

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