

**Georgia Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (GAHRA)  
Government Relations Committee Report**

February 17, 2025

**GAHRA leadership is planning on hosting our annual Lobby Day at the State Capitol on the morning of March 5. Please make every effort possible to attend, as we need as many people there as possible to show legislators our interest in making sure housing authorities, our staff, and our tenants are protected and have as much success as possible. Look for more information from GAHRA on this!**

Our government affairs team, Thrash-Haliburton, has been speaking and working with our Washington, DC Congressional delegation and staff on ensuring the President's freeze on certain aspects of federal spending and aid don't hurt our housing authorities. We sent GAHRA leadership an extensive document describing what we've done on this and what has happened. Long story short, the President issued a freeze. This would have really hurt and crippled our authorities and tenants. It was then paused by a judge. The Judge then extended the pause on Monday of last week, and it is still paused (at least the parts that harm housing authorities). We will continue to watch and work on this on behalf of GAHRA!

As you'll see in the legislation listed below, the Governor's bills on tort reform, SB 68 and SB 69, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. They are now in the Senate Rules Committee. This is the most sweeping tort reform legislation the country has ever seen with all topics covered under civil litigation - including what some GAHRA members really care about with negligent security and premises liability.

Speaking of tort reform, the decision by the Georgia Court of Appeals that determined housing authorities do have sovereign immunity when it comes to civil litigation has now been appealed and will be taken up by the Georgia Supreme Court this summer.

Our team is acting at the association's direction on all legislation and issues, and we will provide further updates in the future.

Legislators were back at the Gold Dome this past week. Lawmakers were in session Monday through Thursday for Legislative Days 14 through 17. There were many Committee and Subcommittee meetings from both chambers and private meetings this past week, and the Capitol was extremely crowded and busy with many different groups coming down to the Capitol. This week, February 17 - 21 will have legislative days Feb 18 - 21 on Tuesday through Friday. Legislation continues to get introduced and assigned to Committees.

As has been mentioned, Crossover Day (the last day that a bill can be passed out of its original chamber) is March 6. However, legislative language can be attached to different bills after Crossover Day to keep language "alive" until the last day of session on midnight of April 4.

**Thrash-Haliburton has been in constant communication with our leadership about issues and legislation coming up for our industry in the 2025 session.**

**Here's to another great year for our industry in 2025 at the State Capitol!**

**Thrash-Haliburton is diligently watching and working to stop any detrimental legislation to our industry and push the legislation we support. Our governmental affairs team continues every day to work on, look out for and answer requests, needs and interests, as we act at the direction of the group's leadership. Please find legislation affecting our industry below:**

**2025 Regular Session**

*We are monitoring the following legislation, and watchful for any bills that may impact our industry.*

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>House Comm</b>	<b>Sen Comm</b>	<b>House Sponsor</b>	<b>Sen Sponsor</b>
HB 165	To repeal and reserve an income tax credit for business enterprises for leased motor vehicles; to exempt from sales and use taxation property used in construction, renovation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing by nonprofit organizations	Ways and Means		Franklin	
SB 68 and 69	Governor's Tort Reform Bills		Rules		Kennedy
HB 299	Relating to restrictions on rent regulation by local governments	Governmental Affairs		Taylor	