

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Report
January 21, 2022
2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WEEK 1 RECAP

Welcome back to another great legislative session! The Georgia Hispanic Chamber is back under the gold dome and ready for business. Monday, January 10 marked the start of the 2022 Session for the Georgia General Assembly. The legislature met Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, completing day 4 of the allotted 40 legislative days.

On Thursday, January 13, Governor Brian Kemp addressed a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly along with other elected leaders for his fourth State of the State Address. He outlined the state's economic resiliency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia's continued economic recovery efforts, his Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal, and his legislative priorities. Governor Kemp highlighted that Georgia's strong foundation and putting families and communities first has allowed businesses to open safely and responsibly, investments in the state to flourish, and the unemployment rate to stay at record lows.

Governor Kemp concluded his message emphasizing what Georgia has accomplished in the face of adversity and how working together in a bipartisan manner will keep Georgia the best place to live, work, and raise a family for future generations.

[Click here](#) to view the State of the State press release from the Office of Governor Brian Kemp.

[Click here](#) to view the broadcast footage of Governor Kemp's State of the State Address.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The general assembly was in recess this week to allow the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to conduct joint state budget hearings. The legislature will reconvene on Monday, January 24 for legislative day 5.

To view House Resolution 570, the current adjournment resolution dictating the legislative calendar, [click here](#).

BUDGET UPDATE

This week, the joint House and Senate Appropriations Committees met on Tuesday, January 18 and worked through Thursday, January 20. Governor Brian P. Kemp, Dr. Dorfman, the state's fiscal economist, and various state agency leaders presented the Amended Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget proposals to committee members. House and Senate Appropriations Committee members will now begin work on their budget proposals to present to their respective bodies in the coming days of the 2022 Session.

[House Bill 911](#) is the General Appropriations bill for the 2023 State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

To view the Joint Budget Hearings and presentations [click here](#).

Governor Kemp remains focused on Georgia's economic recovery efforts. His budget proposals and legislative priorities include investments for education funding, healthcare expansion in rural Georgia, and public safety.

Statewide

Governor Kemp proposed \$1.6 billion of the surplus tax revenue collected in FY 2021 be used to provide refunds of \$250-\$500 for all taxpayers. He also proposed \$266 million be used to provide \$5,000 pay increases for state employees.

Education

Governor Kemp's proposed increases in public education funding would invest more per K-12 student than ever before. These increases include \$85 million to fully fund enrollment growth in our higher education programs and an additional \$79 million to fund growth in scholarship and grant needs. The increased tax revenues also provide a pathway for the remaining \$2,000 of the \$5,000 teacher pay raises.

Crime/Public Safety

To further combat statewide gang activity and human trafficking, \$1.6 million was proposed for the Attorney General's office. The funds would go towards establishing a gang prosecution unit and an additional \$7 million would be appropriated to expand the GBI Medical Examiner's office and crime lab to address the forensics backlog.

To see the Governor's Budget proposals for AFY 2022 and FY 2023 [click here](#).

To see the Governor's Budget Report for AFY 2022 and FY 2023 [click here](#).

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

This year the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be getting more engaged in the legislative process. We will look to engage through meeting with legislators, networking, and co-signing letters of support and opposition alongside the Georgia Chamber. Our goal is to keep you updated on the issues that we would like to prioritize this year. Below you will find a list of our legislative priorities this year.

Legislative Priorities:

- Business
 - Sports Wagering/Gaming
 - Broadband and Rural access
- Economic Development & Taxation
- Education & Workforce

- Career Tech
- In-state tuition for DACA Students
- Agriculture
- Healthcare
 - Mental Health
 - Healthcare workforce
- Law & Judiciary
- Immigration
- Transportation

GHCC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is hosting our annual legislative breakfast on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The event will begin promptly at 8:00 A.M. We are expecting several special guest speakers so please save the date. This breakfast will only be open to GHCC members.

For more information about our legislative breakfast, click [here](https://ghcc.org/en/legislative-breakfast/).

