



**Talking Points for HB 317 (LC 43 1783)
February 11, 2021**

Please find below a list of talking points concerning the Lodging Facilitator Bill (HB 317) sponsored by Representative Ron Stephens:

Synopsis:

This bill would require short-term rental (STR) platforms (Ex: AirBnB, VRBO) to collect and remit the state \$5 transportation fee and local hotel/motel taxes if the platform facilitates at least \$100,000 in annual Georgia sales.¹

Supporting Discussion Points:

- These taxes are already due but are often going uncollected. This bill would place the burden of collecting and remitting the taxes on the STR platforms who already comply with similar requirements. Currently this responsibility is on the STR hosts who are often unaware this is required or unfamiliar with the required process.
 - Removing this burden would make it easier to operate a STR location in this state.
 - STR platforms are capable of complying with this requirement as they are already required to collect sales tax in Georgia (marketplace facilitator – HB 276 2020) and comply with similar requirements in other states.
- This bill would result in increased revenue to local governments and to the state. A fiscal note on HB 448 (Identical language from last session by Rep. Dollar) estimated this legislation would result in an additional \$31 million for local governments and \$12.5 million for the state in fiscal year 2021.² These funds will go to promoting tourism and economic development by local governments.
- This bill continues a trend of modernizing portions of the tax code becoming outdated by changes in technology. Similar to the marketplace facilitator legislation from last year, this bill looks to capture taxes already due but not effectively being collected.
- This bill would help level the playing field between traditional lodging, already collecting these taxes, and the STR platforms that are continuing to grow in popularity.

¹ This bill would also expand which lodgings are required to collect the \$5 state transportation fee from traditional hotels and motels to all innkeepers.

² <https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20192020/183918>