



January 18, 2013

Details from Each Chamber



Both houses convened in brief sessions this week in order for committees to meet and to attend the Governor's State of the State address.

Senate

The Senate focused on [S.2](#), the Equal Access to the Ballot Act. This bill addresses some candidate filing problems. From the last election that resulted in candidates being removed from the ballot. The bill was amended to require candidates to file with the Elections Commission rather than the state political parties. However, candidates must be certified by their respective state parties. The amendment also clarifies the process for electronically filing candidate statements of economic interests which was the primary source of contention in the last election. The bill will be further debated and may receive a final vote next week.

The Senate also approved a bill specifying that sweepstakes machines are illegal gambling. The bill further restricts video gambling by closing loopholes business owners use to operate so-called sweepstakes cafes. South Carolina banned video gambling in 2000. Police say the new machines violate that prohibition.

Senator Vincent Sheheen (D-Kershaw) introduced [S.243](#) and [S.245](#) calling for a Constitutional Convention for South Carolina nonpartisan delegates to rewrite the state Constitution. Senators Ronnie Cromer (R-Lexington) and Tom Davis (R-Beaufort) signed on as co-sponsors.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, January 22nd at noon.

House

House Ways and Means Subcommittees continued to meet this week. Bobby Hitt, Director of the Department of Commerce, presented his budget requests to the House Ways and Means Economic Development and Natural Resources subcommittee Tuesday afternoon. The primary request was for an additional \$17 million for the Department's Closing Fund, which is used to help build local infrastructure for new companies.

The House Democratic Caucus held a press conference this week urging Republicans to accept Medicaid expansion that is part of the Affordable Care Act. They say it is common sense to accept the expansion because the federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost for the first three years and 90 percent after that.

Frank Rainwater, Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) Chief Economist, presented to both the Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. The BEA estimates a 2.2% growth rate for fiscal year 2013/14. They also mentioned that the state will likely lose about 5% due to changes in healthcare and employment issues.

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The Governor's Office



2013 State of the State Address

On Wednesday night, Governor Nikki Haley gave her third State of the State address. In the speech, she asked legislators to overhaul public school funding, improve the state's roads and bridges, restructure government, make prisons safer, and cut taxes.

You can access the full text of the Governor's speech [here](#).

Haley reiterated her opposition to President Obama's health care plan and said that she opposes Medicaid expansion. However, she mentioned that she will work to improve residents' health, particularly those in rural communities. The Governor also acknowledged that the state should have done more to protect taxpayers' personal data after the Department of Revenue's August data breach. She pledged to increase cybersecurity across state agencies.

Economic Development Announcement

Governor Nikki Haley, state and local officials, and business leaders participated in a groundbreaking ceremony announcing that Google will expand its operations at the Mt. Holly Commerce Park in Berkeley County. The additional \$600 million investment at the data center site brings Google's total investment to over \$1.2 billion. More information about the announcement can be found [here](#).

Governor Haley announced the following **Statewide Appointments** this week. These appointments will still require Senate approval.

SC Commission on Higher Education, with the term to commence July 1, 2012, and to expire July

1, 2016 - At-Large/Chairman: John L. Finan
SC Mental Health Commission, with the term to commence March 21, 2012, and to expire March 21, 2017 - 4th Congressional District: Sharon L. Wilson
SC State Board of Nursing, with the term to commence July 1, 2012, and to expire June 30, 2016 - 7th Congressional District: Karen Raez Hazzard
SC State Board of Nursing, with the term to commence December 31, 2011, and to expire December 31, 2015 - 3rd Congressional District: Kay Swisher
SC State Ports Authority, with the term to commence February 13, 2012, and to expire February 13, 2017 - At-Large: Robert Michael Sisk
SC Workers' Compensation Commission, with the term to commence June 30, 2008, and to expire June 30, 2014 - At-Large: Aisha K. Taylor

Newly Introduced Legislation



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TAX:

[S. 234](#) Coleman: TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA ABANDONED BUILDINGS REVITALIZATION ACT" - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

[S. 261](#) Leatherman: RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO STATE INCOME TAX LAWS - Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

[S. 262](#) Leatherman: TO ENACT THE "HIGH GROWTH SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION ACT OF 2013" - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

[H. 3302](#) Stavrinakis: RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE STATE SALES TAX - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3305](#) Stavrinakis: ALLOWING A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY A TAXPAYER RELATED TO PURCHASING AND MAINTAINING IDENTITY FRAUD AND THEFT PROTECTION SERVICES. - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3341](#) Hart: RELATING TO THE LIMIT ON ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE INCREASES IMPOSED BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3343](#) Hart: RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX AND THE METHOD OF VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY AND THE LIMITS ON INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF THE PROPERTY TAX - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3357](#) Henderson: RELATING TO THE TAX REBATE TO A MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION COMPANY BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA FILM COMMISSION - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3367](#) J. E. Smith: RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOLICITATION OF CHARITABLE FUNDS ACT - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

EDUCATION:

[H. 3339](#) Govan: RELATING THE COMPULSORY AGE FOR ATTENDING SCHOOL - Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

[H. 3364](#) Govan: TO REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP A LOCKDOWN PLAN FOR EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT TO USE IN RESPONSE TO SITUATIONS INVOLVING SAFETY AND SECURITY ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS - Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

[H. 3365](#) Govan: TO REQUIRE THAT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE EMPLOY A LICENSED PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST CERTIFIED IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON A FULL-TIME BASIS TO HELP SCHOOL PERSONNEL IDENTIFY STUDENTS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING - Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

[S. 249](#) Setzler: TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2013-2014 ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO EMPLOY AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER IN EVERY SCHOOL OF EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

[S. 259](#) Thurmond: RELATING TO PERSONS AGE SIXTY AND OVER ATTENDING CLASSES AT STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF TUITION - Referred to the Committee on Education.

EMPLOYMENT:

[S. 229](#) Campsen: RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS' COMPENSATION - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

[S. 203](#) Verdin: TO ENACT THE "BUSINESS FREEDOM TO CHOOSE ACT", - Referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

[H. 3290](#) Bingham: TO ENACT THE "BUSINESS FREEDOM TO CHOOSE ACT", - Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

GOVERNMENT:

[S. 211](#) Leatherman: ENACTING THE "BUDGET PROVISO CODIFICATION ACT OF 2013" - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

[S. 226](#) Campsen: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT AND REDUCTION OF WASTE - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

HEALTHCARE:

[S. 232](#) Setzler: TO PROVIDE THAT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013, PREMIUMS FOR ENROLLEES IN THE STATE HEALTH PLAN MUST REMAIN AT THE RATE IN EFFECT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012. - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

[H. 3320](#) Hart: TO REQUIRE A NURSING HOME TO CARRY A MINIMUM OF A ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY. - Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs.

[H. 3344](#) Skelton: RELATING TO THE CITATION OF CHAPTER 95 OF TITLE 44 AS THE "CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT OF 1990" - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3355](#) Clemmons: TO PROHIBIT THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FROM ESTABLISHING, FACILITATING, IMPLEMENTING, OR PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010. - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 3366](#) J. E. Smith: TO REQUIRE A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO GIVE A PATIENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO AUTHORIZE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO

DESIGNATED FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THESE FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN THE TREATMENT OF THE PATIENT - Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs.

JUDICIAL:

[S. 227](#) Campsen: RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION TO VOTE - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

[S. 239](#) Cleary: RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION ON LOTTERIES AND THE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PROHIBITION - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3342](#) Hart: TO PROVIDE THAT A JUDGE MAY NOT ISSUE A BENCH WARRANT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR UNLESS THE SOLICITOR OR CLERK OF COURT HAS PROVIDED NOTICE TO THE ATTORNEY OF RECORD BEFORE ISSUING THE BENCH WARRANT. - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3346](#) McCoy: RELATING TO PUNISHMENT AND SENTENCING FOR MURDER - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3347](#) McCoy: RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3348](#) McCoy: RELATING TO ASSAULT AND BATTERY OFFENSES - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3349](#) McCoy: RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE TESTIMONY OF A DEFENDANT BEING USED AGAINST HIM IN ANOTHER CRIMINAL CASE. - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3351](#) McCoy: TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER PROTECTION ACT OF 2013" - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3352](#) McCoy: TO CREATE THE OFFENSES OF MAIL FRAUD AND WIRE FRAUD AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE OFFENSES. - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

SC DOR DATA BREACH:

[S. 225](#) Campsen: TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER RESTRUCTURING ACT" - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 3358](#) J. E. Smith: TO ESTABLISH IN THE STATE TREASURY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IDENTITY THEFT REIMBURSEMENT FUND - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

TRANSPORTATION:

[H. 3306](#) Stavrinakis: TO ESTABLISH A HIGH SPEED RAIL SYSTEM COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR ACTION FOR A HIGH SPEED RAIL SYSTEM IN THIS STATE - Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works.

[H. 3317](#) Hart: TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE USING A CELLULAR TELEPHONE, PAGER, PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT DEVICE, OR ANOTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE THAT IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH A HANDS-FREE MECHANISM - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

In the Media



S.C. Democrats push for Medicaid expansion (1/15/13)

As S.C. House budget writers prepare to debate the state's Medicaid budget this week, House Democrats made their first push to expand the joint federal and state health insurance program under the Affordable Care Act. [Read more.](#)

SC roads chief: state needs \$29.3 billion to make roads 'good' (1/16/13)

The S.C. Department of Transportation needs \$29.3 billion over the next two decades to make the state road system "good" again, state transportation secretary Robert St. Onge told the Senate Transportation Committee Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

Proposal to fix elections puts responsibility on candidates (1/16/13)

A new proposal to fix last year's election mess removes responsibility from the state's political parties for being sure all the paperwork for a candidate has been adequately filled out. [Read more.](#)

Ex-Governor, Disgraced in Scandal, Eyes Congress (1/16/13)

Mark Sanford, the former South Carolina governor whose career and marriage crumbled as he pursued a relationship with an Argentine woman, on Wednesday made official his decision to run for Congress. [Read more.](#)

Gov. Nikki Haley on Hacking: "SC Should Have Done Better" (1/16/13)

In her State of the State speech, Governor Nikki Haley addresses the data breach at the Department of Revenue. [Read more.](#)

South Carolina tops list of jobs from foreign investment (1/17/13)

The Palmetto State's assemblage of foreign companies brought home the bacon in 2011, the South Carolina Department of Commerce announced Thursday. [Read more.](#)

SC unemployment up slightly in December (1/18/13)

South Carolina's unemployment rate went up for the first time in months in December, state officials said Friday, ending four months of decreases. [Read more.](#)

Boeing 787 production in South Carolina continues despite FAA groundings (1/18/13)

Workers continued Thursday to build new 787s at Boeing's South Carolina assembly plant even though federal authorities have grounded planes now in service while onboard batteries are checked. [Read more.](#)

Early voting bills face major hurdle in SC (1/18/13)

Democrats and Republicans both say they want early voting in South Carolina, but the idea - advocated in seven bills before the Legislature - could be doomed. [Read more.](#)

Meetings and Events



Tuesday, January 22nd

5:30 SC House Democratic Caucus
2013 Business Round Table Kick-off Reception - Hilton Columbia Center

6:00 Palmetto Leadership Council Winter Reception - Palmetto Club

Wednesday, January 23rd

4:00 Representatives Alan Clemmons and Heather Crawford Fundraiser
Clarion Town House/Camellia Room

Friday, January 25th

6:00 John W. Matthews Education and Scholarship Event - Matriarch B&B, 1170 Fischer Street, Orangeburg

Firm clients who wish to receive individualized legislative updates, bill monitoring, or lobbying services may discuss options with Bob Coble. He can be reached at 803-253-8211 or bcoble@nexsenpruet.com.

Links

[SC Senate](#) | [SC House](#) | [Governor's Office](#) | [Nexsen Pruet](#) |

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