



January 11, 2013

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## *What's New?*



During the legislative session, the NP Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Team will produce an email summary of the week's pertinent political news, actions taken in the General Assembly and Governor's Office, bill introductions, and upcoming events and meetings that may be relevant to attorneys and clients in our firm.

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](mailto:bcoble@nexsenpruet.com).

We hope that you will find this service to be valuable. Please let us know if there is any additional information that may be relevant to you and your clients.

## *Details from Each Chamber*



### Senate

The Senate met in brief sessions this week in order to focus on committee work.

The Senate Education Committee convened a meeting on school safety in the wake of the shootings in Newtown, CT. Superintendent of Education, Mick Zais, testified that school safety was a local decision and that school districts and institutions should have the

flexibility to determine what safety measures are most appropriate. This included whether or not to have resource officers in schools or allowing school personnel to carry concealed weapons on school property. SLED Chief, Mark Keel, laid out his ideas for school/campus safety and proposed that all K-12 schools have law enforcement personnel (School Resource Officers), all schools should have safety plans, more focus on mental health, and to ensure that only trained, law enforcement officers be allowed to carry guns on school premises.

A Senate Judiciary Subcommittee met to discuss two government restructuring bills. This topic is expected to be a major issue this legislative session.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

## House

This week the House met in brief sessions, focusing on committee work. The House Republican Caucus released its agenda for 2013-2014. The agenda should provide an indication of the Leadership's priorities for the year. The agenda includes:

- **Election Reforms:** Legislation is being written to correct the 2012 election fiasco created by the South Carolina Supreme Court.
- **Data Security:** We will examine the data collected by the state and ensure it is protected.
- **Update Ethics Laws:** Ethics reform must be done to re-instill trust in our political system. They will work to update the two-decades-old ethics laws.
- **Oppose Obamacare:** They will fight the implementation of this law, and the massive tax increases that follow it.
- **Real Tax Reform:** We knew tax reform would be a multi-year effort. This year, we will lower manufacturers' property tax rates, flatten the personal income tax, and reduce special interest sales tax exemptions.
- **Grow Our Economy:** We will fight for regulatory reform, access to capital for small businesses, and enhanced skills training.
- **Government Restructuring:** We came within a Senate filibuster of the biggest government overhaul in two decades. The time is still right to get this needed restructuring through.

Judiciary Chairman, Greg Delleney (R-York), announced that Judicial screening reports will be sent shortly. In his statement about the report, Delleney said it contains the approved candidates to fill 2 vacancies on the Court of Appeals, 7 for Circuit Court, 29 for Family Court and 1 for the Administrative Law Court. The reports were emailed to legislators on Thursday. The candidates are allowed to begin seeking pledges from legislators on Tuesday, January 14th at noon.

The House SCDOR Data Breach Investigative Committee met on Thursday to continue testimony from the South Carolina Department of Revenue officials regarding the cause of the August 2012 Data Breach. More hearings are expected in the coming weeks.

The House will reconvene Tuesday, January 15th at noon.

## *The Governor's Office*



Governor Nikki Haley made two Economic Development announcements over the last two weeks. Last week, the Governor announced that Time Warner Cable would expand its operations in Lexington County. The \$24 million investment is expected to generate 644 new jobs over the next year. Time Warner Cable plans to expand its Retention Center, Telesales Operations Support and Payment Services departments at its West Columbia campus. The company currently employs nearly 1,300 across the state.

This week, the Governor also announced that Canfor Southern Pine, a lumber manufacturer, will expand its existing lumber production facility in Horry County. The \$3.6 million investment is expected to generate 56 new jobs.

On Thursday, the Governor participated in a departure ceremony for the South Carolina National Guard's 3/49 Agribusiness Development Team (S.C. ADT 3/49), which is being deployed to Afghanistan for a year. The Governor's husband, Michael Haley, a Captain in the South Carolina Army National Guard, is a member of the deployed S.C. ADT 3/49.

The Governor will be giving her annual State of the State Address next Wednesday, January 16 at the State House. Highlights from the speech will be provided in next week's Update.

## *Newly Introduced Legislation*



[S. 178](#) YOUNG: RELATING TO DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS - REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY;

[S. 185](#) GROOMS: RELATING TO TAXATION, TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA FAIR TAX ACT", - REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE;

[S. 186](#) RANKIN: RELATING TO CONDUCT RESULTING IN RECKLESS HOMICIDE, WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE, DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED, OR THE USE OF A CELLULAR PHONE RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF A PERSON - REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

[S. 197](#) BRIGHT: RELATING TO FAMILY COURT JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS - REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

[S. 200](#) BRIGHT: RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT - REFERRED TO THE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

[H. 3224](#) J. E. SMITH: ENACTING THE "MILITARY SERVICE OCCUPATION, EDUCATION, AND CREDENTIALING ACT"; - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS;

[H. 3226](#) J. E. SMITH: REQUIRING AN EMPLOYER TO GIVE AN EMPLOYEE REASONABLE TIME OFF FROM WORK TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS. - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY;

[H. 3233](#) JEFFERSON: PROVIDING THAT A THIRTY DOLLAR SURCHARGE MUST BE IMPOSED ON EACH MOTOR VEHICLE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED IN THIS STATE - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS;

[H. 3235](#) J. E. SMITH: SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING ACT"; - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS;

[H. 3237](#) SELLERS: SO AS TO REQUIRE EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REQUEST A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS;

[H. 3241](#) MITCHELL: SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT ACT" - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS;

[H. 3247](#) HARRELL: RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DOCKET BY THE CIRCUIT SOLICITOR IN GENERAL SESSIONS COURT - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY;

[H. 3264](#) STRINGER: RELATING TO THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX OVER A FOUR YEAR PERIOD - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS; AND

[H. 3265](#) STRINGER: RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS - REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

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## *In the Media*



### **State agencies yet to fully implement cyber security protections (1/5/13)**

Not all cabinet agencies have fully implemented cyber security protections that some experts and lawmakers say are basic steps in protecting taxpayers' information, almost three months after a foreign hacker conducted a massive data breach at the state Revenue Department.

[Read more](#)

### **SC Legislature urged to apologize for hacking (1/8/13)**

On the first day of the 2013 legislative session, likely Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen took to the state Senate floor to introduce a resolution to apologize formally to S.C. taxpayers for the data breach at the state Department of Revenue. [Read more](#)

### **SC Lawmakers Return With Big To-Do List (1/8/13)**

South Carolina started their new two-year legislative session Tuesday at the Statehouse with a long list of items they hope to accomplish. [Read more](#)

### **South Carolina part of suit challenging Voting Rights Act provisions (1/8/13)**

South Carolina spent \$3.5 million defending its voter identification law against government allegations of discrimination, while other states with similar laws faced no such opposition, the state's top attorney said recently in court papers. [Read more](#)

### **Funding methods for state roads may change (1/9/13)**

#### **Infrastructure Bank could move into DOT**

Two of the state Senate's top leaders are signaling their desire for a change in the way the state funds its transportation needs, but it's far from certain whether or when that change could occur. [Read more](#)

### **SC lawmakers push more money for Ethics Commission (1/9/13)**

With lawmakers pushing for ethics reform, some S.C. House budget writers Wednesday pledged to support nearly doubling the State Ethics Commission's budget. [Read more](#)

### **SC schools chief wants money for new buses, school supplies, teacher raises (1/10/13)**

State schools Superintendent Mick Zais wants school districts to give teachers raises, and is asking for more state money for classrooms and school buses. [Read more](#)

### **SC unemployed set to lose federal aid (1/10/13)**

About 3,200 long-term unemployed South Carolinians are set to lose all federal unemployment benefits this week, because the state's economy has gotten better, state officials said Wednesday. [Read more](#)

### **SC to highlight nature's gems to expand tourism (1/10/13)**

South Carolina officials said Wednesday they want to link some of the state's lesser-known scenic areas with new visitors interested in culture, food and fitness as a way to expand the state's \$15 billion tourist industry. [Read more](#)

### **S.C.'S Top Educator, Cop Differ On Guns In Schools (1/10/13)**

S.C. Schools Superintendent Mick Zais Said Thursday That He Would Support A Move By The State's Public School Districts To Allow "A Few Well-Trained And Well-Screened Staff" To Carry Guns On School Grounds. [Read more](#)

## *Meetings and Events*

Monday, January 14th



10:00 State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee/Energy Advisory Council - Gressette 308

**Tuesday, January 15th**

6:00 Palmetto Leadership Council Winter Reception - Palmetto Club

**Wednesday, January 16th**

6:00 South Carolina Bar Legislative Reception - The Oak Table

7:00 State of the State Address - House Chamber

*Links*

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

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