

# STATE HOUSE *Update*

June 7, 2013

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## *What's New*



With the 2013 Legislative Session ending yesterday, this is our last Public Policy Update for the year. We will continue to keep readers updated on the state budget over the next few weeks until the process is completed. Additionally, we will always send breaking political news as it develops during the off season. For more information or assistance regarding public policy and governmental affairs matters, please contact Bob Coble at [bcoble@nexusenpruet.com](mailto:bcoble@nexusenpruet.com) or 803-253-8211.

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## *Details from Each Chamber*



The House of Representatives and the Senate met in regular session during this final week of the regular session before adjourning *Sine Die* on Thursday at 5:00 pm. Legislators will return on Tuesday, June 18, to vote on the budget conference report, and then again on Tuesday, June 25, to address Governor Haley's budget vetoes.

### **State Budget**

The Senate and House of Representatives did not agree on one version of the state budget bill and appointed a conference committee to debate and negotiate on the differences. Senators Leatherman, Peeler and Setzler and Representatives White, Simrill and Anthony are members of the budget conference committee. The committee met for the first time today and will continue to

meet next week.

### **Abandoned Buildings**

[H. 3093](#), the Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, was passed by both chambers and enrolled for ratification. This bill, introduced by Representative James Smith (D-Richland), allows a taxpayer making investments of a certain size in rehabilitating an abandoned building to receive income tax credits or credits against the property tax liability.

### **Ethics Reform**

This week, the Senate debated [H. 3945](#), the Ethics Reform Bill. However, the upper chamber failed to garner enough votes to pass the bill before the session's clock ran out. The bill would have required legislators to disclose their sources of income, limited independent political spending, and gave an independent Ethics Commission authority to investigate complaints against lawmakers. Currently, legislators police themselves. A block of conservative Senators, who wanted to focus on a bill to nullify the Affordable Care Act, with assistance from Democrats who wanted to spend more time on the bill, ultimately prevented the bill from passing this session. The bill is sure to be a hot topic next session.

### **Concealed Weapons in Restaurants**

By a vote of 100 to 12, the House of Representatives passed [S. 308](#) to allow concealed weapons permit holders to carry a weapon into bars and restaurants where alcohol is sold. The bill also allows businesses to prevent individuals with concealed weapons from entering by posting signs against it. The Senate took up the House amendments on S.308 Thursday afternoon. Senator Larry Martin (R-Pickens) urged the body to amend the bill back to the Senate version so it could go straight to conference committee. Senator John Scott (D-Richland) took to the floor with multiple amendments that prevented the Senate from passing the bill before the 5:00pm deadline.

### **State Highways Funding**

The Senate gave third reading as amended, Wednesday, to [H. 3360](#), a bill that provides that all highways in the state shall be constructed to the Department of Transportation standards, and to provide the funding sources that the Department uses to construct and maintain these highways. The House again amended the bill and the Senate non-concurred with the House version. A conference committee consisting of Senators Grooms, Setzler and Peeler and Representatives Owens, Daning and Brown was appointed to debate and negotiate on the differences.

### **Equal Access to Ballot**

Senator Campsen (R-Charleston) took to the Senate floor on [S. 2](#), the Equal Access to the Ballot Act, and announced that a conference report was adopted by the conference committee on Tuesday. Campsen informed the body that the conference report was unanimous on both sides. By a vote of 40-0, the Senate voted to adopt the conference report. The House adopted the Report by a vote of 107-5. The bill will now be sent to the Governor.

### **Affordable Care Act**

The Senate discussed [H. 3101](#), a bill that prohibits state employees from aiding in the implementation of some provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The Senate adjourned debate on the bill Wednesday night, preventing it from being passed in this legislative session.



## *Newly Introduced Legislation*

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TAX:**

[H. 4301](#) Hardee, Clemmons and Goldfinch: RELATING TO THE CORPORATE LICENSE TAX CREDIT ALLOWED FOR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 4306](#) Finlay: RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

### **EDUCATION:**

[S. 787](#) Davis: RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS - Referred to the Committee on Education.

### **GOVERNMENT:**

[S. 773](#) Massey: RELATING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SOLICITORS, TO ENACT ARTICLE 2, THE "TRANSPARENCY IN PRIVATE ATTORNEY CONTRACTS ACT", - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

### **JUDICIAL:**

[S. 764](#) Alexander: TO CREATE THE VULNERABLE ADULT GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM - Referred to the General Committee.

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

[S. 765](#) Peeler: SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT STATE LAWS, ORDINANCES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO SUCH LAWS AND ORDINANCES LIMITING WHERE AND WHEN AN ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) MAY OPERATE DO NOT APPLY TO AN ATV USED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY - Referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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## *In the Media*



### **Charleston-area businesses prepare for 'Obamacare' rollout in 2014 (6/3/13)**

When the Affordable Care Act was signed into federal law three years ago, 2014 seemed a long way off. [Read more.](#)

### **Bulk of 4-K funds to public or private schools in SC? (6/4/13)**

The budget battle at the State House this week won't be over whether to expand 4-year-old kindergarten but who should get most of that money - public schools or private schools. [Read more.](#)

**GHS, Clemson strike new partnership (6/4/13)**

Clemson University and Greenville Health System announced a partnership Tuesday that officials say is aimed at attracting more federal funding for medical research and improving health care. [Read more.](#)

**Special election set for former Senator Robert Ford's seat (6/4/13)**

Voters will go to the polls in October to replace former Senator Robert Ford, who resigned last week amid the Senate Ethics Committee's hearing on ethics allegations against him. [Read more.](#)

**Bill to allow concealed weapons in restaurants, bars passes House (6/4/13)**

A bill that would allow South Carolinians with permits to carry concealed weapons into restaurants and bars passed the S.C. House Tuesday in a 100-12 vote, getting one step closer to becoming law. [Read more.](#)

**Bill would set SC's special legislative session (6/4/13)**

The Senate has approved a measure calling legislators back to the Statehouse in two weeks for a special session. [Read more.](#)

**Laurens Co. Tea Party president star witness against IRS at Capitol Hill hearing (6/4/13)**

The Laurens County Tea Party has spent three stressful, aggravating years waiting for action on its application for tax-exempt status, the group's president told members of a House committee Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

**RAND study finds SC will pay high price for Medicaid decision (6/4/13)**

South Carolina's decision to forego expanding Medicaid coverage to more uninsured people will wind up costing the state more than if it did, a new RAND Corp. report concludes. [Read more.](#)

**High-speed rail talk generating excitement in Upstate (6/5/13)**

Joy Stevenson of Greenville said the prospect of a high-speed passenger rail project linking Atlanta with Charlotte with possible stops in Greenville and Greer is "an exciting one." [Read more.](#)

**Senator Darrell Jackson criticizes Gov. Nikki Haley for ethics comment about Robert Ford (6/5/13)**

Gov. Nikki Haley called on senators Wednesday to pass ethics reform, after a Senate Democrat said the Republican governor may only have herself to blame if the bill doesn't pass this year. [Read more.](#)

**SC House OKs private-school tax credits (6/5/13)**

House lawmakers sent the state budget back to the Senate on Wednesday, drawing battle lines over public vs. private education in next year's \$22.7 billion spending plan. [Read more.](#)

**SC senator asks governor if ransom was paid for hacked data (6/5/13)**

Soon after the public learned hackers had swiped taxpayer information from the S.C. Department of Revenue, rumors circulated that authorities had paid a ransom to retrieve the stolen data from overseas. [Read more.](#)

**SC Senators: Ethics dead for the year (6/5/13)**

The state Senate polices its members just fine, senators said Wednesday, refusing to pass an ethics bill - Gov. Nikki Haley's top priority for the year - that would end lawmakers' practice of investigating ethics complaints against legislators. [Read more.](#)

**SC House votes to eliminate high school exit exam (6/5/13)**

The S.C. House voted Wednesday to eliminate the requirement that high school students pass an exit exam to receive a high school diploma. [Read more.](#)

**Report: S.C.'s worst bridges lie along I-26 (6/5/13)**

Six of the worst bridges in South Carolina are on Interstate 26, between Columbia and Charleston, according to a report issued Tuesday by AAA Carolinas. [Read more.](#)

**S.C. economic index points to positive growth (6/5/13)**

The state's leading index of economic indicators stayed above 101 in April, marking the 17th consecutive month that the index has topped the century mark. [Read more.](#)

**Senator: Haley is reason SC needs new ethics law (6/5/13)**

If ethics reform -- Gov. Nikki Haley's top priority -- fails to pass the General Assembly this year, the Republican will have herself and her spokesman to blame, a Democratic state senator said Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

**Upstate group, others say they were targeted by IRS (6/5/13)**

The Laurens County Tea Party has spent three stressful, aggravating years waiting for action on its application for tax-exempt status, the group's president told members of a House committee Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

**RAND study finds SC will pay high price for Medicaid decision (6/6/13)**

South Carolina's decision to forego expanding Medicaid coverage to more uninsured people will wind up costing the state more than if it did, a new RAND Corp. report concludes. [Read more.](#)

**Boeing seeks factory in Charleston area for engineering, assembly of 737 MAX components (6/6/13)**

Boeing Co. is seeking a new local factory to house engineers and assembly workers for the 737 MAX work it is bringing to the Lowcountry. [Read more.](#)

**S.C. Chief Justice says she will seek another term (6/6/13)**

The chief justice of the state Supreme Court says she will seek reelection next year and, if elected, will serve until her mandatory retirement date of Dec. 31, 2015. [Read more.](#)

**EXCLUSIVE: School official says DHEC kept him in dark about TB threat (6/6/13)**

A Greenwood County school superintendent said he wanted to inform the public about a contagious disease investigation in a Ninety Six primary school this spring, but the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control thwarted those efforts for nearly two months. [Read more.](#)

**Lawmakers begin work on budget compromise (6/7/13)**

Gov. Nikki Haley can serve junk food at the Governor's Mansion and local school districts can sell ads on activity buses, state budget writers said Friday. [Read more.](#)

**Haley signs bill boosting breweries' business (6/7/13)**

Visitors can now quaff a hefty brew while touring a brewery in South Carolina, and the people who make beer are celebrating. [Read more.](#)

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*The Nexsen Pruet State House Update is published as a service to our attorneys, clients, and friends. It is intended to be a high level overview of the weekly activity at the South Carolina State House and does not constitute legal advice regarding any specific situation.*

*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).*

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