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## *Details from Each Chamber*



### **Senate Budget Debate**

After two weeks of contentious debates on the state budget, the Senate voted 31-6 to give second-reading to the \$6.3 billion budget bill. The Senate is expected to give final reading of the bill and send back to the House early next week.

Senators voted to transfer \$50 million from the Department of Transportation to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) for bridge and road projects. The SIB would be able to use this money to borrow up to \$500 million for projects. The Senate agreed to restore \$20 million to local governments by taking money away from other areas. Senators agreed to put almost \$24 million toward buying new school buses. Additionally, they allocated \$26 million to expand full-day 4-year-old kindergarten to all school districts that had 75% or more of their students living in poverty.

Senator Lee Bright (R-Spartanburg) offered an amendment that would require the Department of Corrections not to use state funds or resources for sexual reassignment surgeries. This is in response to the Virginia lawsuit where an inmate sued the state claiming that her constitutional rights were violated when prison authorities refused to evaluate her for a sex-change operation. Senator Bright also offered an amendment to create the Select Committee on Budget Dependence on Federal Funding. The amendment was adopted.

Senator Ray Cleary (R-Georgetown) amended the budget bill to allow telemedicine to be used in the State Health Plan. He expressed concern that the pending legislation, [S. 290](#), would not pass this Session. The House Labor, Commerce and Industry Health Insurance subcommittee met Wednesday morning to discuss the bill, but took no action on it.

Senator Vincent Sheheen (D-Kershaw) offered an amendment to prohibit the use of any source of funds to pay state lobbyists. There was extended debate on the amendment which was eventually

tabled.

Senator Tom Davis (R-Beaufort) offered an amendment for a refundable income tax credit for public and private teachers for up to \$275 for money spent out of pocket for the classroom.

Also included in the Senate version of the budget is a proviso that requires DHEC to charge a fee to each solid waste management facility in South Carolina that accepts waste generated from out of state.

### **Medicaid Expansion**

On Tuesday, the Senate killed efforts to include Medicaid Expansion into the budget. The vote was 23-19, with two Republicans, Senators Ray Cleary (R-Georgetown) and Paul Campbell (R-Berkeley) voting with the Democrats. The proposal would have accepted almost \$800 million in federal money to pay for health care for about 320,000 South Carolinians. Republicans argued that the state already has a difficult time paying its share of Medicaid expenses, and wouldn't be able to afford the expansion.

### **Cyber-Security**

The Ways and Means Committee met this week on [S. 334](#), the identity theft protection bill. Deloitte and Touché presented their recommendations on the initial security assessment of the state last week to the Ways and Means Committee, and the Committee discussed amendments this week that would address some of the issues uncovered in the presentation.

During their Tuesday meeting, Representative Haryy Ott (D-Calhoun) and Brian Chairman White (R-Anderson) discussed the RFP, extending consumer protection for five years and an income tax deduction for personal protection.

When asked about increased costs and growing government, White replied that it would cost about \$14 million and 34 FTE's to have the new Information Technology Department fully operational by July 2014. Representative Gary Simrill (R-York) suggested they place DIT within DOA, but the Chairman insisted it should be a separate agency with more accountability to the General Assembly.

After several members suggested amendments, White called for another meeting Wednesday. During the Wednesday meeting White described the substitute amendment. It tightens up the definition of consumer protection and identity theft services; bolsters the time element by immediate reporting of any breach; allows the Joint Committee rather than the Governor the authority to hire and fire the director, and puts agency IT person on the Joint Committee, plus an appointee of the Governor, Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Committee will continue to meet to discuss this bill after running out of time this week.

### **Continuing Resolution**

The Senate Finance Committee met briefly Wednesday morning and gave a favorable report to [S. 705](#), a continuing resolution to pay the expenses of government if a budget is not passed. The bill is now pending on the Senate floor.

### **Worker's Compensation**

The House of Representatives passed [H. 3369](#), a bill that requires an exemption from worker's compensation law for employees covered by the Federal Employers Liability Act, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act or the Jones Act. Representative Bill Sandifer (R-

Oconee) offered an amendment stipulating that a person can choose state worker's compensation or the above mentioned compensation acts but not both.

### **Guns and Restaurants**

The House Judiciary General Laws Subcommittee gave a favorable as amended report to [H. 308](#), a bill that would allow South Carolinians with permits to carry concealed weapons to take guns into restaurants and bars. They removed a Senate provision that would have barred guns after midnight in places that serves alcohol.

### **Breweries**

The House of Representatives concurred in the Senate amendments to [H. 3354](#), a bill that allows pint sales at South Carolina breweries. The S.C. Brewers Association has been pushing the measure for more than a year to enable breweries to bring in additional revenue and spur industry growth. The bill now goes to Governor Haley.

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## *The Governor's Office*



### **Economic Development Announcements**

This week, Governor Nikki Haley announced that **Mediterranean Shipping Company** plans to expand operations at its Charleston County facility. The company will invest more than \$1.7 million and is expected to create 30 additional new jobs. **Advanta Southeast**, a maker of reusable packaging, will locate its new operating facility in Clarendon County. The \$3.5 million investment is expected to generate 30 new jobs. Additionally, **General Machine** of Anderson will expand its metalworking and manufacturing operations in Anderson County. The \$800,000 investment is expected to generate at least 20 new jobs.

For more information about these companies, please visit their websites at [www.msc.us](http://www.msc.us), [www.advantaindustries.com](http://www.advantaindustries.com), and [www.generalmachine.org](http://www.generalmachine.org).

### **Unemployment**

Governor Haley and the Department of Employment and Workforce announced this week that South Carolina's unemployment dropped to 8%, its lowest rate in five years in April. "Our outstanding companies, our loyal and dedicated workforce, and our competitive business environment have our economy turning again," Governor Nikki Haley said in a statement hailing the decline. "There's no doubt that South Carolina is on the move, and we couldn't be more excited about the great things in store for our state."

Click [here](#) to read the press release from the Department of Employment and Workforce.

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## *Newly Introduced Legislation*



**EDUCATION:**

[S. 722](#) Ford: TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL CHOICE PILOT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2013" - Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

[S. 717](#) Matthews: TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM, IN EFFECT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2017, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ISSUING PERMITS TO CONSTRUCT CERTAIN NEW CLASS 3 LANDFILLS OR TO REPLACE OR EXPAND CERTAIN EXISTING CLASS 3 LANDFILLS AND ON THE DEPARTMENT ISSUING APPROVALS TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL DISPOSAL RATE AT CERTAIN CLASS 3 LANDFILLS - Referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

**GOVERNMENT:**

[S. 723](#) Thurmond: RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR ANNEXATION OF SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**HEALTHCARE:**

[H. 4223](#) Nanney: TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT" - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

[H. 4225](#) Jefferson: TO CREATE THE 'HOSPITAL COSTS DISPARITY STUDY COMMITTEE' - Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs.

[S. 716](#) Alexander: RELATING TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS, SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT THE RELEASE OF NONIDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO AN ADOPTEE, REGARDING THE HEALTH AND MEDICAL HISTORY OF AN ADOPTEE'S BIOLOGICAL PARENTS - Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**INSURANCE:**

[H. 4228](#) Gambrell: TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVIDER OF HEALTH INSURANCE MAY NOT IMPOSE A COPAYMENT, COINSURANCE, OR OFFICE VISIT DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT CHARGED TO AN INSURED FOR SERVICE RENDERED ON EACH DATE OF SERVICE BY AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST OR PHYSICAL THERAPIST - Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

**JUDICIAL:**

[H. 4180](#) Govan: RELATING TO ALIMONY AND THE EFFECT OF REMARRIAGE OR CONTINUED COHABITATION ON ALIMONY - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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***In the Media***



**Small-business incentives could help spur activity downtown (5/20/13)**

Rock Hill's incentive program to attract and keep restaurants to the city's downtown hasn't worked out so well. Maybe the city will have better luck with perks for small high-tech businesses. [Read more.](#)

**SC has 'significant problem' with prescription-drug abuse, report says (5/20/13)**

South Carolina does not have a plan to fight prescription-drug abuse despite ranking 10th in the nation in painkiller prescriptions, the state's inspector general said in a new report. [Read more.](#)

**Alan Wilson wants IRS-targeted groups to come forward (5/20/13)**

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson said Monday that he wants nonprofit organizations in the state that think they were "wrongfully targeted by the IRS" to contact his office. [Read more.](#)

**Public in Deep South supports expanding Medicaid, poll finds, but lawmakers don't (5/21/13)**

Even though governors and lawmakers in five Deep South states oppose a plan to cover more people through Medicaid under the health care overhaul, 62 percent of the people in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina support expanding the program, according to a new poll. [Read more.](#)

**SC Senate kills last effort to expand Medicaid (5/21/13)**

The state Senate killed Medicaid expansion on Tuesday, the last hope for supporters who wanted to extend health insurance benefits to South Carolina's working poor. [Read more.](#)

**SC governor urges Senate to pass ethics reform (5/21/13)**

Republicans and Democrats pointed fingers at each other on Tuesday over an ethics bill that, as the legislative calendar winds down, appears more likely it will not pass this year. [Read more.](#)

**SC House bill would end 'school choice' for student-property owners (5/21/13)**

A decades-old form of "school choice" is under fire from lawmakers who say it is not fair to all S.C. families. [Read more.](#)

**SC House panel proposes new computer agency (5/21/13)**

A South Carolina House committee proposed Tuesday creating a separate Cabinet-level agency to oversee information technology in response to a massive computer data breach at the S.C. Department of Revenue last year. [Read more.](#)

**Haley says road bill not priority (5/21/13)**

Gov. Nikki Haley says a Senate road-funding plan isn't one of her legislative priorities with three weeks to go to the end of this year's legislative session. [Read more.](#)

**Updated: Boeing CEO Jim McNerney calls N. Charleston 787 campus "a big deal" (5/22/13)**

Boeing's top executives heaped praise on the North Charleston 787 complex during the company's annual investor meeting held on Kiawah Wednesday morning, while broadcasting sharp challenges, including to its suppliers and main competitor, Airbus. [Read more.](#)

**County Council OKs Boeing incentives (5/22/13)**

Charleston County will reduce Boeing South Carolina's property assessment rate and improve roads around its campus now that council has approved an incentives package. [Read more.](#)

**Bolton: Why put weight of obesity in SC just on food stamp recipients? (5/22/13)**

NOT EVERYONE who receives food stamps in South Carolina is overweight. [Read more.](#)

**Gowdy objects to IRS official 'taking the fifth' (5/22/13)**

An Internal Revenue Service official tried to evoke her Fifth Amendment rights in a House Oversight Committee hearing Wednesday, but she could now be forced to face committee

members after U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy questioned her tactics. [Read more.](#)

**SC Senate passes \$500 million road-repair deal (5/23/13)**

A deal to spend up to \$500 million to repair S.C. roads and bridges was approved Thursday by the state Senate. [Read more.](#)

**SC Senate approves \$6.3B budget plan (5/23/13)**

The South Carolina Senate approved a budget proposal late Thursday that would allow hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of road and bridge construction, let more poor 4-year-olds go to school for a full day, and buy hundreds of school buses. [Read more.](#)

**SC Senate OKs tax credits for private-school grants, teacher supplies (5/23/13)**

The state Senate approved a tax credit Thursday for donations made for private-school scholarships for disabled students. [Read more.](#)

**AG: 2 SC groups say they were targeted by IRS (5/23/13)**

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson says he's gotten calls from two conservative groups that feel they were wrongfully targeted by the Internal Revenue Service. [Read more.](#)

**SC House panel endorses bill to allow guns in restaurants, bars (5/23/13)**

A House panel advanced a bill Wednesday that would allow South Carolinians with permits to carry concealed weapons to take guns into restaurants and bars, removing proposed Senate restrictions that would have barred guns after midnight and in areas dedicated to serving alcohol. [Read more.](#)

**SC roads bill running short on time (5/23/13)**

Whether it's patching potholes, widening Interstate 85 or resurfacing local roads, it's do or die time for roads-funding legislation this year in the South Carolina Legislature and supporters say they aren't hopeful. [Read more.](#)

**Time running out to fix state's crumbling roads (5/23/13)**

Whether it's patching potholes, widening Interstate 85 or resurfacing local roads, it's do or die time for roads-funding legislation this year in the South Carolina Legislature and supporters say they aren't hopeful. [Read more.](#)

**South Carolina beer pint bill clears House, headed for governor's desk; brewers celebrate news (5/24/13)**

Beer lovers may soon be quaffing suds from their source after the state House of Representatives gave final approval Thursday to a bill allowing pint sales at South Carolina breweries. [Read more.](#)

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## *Meetings and Events*



**Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 Legislative BBQ 'Cue on the 'Shoe, by USC - Historic Horseshoe, USC Campus

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 Legislative Reception for Senator Floyd Nicholson - 701 Whaley  
Women's' Caucus Reception hosted by West End - 803 Meeting Street, West Columbia

**Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 Legislative Reception for Senator Thurmond - 300 Senate at Senate's End  
6:00 Reception for Senator Ross Turner - Home of Mr. & Mrs. Ed McMullen, 4  
Cedarwood Lane, Columbia

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