

STATE HOUSE *Update*

May 3, 2013

Details from Each Chamber



There are only five weeks left in the 2013 regular session of the General Assembly. The Senate and House of Representatives spent this week debating bills on the floor before the Wednesday, May 1st crossover deadline. Any bill that didn't pass one body by that date now requires a 2/3 vote to be considered by the other body.

On Thursday, the House and Senate ratified acts to send to the Governor. You can access these acts [here](#).

The House of Representatives will be on furlough all next week. The Senate will remain in normal session, where they are expected to start preparing for the full Senate budget debate.

SENATE

Budget

The Senate Finance Committee met several times this week to deliberate the state budget and finished their work on Friday. The House of Representatives passed their version of the budget in March. Information and handouts related to the Senate budget can be found [here](#). The full Senate is expected to debate the budget during the week of May 13.

Guns

The Senate passed [H.3560](#), the bill that prohibits mentally ill citizens from possessing and purchasing guns. Senator Larry Martin (R-Pickens) introduced an amendment for court orders to be transferred to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for further submission to the federal National Instant Criminal Background System (NICS). Senator Thurmond (R-

Charleston) also introduced an amendment that defined firearm mufflers and silencers. The House of Representatives concurred with the Senate amendments.

College Tuition

The Senate passed [S.259](#), a bill that would exempt South Carolina citizens 60 or older who receive compensation as full-time employees from paying tuition at State universities and colleges. The current exemption only applies to persons over 60 who are retired, unemployed, or working part-time.

Transportation Funding

A special Senate Finance subcommittee was appointed to debate and hold hearings on multiple bills introduced to deal with transportation funding. Subcommittee members include Senators Ray Cleary, Yancey McGill, Thomas Alexander, Darrell Jackson, Paul Campbell and Joel Lourie. Thursday night, the subcommittee reported that they intend to combine most of the proposals into a major infrastructure bill. The bill is described as taking sales tax from vehicles (Speaker Harrell's plan) and combines it with vehicle fee increases, a gas tax increase, and general obligation bond capacity of the State. The bill would allow another local option sales tax for counties (Senator Leatherman's plan) that would go to road maintenance.

The following article describes the plan in more detail:

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/05/03/2753393/sc-senate-roads-bill-faces-long.html>.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Nursing Home Permits

The House of Representatives passed [H.3978](#) to define Medicaid permit day, specify the manner in which additional Medicaid permit days are allocated, and establish penalties and violations, this week. The Senate referred the bill to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

Early Voting

The House of Representatives gave third reading to [H.3176](#), a bill that would provide for early voting in South Carolina. The Senate referred the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Physician Assistants Practice Act

After passing the Senate last week, the House of Representatives passed [S.448](#). The bill amends the Physician Assistants Practice Act related to the supervisory relationship between physicians and PAs and their regulation by the Board of Medical Examiners.

Freedom of Healthcare

The House of Representatives passed [H.3101](#), the bill that attempts to nullify the Affordable Care Act. The bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Healthcare Disclosure

The House also passed [H. 3366](#), a bill that requires health care providers to give patients an opportunity to authorize disclosure of certain medical information to designated family members and others. The bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.



Newly Introduced Legislation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / TAX:

[H. 4075](#) Vick: RELATING TO THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION ALLOWED PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS, OR DISABLED, OR LEGALLY BLIND, SO AS TO INCREASE THE EXEMPTION AMOUNT FROM THE FIRST FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE HOMESTEAD. - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

[H. 4077](#) Clemmons: RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATE GENERAL OBLIGATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOND ACT, - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

HEALTHCARE:

[S. 662](#) Thurmond: TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF A RESIDENT'S ROOM IN A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY - referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

[H. 4095](#) K. R. Crawford: ENACT THE "TRUTH IN HEALTH FINANCING AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMER HEALTH CARE ACT" - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

JUDICIAL:

[H. 4094](#) Rivers: RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

GOVERNMENT:

[H. 4076](#) R. L. Brown: TO REQUIRE EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY THAT MAINTAINS FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY THAT SAFEGUARDS THE INFORMATION, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE POLICY MUST BE NO LESS STRINGENT THAN THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PROTECTS THE INFORMATION. - Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

PROPERTY / REAL ESTATE

[S. 661](#) S. Martin: TO ENACT THE "AGENDA 21 PROTECTION ACT" - Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

REGULATIONS:

[S. 675](#) Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE, RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE - Placed on the Calendar without reference.

In the Media



New role for USC: Boosting SC economy (4/27/13)

The University of South Carolina will start an economic-development office in July, seeking to broaden its reach beyond academics. [Read more.](#)

SC's Clyburn marks 20 years in Congress (4/27/13)

Nearly every hand along Sumter's Manning Avenue reached out to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn when, after 20 years in Congress, the third-ranking House Democrat returned to his birthplace earlier this month. [Read more.](#)

Carolinas split on tax credits for filming (4/27/13)

Lawmakers in the two Carolinas are headed in opposite directions when it comes to film productions.

[Read more.](#)

S.C. House proposal would ban workplace discrimination based on 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' (4/30/13)

A state House bill would outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, putting in place protections that do not currently exist under state law, supporters say. [Read more.](#)

Public gets oversight of lawmakers with ethics reform (4/30/13)

Lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle claimed victory Tuesday as the S.C. House passed a bill that would end the General Assembly's practice of policing its own members without public oversight. [Read more.](#)

Senator sinks bill that would have eased state oversight of Clemson University projects (4/30/13)

A bill that would have eased state oversight of privately funded athletics, research and economic development projects at Clemson University was torpedoed Tuesday in the South Carolina Senate.

[Read more.](#)

SC Senate studying gas tax increase (5/1/13)

A bipartisan group of six state senators is working on a proposal that would borrow \$1.3 billion to repair and replace the state's crumbling network of interstates and bridges - a proposal that also would increase the state's gas tax, currently third lowest in the nation. [Read more.](#)

SC senate eyeing 4-year-old kindergarten expansion (5/1/13)

Expanding 4-year-old kindergarten for at-risk S.C. children will be a priority as the Senate takes up the state budget, Senate leaders said Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

SC senator: State should borrow to repair roads, bridges once \$750M loan is paid off. (5/1/13)

In 1999, S.C. lawmakers borrowed \$750 million to build public schools. Every year since then, taxpayers have spent about \$70 million a year to pay off that loan. [Read more.](#)

Pro-Gov. Nikki Haley group hits Sen. Vincent Sheheen on Medicaid stance (5/1/13)

A new advertisement attacking likely Democratic gubernatorial nominee state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's position in support of Medicaid expansion begins airing today in markets across South Carolina. [Read more.](#)

Forces push for offshore oil and natural gas development at Myrtle Beach forum (5/1/13)

Representatives for the oil and gas industries were in Myrtle Beach Wednesday to urge South Carolinians to pressure Congress to allow development of the state's offshore resources. [Read more.](#)

City's \$4 million plaza project designed to enhance new downtown development (5/2/13)

Business was good five years ago when Scott and Loretta Stephens opened Camille's Sidewalk Café on the ground floor of the downtown office tower called Bank of America Plaza. [Read more.](#)

South Carolina House passes bill making 'Obamacare' implementation a crime (5/2/13)

The South Carolina state House passed a bill Wednesday that declares President Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to be "null and void," and criminalizes its implementation. [Read more.](#)

Sen. Scott says health-care law will drive up insurance rates (5/2/13)

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott warned Thursday that a federal health-care law will cause insurance rates to soar in South Carolina. [Read more.](#)

2016 presidential race gets off to its SC start (5/3/13)

A little more than a year after the last presidential primary in South Carolina, the next one gets an unofficial start Friday night. [Read more.](#)

Senate Finance budget plan expands full-day 4K (5/3/13)

The Senate Finance Committee has approved a budget proposal that expands full-day 4-year-old kindergarten, gives state workers a slight raise, and puts more troopers on the highways. [Read more.](#)

Republican Lawmaker Bill Herbkersman withdraws support for Medicaid expansion alternative (5/3/13)

One Republican lawmaker plans to scratch his name from a bipartisan bill that would accept federal money to set up health savings accounts for low-income residents in South Carolina. [Read more.](#)

House Republican proposes alternative to Medicaid expansion (5/3/13)

A Republican state lawmaker unveiled a plan Thursday that proposes South Carolina accept billions in federal funding for expansion of Medicaid under the federal health care law but instead use the money to create medical savings accounts for the uninsured. [Read more.](#)

Senate panel rejects Medicaid expansion (5/3/13)

State Senate budget writers Thursday defeated a proposal that would have given more low-income South Carolinians health insurance. [Read more.](#)

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