

NO. 58

JOURNAL
of the
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
of the
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024
(STATEWIDE SESSION)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
(Statewide Session)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The House assembled at 12:00 noon.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by Rev. Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr., as follows:

Our thought for today is from Proverbs: 24:1: “Do not envy the wicked, nor desire to be with them.”

Let us pray. We give You thanks and praise to You Lord God, Heavenly Father as You have provided such great wonders for us. We have been chosen out of divine goodness and mercy. We have not been chosen because we are good, but because God is good. We give thanks to those who provide us with men and women who work to keep us safe, our defenders of freedom and first responders. Look in favor upon our World, Nation, President, State, Governor, Speaker, Staff, and all who give of their time and effort to do the work required. Remember our women and men who serve and give their lives for this Country, especially those with hidden wounds. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Pursuant to Rule 6.3, the House of Representatives was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by the SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE*.

After corrections to the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, the SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* ordered it confirmed.

MOTION ADOPTED

Rep. WHITE moved that when the House adjourns, it adjourn in memory of Robert Wayne Kneece, which was agreed to.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5511 -- Reps. Rutherford, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder,

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF ASHLEY MICHELLE BROWN AND HER SON, PRINCE TION, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5512 -- Reps. Rivers, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF THE ORIGINAL

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

GULLAH FESTIVAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR ITS MEANINGFUL INFLUENCE IN PRESERVING THE HISTORIC GULLAH CULTURE AND FOR ITS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE'S VITAL TOURISM INDUSTRY.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5513 -- Reps. Landing, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WANDO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2024 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5514 -- Reprs. Landing, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE WANDO HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, BAND DIRECTORS, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CELEBRATE THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAAA MARCHING BAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5515 -- Reprs. Pedalino, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOHN B. "BRITT" PARKER OF CLARENDON COUNTY FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED FIFTY YEARS OF SELFLESS, DEDICATED SERVICE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5516 -- Reps. Pedalino, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE BEULAH G. ROBERTS, CLERK OF COURT FOR CLARENDON COUNTY, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED COURTS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR FOR HER MORE THAN THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE.

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5517 -- Reps. Pedalino, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE REVEREND GEORGE P. WINDLEY, SR., RETIRED SENIOR CHAPLAIN OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ON RECEIVING THE CORRECTIONS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5518 -- Reps. Gilliam, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CLINTON CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH IN UNION COUNTY TO FOSTER UNITY AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND LEADERS IN THE GREATER UNION AREA.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5519 -- Reprs. McCabe, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE ANDREW CHAVARRIA UPON BEING NAMED 2024-2025 PELION MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TO

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO CHILDREN, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

The Resolution was adopted.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5520 -- Rep. King: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF OGDEN ROAD IN YORK COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH HECKLE BOULEVARD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH HARRISON STREET "DAISY ROGERS MCDUFFIE ROAD" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS ROAD CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

The Concurrent Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1319 -- Senator Gambrell: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BRADEN WILSON, AN EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1322 -- Senator Gambrell: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BELTON-HONEA PATH HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A NATIONAL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS ACHIEVEMENT.

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

The following Bill was introduced, read the first time, and referred to appropriate committee:

H. 5521 -- Reps. Rutherford and Ott: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 58-3-140, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S POWERS TO REGULATE PUBLIC UTILITIES, SO AS TO ESTABLISH CONSIDERATIONS AND STATE POLICY FOR THE COMMISSION'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS, TO ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN TESTIMONY AND DISCOVERY IN CONTESTED PROCEEDINGS, TO PERMIT ELECTRICAL UTILITY CUSTOMERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION AS PUBLIC WITNESSES, AND TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY CONSULTANT HIRED BY THE COMMISSION; BY ADDING SECTION 58-4-150 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE STATE ENERGY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN AND TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PLAN; BY ADDING SECTION 58-31-205 SO AS TO PERMIT THE PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO JOINTLY OWN ELECTRICAL FACILITIES WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS; BY ADDING SECTION 58-37-70 SO AS TO PERMIT A SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR PILOT PROGRAM AND TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS; BY ADDING ARTICLE 3 TO CHAPTER 37, TITLE 58 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR STATE AGENCY REVIEW OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATIONS AND TO PROVIDE A SUNSET; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-40-10, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF "CUSTOMER GENERATOR", SO AS TO ESTABLISH CHARACTERISTICS FOR A "CUSTOMER GENERATOR"; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-41-30, RELATING TO VOLUNTARY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THESE PROGRAMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-41-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD THE DEFINITION OF "ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES"; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-41-20,

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS FOR ELECTRICAL UTILITIES" AVOIDED COST METHODOLOGIES AND RELATED PROCESSES, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, CAPACITY, AND STORAGE, TO PERMIT COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT OF NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY AND ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR NON COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS, AND TO DELETE LANGUAGE REGARDING THE COMMISSION HIRING THIRD PARTY EXPERTS FOR THESE PROCEEDINGS; BY ADDING SECTION 58-41-25 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A PROCESS FOR COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-33-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD THE DEFINITION "LIKE FACILITY" AND "MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY" TO REQUIRE AN ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES MAY ALSO REQUIRE A FOOTPRINT OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE ACRES; BY AMENDING ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 33, TITLE 58, RELATING TO CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR UTILITY FACILITIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A LIKE FACILITY, TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROPOSED FACILITIES, TO PROVIDE WHAT ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE COMMISSION, AND TECHNICAL CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-37-40, RELATING TO INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLANS, SO AS TO ADD CONSIDERATION OF A UTILITY'S TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION RESOURCE PLAN, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION BY THE COMMISSION, AND REQUIRE PARTIES TO BEAR THEIR OWN COSTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-33-310, RELATING TO AN APPEAL FROM A FINAL ORDER OR DECISION OF THE COMMISSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE A FINAL ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 33, TITLE 58 BE IMMEDIATELY APPEALABLE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPEDITED HEARING; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-33-320, RELATING TO JOINT HEARINGS AND JOINT INVESTIGATIONS, SO AS TO MAKE A CONFORMING CHANGE; BY ADDING SECTION 58-4-160 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO EVALUATE ESTABLISHING A THIRD

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

PARTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-37-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD A REFERENCE TO "DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM" AND PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR "COST EFFECTIVE" AND "DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM"; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-37-20, RELATING TO COMMISSION PROCEDURES ENCOURAGING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS, SO AS TO EXPAND COMMISSION CONSIDERATIONS FOR COST EFFECTIVE, DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, AND REQUIRE EACH INVESTOR OWNED ELECTRICAL UTILITY TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION REGARDING ITS DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-37-30, RELATING TO REPORTS ON DEMAND SIDE ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO MAKE A CONFORMING CHANGE; BY ADDING SECTION 58-37-35 SO AS TO PERMIT PROGRAMS AND CUSTOMER INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE OR PROMOTE DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR CUSTOMER-SITED DISTRIBUTION RESOURCES, AND TO PROVIDE CONSIDERATIONS FOR THESE PROGRAMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-37-50, RELATING TO AGREEMENTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION MEASURES, SO AS TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN TERMS AND RATE RECOVERY FOR AGREEMENTS FOR FINANCING AND INSTALLING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND FOR APPLICATION TO A RESIDENCE OCCUPIED BEFORE THE MEASURES ARE TAKEN; TO ESTABLISH THE "ENERGY INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND", AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED REQUIREMENTS; BY ADDING SECTION 58-41-50, SO AS TO ENCOURAGE BULK POWER SOLUTIONS AND TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS; SO AS TO PROVIDE PROVISIONS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REASONABLE AND PRUDENT COST DEFERRAL.

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

ROLL CALL

The roll call of the House of Representatives was taken resulting as follows:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bernstein	Blackwell	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Clyburn
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Felder	Forrest
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hart	Hartnett	Hayes
Henderson-Myers	Henegan	Herbkersman
Hewitt	Hiott	Hixon
Hosey	Howard	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson
S. Jones	W. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	King	Kirby
Landing	Lawson	Leber
Ligon	Long	Lowe
Magnuson	McCabe	McCrary
McDaniel	McGinnis	Mitchell
J. Moore	T. Moore	A. M. Morgan
T. A. Morgan	Moss	Murphy
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Ott	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Robbins	Rose	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder	Stavrinakis
Taylor	Thigpen	Trantham
Vaughan	Weeks	West
Wetmore	Wheeler	White

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Whitmire
Wooten

Williams
Yow

Willis

Total Present--119

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. THAYER a leave of absence for the day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. BRADLEY a leave of absence for the day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. B. J. COX a leave of absence for the day due to a prior business commitment.

STATEMENT BY REP.COBB-HUNTER

REP. COBB-HUNTER made a statement relative to Rep. OTT's service in the House.

STATEMENT BY REP. OTT

Rep. OTT made a statement relative to his service in the House.

DOCTOR OF THE DAY

Announcement was made that Dr. Keith Shealy of Lancaster County was the Doctor of the Day for the General Assembly.

CO-SPONSORS ADDED

In accordance with House Rule 5.2 below:

“5.2 Every bill before presentation shall have its title endorsed; every report, its title at length; every petition, memorial, or other paper, its prayer or substance; and, in every instance, the name of the member presenting any paper shall be endorsed and the papers shall be presented by the member to the Speaker at the desk. A member may add his name to a bill or resolution or a co-sponsor of a bill or resolution may remove his name at any time prior to the bill or resolution receiving passage on second reading. The member or co-sponsor shall notify the Clerk of the House in writing of his desire to have his name added or removed from the bill or resolution. The Clerk of the House shall print the member's or

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

co-sponsor's written notification in the House Journal. The removal or addition of a name does not apply to a bill or resolution sponsored by a committee.”

CO-SPONSOR ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5170
Date: ADD:
05/07/24 WHITE

CO-SPONSOR ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5438
Date: ADD:
05/07/24 MAGNUSON

S. 1292--ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1292 -- Senator Massey: A BILL TO AMEND ACT 595 OF 1992, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SO AS TO REAPPORTION THE SEVEN SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS FROM WHICH THE TRUSTEES ARE ELECTED BEGINNING WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN 2024, TO REDESIGNATE THE MAP NUMBER ON WHICH THESE ELECTION DISTRICTS ARE DELINEATED, AND TO PROVIDE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE REAPPORTIONED ELECTION DISTRICTS.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 97; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bannister
Bauer	Beach	Brewer
Brittain	Bustos	Calhoon
Carter	Caskey	Chapman
Clyburn	Cobb-Hunter	Collins
Connell	B. L. Cox	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Erickson	Felder	Forrest
Garvin	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hartnett	Hayes
Henderson-Myers	Henegan	Hewitt
Hiott	Hosey	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson
S. Jones	W. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	King	Kirby
Landing	Lawson	Leber
Ligon	Long	Magnuson
McCabe	McCravy	McDaniel
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Robbins	Sandifer	Schuessler
Sessions	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Spann-Wilder	Vaughan	West
Wetmore	Wheeler	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--97

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on S. 1292. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Craig Gagnon

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 728--ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 728 -- Senator Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 23-9-197(A)(3), RELATING TO THE FIREFIGHTER CANCER HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PLAN, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEFINITION OF "FIREFIGHTER" SHALL INCLUDE NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHO WORK IN THE STATE.

The Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 728 (LC-728.HA0004H), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, after the title but before the enacting words, by adding:

Whereas, South Carolina is achieving remarkable economic development success which is bringing jobs and prosperity to its citizens; and

Whereas, from January to December 2023, the state announced total capital investments of 9.22 billion dollars and over 14,000 jobs, the second largest amount in state history; and

Whereas, in 2022, the state announced 120 projects creating over 14,000 new jobs with 10.27 billion dollars in new capital investment, the largest amount in state history; and

Whereas, since 2017, the state has announced over 36.4 billion dollars in new investments and 86,378 new jobs; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, South Carolina led the nation in population growth in 2023; and

Whereas, the rapidly expanding population and record breaking economic development successes necessitate a strategic and forward-thinking approach to developing new energy infrastructure capable of meeting the energy needs of South Carolina's residents and supporting the continued prosperity of the state; and

Whereas, sustaining this success in economic development requires an electric system that can grow and modernize to meet the demands that a prosperous and developing economy places on it; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes that the convergence of escalating population growth, record-breaking economic success, and the aging of existing energy infrastructure has created a critical juncture, demanding immediate and decisive action to avert an impending energy crisis; and

Whereas, the urgency of addressing this situation is underscored by

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the interconnected challenges of meeting surging energy demand, ensuring grid reliability, and fortifying the state's resilience against potential disruptions, thereby compelling the imperative for the timely construction of new energy plants to safeguard the continued well-being and economic vitality of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in light of these facts, it is important that the General Assembly take action to ensure that generation and transmission providers are able to plan, site, and construct new and replacement generation and transmission resources in a timely and cost-effective manner, utilizing procedures that are fair, prompt, efficient, and guided by an informed Public Service Commission; and

Whereas, the General Assembly has determined that certain aspects of the current regulatory structure in South Carolina can be revised to reduce the cost, delay, and uncertainty of planning, siting, and constructing new generation and transmission resources serving customers in this state; and

Whereas, the General Assembly further finds that the current circumstances present a unique opportunity to replace or limit reliance on the Williams Generating Station operated by Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("DESC") in Bushy Park, South Carolina; and the Winyah Generating Station operated South Carolina Public Service Authority ("SCPSA") in Georgetown, South Carolina, and perhaps other units as well, through a joint venture between these utilities; and

Whereas, DESC owns the site of the retired Canadys coal units in Colleton County (the "Canadys site") which represent an environmentally well characterized brownfield site with unique attributes, including electric transmission infrastructure on site, proximity to a major switching station interconnecting the DESC and SCPSA transmission systems serving coastal South Carolina, and reasonable proximity to natural gas supplies which can be accessed through existing natural gas rights of way; and

Whereas, modern combined cycle units provide dispatchability and operating flexibility that will allow DESC and SCPSA systems to continue to add large amounts of flexible resources to their systems without jeopardizing cost-efficient and reliable service to customers; and

Whereas, the integrated resource planning by both utilities consistently indicates the need for and benefit of additional combined cycle natural gas resources under multiple planning scenarios; and

Whereas, by pursuing replacement resources as a joint project, DESC and SCPSA can build larger, more fuel efficient, lower emitting units, and can reduce the capital cost per MW of these units by as much as 25%

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

or more compared to building single, stand-alone units sized to meet their individual needs alone while at the same time reducing the environmental and land-use impact of the natural gas pipeline and transmission infrastructure required to support separate units; and

Whereas, the joint project can provide a unique opportunity to anchor the expansion of natural gas pipelines serving certain coastal counties of South Carolina where economic development is currently hampered by the lack of such supplies, thereby increasing jobs, prosperity and public welfare in those areas and can do so with minimal environmental disruption; and

Whereas, in light of the unique circumstances presented by the shared needs of DESC and SCPSA for replacement generation in the Charleston and Georgetown areas, the unique benefits of a partnership between them for this purpose, and the unique benefits of the Canadys site as the location for a joint resource, the General Assembly finds that these circumstances support amending the enabling act of the SCPSA to authorize it in a joint venture to develop and share in the output of one or more combined cycle natural gas units to be located at the Canadys site and encourages the utility to seek, as soon as practicable, a certificate as defined under the terms of the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act for DESC to construct and operate combined cycle natural gas units to be located at the Canadys site; and

Whereas, Duke Energy Carolinas Bad Creek Pumped Storage facility, including ongoing uprates, is an approximate 1,640 MW energy storage facility located in Oconee County South Carolina; and

Whereas, Duke Energy Carolina has identified the opportunity to approximately double the output of the Bad Creek Pumped Storage facility by constructing new pump turbines, generators, and a new powerhouse; and

Whereas, by increasing the generating capacity at the Bad Creek facility, Duke Energy Carolinas can approximately double its existing peak hourly storage capacity; and

Whereas, in light of the unique circumstances presented by the potential expansion of Duke Energy Carolinas' energy storage capacity by expanding the Bad Creek facility without construction of a new reservoir, and considering the unique benefits for customers served by Duke Energy Carolinas' electrical system such an expansion represents, the General Assembly encourages the utility to complete evaluations related to expanding the Bad Creek facility to double its output; and

Whereas, in light of the unique circumstances presented in the plans of Duke Energy Carolinas LLC and Duke Energy Progress LLC to

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

secure approximately 7,000 MW of natural gas generation facilities for the benefit of their customers in South Carolina, the General Assembly encourages the utilities to undertake such activities as may be necessary to pursue and facilitate additional natural gas generation to serve its customers in this state; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes the potential for substantial economic and environmental benefits through the implementation of robust energy efficiency and demand side management initiatives; and

Whereas, investing in energy efficiency and demand side management initiatives not only reduces overall energy consumption but also alleviates the strain on existing electric generation infrastructure, leading to cost savings for consumers, businesses, and the state; and

Whereas, the promotion of energy efficiency and demand side management initiatives offers a prudent and cost effective approach to address increasing energy demands, thereby lessening the necessity for construction of new electric generation facilities in the future, and contributing to a more sustainable and resilient energy future for South Carolina; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly acknowledges the transformative potential of advanced nuclear generation, such as small modular reactors (SMRs), understanding that their compact size addresses significant challenges associated with traditional nuclear power, offering the promise of expedited and cost-effective plant construction, coupled with enhanced safety in operational practices, along with offering reliable carbon-free energy generation that can operate nearly 24/7; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes the strategic importance of investigating in and pursuing advanced nuclear technologies such as small modular reactors and molten salt reactors at this time, understanding that proactive engagement in research and development positions the state to capitalize on future opportunities when SMRs become economically and technologically viable; and

Whereas, the SC Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy consortium, developed in collaboration with our research universities, technical colleges, state agencies, the Savannah River National Laboratory, economic development non-profits, and private businesses, won the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's designation as one of the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

establishing an Energy Policy Institute is a pivotal step towards supporting the efforts of SC Nexus and for guiding informed decision making for the state's energy future; and

Whereas, understanding the complexity of energy issues, the establishment of an Energy Policy Institute is essential to equipping the state with the necessary expertise and resources to make well informed choices, fostering a comprehensive understanding of intricate energy matters; and

Whereas, SC Nexus will assist the state as a global leader in advanced energy by developing, testing, and deploying exportable energy technologies and understanding that new manufactures of those technologies can locate their operations at a place of their choosing, an Energy Policy Institute is integral to positioning the state strategically for economic development success by ensuring the economic benefits resulting from SC Nexus remain in South Carolina, and ensuring that energy policies align with the state's growth objectives and policy goals, while simultaneously safeguarding the interests of ratepayers and promoting a sustainable and resilient energy landscape; and

Whereas, it is imperative to direct the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to conduct a comprehensive energy assessment and formulate a ten year energy action plan not only to identify additional actions to take over the next decade to address the critical need to ensure an adequate and reliable power supply but also to serve as a proactive forum to thoroughly examine unresolved issues vital to achieving economic development success within the dynamic and evolving energy sector; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly determines that comprehensive legislation is needed to promote the development of new and reliable energy infrastructure resources, fostering resilient and reliable energy infrastructure critical to the economic success of the state of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Amend the bill further, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

SECTION 1. Section 23-9-197(A)(3) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(3) "Firefighter" means any person, paid or unpaid, who ~~is a resident of this State and~~ engages in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities, under the supervision of a fire chief or fire department in this State or who is employed by the State Commission of Forestry, South Carolina State Fire, or a forestry district for the purpose of fire protection.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

SECTION 2. Section 23-9-197(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(B) There is established the “Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan” to provide a supplemental insurance policy upon a firefighter being diagnosed with cancer on or after July 1, 2021. The plan shall provide benefits to a firefighter only if the firefighter has served in a South Carolina fire department for at least five continuous years and been in active service within ten years of the diagnosis.

SECTION 3. This act may be cited as the “South Carolina Energy Security Act”.

SECTION 4. Section 58-3-20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-3-20. (A) The commission is composed of ~~seven~~three members to be elected by the General Assembly in the manner prescribed by this chapter. Each member must have:

(1) a baccalaureate or more advanced degree from:

(a) a recognized institution of higher learning requiring face-to-face contact between its students and instructors prior to completion of the academic program;

(b) an institution of higher learning that has been accredited by a regional or national accrediting body; or

(c) an institution of higher learning chartered before 1962; and

(2) a background of substantial duration and an expertise in at least one of the following:

(a) energy issues;

(b) telecommunications issues;

(c) consumer protection and advocacy issues;

(d) water and wastewater issues;

(e) finance, economics, and statistics;

(f) accounting;

(g) engineering; or

(h) law.

~~—(B)(1) Beginning in 2004, the members of the Public Service Commission must be elected to staggered terms. In 2004, the members representing the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Congressional Districts must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2006, and until their successors are elected and qualify. Thereafter, members representing the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Congressional Districts must be elected to terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualify. In 2004, the members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts and the State at large must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2008, and until their successors are elected and qualify. Thereafter, members~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts and the State at large must be elected to terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualify. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts shall serve until the expiration of their terms, and in 2013, members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2016, and until their successors are elected and qualified.~~

~~— (2) In the event there are Seven Congressional Districts, the member elected from the State at large shall serve until the expiration of his term, and in 2013, a member representing the Seventh Congressional District must be elected for a term ending on June 30, 2016, and until his successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the member representing the Seventh Congressional District must be elected to terms of four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. Upon the election and qualification of the member representing the Seventh Congressional District, the at large member elected to satisfy the requirements of subsection (C) immediately shall cease to be a member of the commission.~~

~~(C) (B)(1) The General Assembly must provide for the election of the ~~seventh~~ three-member commission and elect its members based upon the congressional districts established by the General Assembly pursuant to the latest official United States Decennial Census. If the number of congressional districts is less than seven, additional members must be elected at large to provide for a seven member commission. In the event the congressional districts established by the General Assembly are under review by a court for compliance with statutory or constitutional requirements, an election scheduled pursuant to this section shall not be held until a final determination is made by the courts regarding the congressional districts. The inability to hold an election due to judicial review of the congressional districts does not constitute a vacancy on the commission and the commissioners serve until their successors are elected and qualify. The commission members must be elected to terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualify.~~

~~— (2) The commission members must be elected from the state at large; however, membership on the commission should reflect all segments of the population of the State, to the greatest extent possible.~~

~~(D)(C) The Governor may fill vacancies in the office of commissioner until the successor in the office for a full term or an unexpired term, as applicable, has been elected by the General Assembly. In cases where a vacancy occurs on the commission when~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the General Assembly is not in session, the Governor may fill the vacancy by an interim appointment. The Governor must report the interim appointment to the General Assembly and must forward a formal appointment at its next ensuing regular session.

SECTION 5. Section 58-3-140 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-3-140. (A)(1) Except as otherwise provided in Chapter 9 of this title, the commission is vested with power and jurisdiction to supervise and regulate the rates and service of every public utility in this State and to fix just and reasonable standards, classifications, regulations, practices, and measurements of service to be furnished, imposed, or observed, and followed by every public utility in this State.

(2) The commission must promulgate regulations to establish safety, maintenance, and inspection standards for the public utilities and may assess fines for public utilities that violate these standards.

(B)(1) The commission, in conducting its analysis and making a decision in matters involving electrical utilities, must consider the economic impact to the State when fixing just and reasonable standards, classifications, regulations, practices, and measurements of service to be furnished, imposed, or observed, and followed by every electrical utility in this State.

(2) The General Assembly declares the rates, services, and operations of electrical utilities are a matter of public interest and the availability of an adequate, reliable, and economical supply of electric power and natural gas to the people and economy of South Carolina is a matter of public policy. When exercising its powers under this section, the commission must balance the public interest in determining the rates, services, and operations of electrical utilities. It is the policy of this State for the commission, in matters involving electrical utilities, to:

(a) ensure South Carolina customers have access to an adequate, reliable, and economical supply of energy resources;

(b) sustain growth in industrial and economic development by ensuring an electric generation, transmission, and distribution system that can grow and modernize to meet the demands that a prosperous and developing economy places on it;

(c) provide fair regulation of electrical utilities in the interest of the public in a manner that maintains the financial integrity of the electrical utility by assuring a sufficient and fair rate of return, supports economic development and industry retention, and provides just and reasonable rates to be established for entities providing electrical utility services to customers in this State while promoting adequate, reliable, and economical utility service to all of the citizens and residents of this

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

State;

(d) provide the State and the public with a well-regulated electrical utility environment;

(e) assure that resources necessary to meet future growth through the provision of adequate, reliable electrical utility service include use of the entire spectrum of demand-side options, including but not limited to, conservation, load management, and energy efficiency programs as additional sources of energy supply and energy demand reduction;

(f) provide just and reasonable rates and charges for electrical utility services without undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive competitive practices and consistent with long-term management and conservation of energy resources by avoiding wasteful, uneconomic generation and uses of energy;

(g) assure that facilities necessary to meet future growth can be financed by the utilities operating in this State on terms which are reasonable and fair to both the customers and existing investors of such utilities, and to that end, to authorize fixing of rates in such a manner as to result in lower costs of new facilities and lower rates over the operating lives of such new facilities;

(h) recognize the important role of utilities in economic development and industry retention and the necessity for utilities to maintain the ability to finance continued investment in, and operation and maintenance of, the electric system, rapid restoration of power after major storms and outages, rate designs, and infrastructure necessary to attract and retain businesses and jobs to South Carolina, the ability to obtain financing at attractive rates, and to ensure a viable workforce for providing electricity and to attract such utility workers at market-competitive wages;

(i) seek to encourage and promote harmony between public utilities, their users, and the environment;

(j) foster the continued service of electrical utilities on a well-planned and coordinated basis that is consistent with the level of energy needed for the protection of public health and safety and for the promotion of the general welfare, economic development, and industry retention;

(k) seek to adjust the rate of growth of regulated energy supply facilities serving the State to the policy requirements of statewide economic development and industry retention;

(l) encourage the continued study and research on new and innovative rate designs which will protect the State, the public, the

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

ratepayers and the utilities;

(m) facilitate the construction of facilities in and the extension of natural gas service to unserved and underserved areas in order to promote the public welfare throughout the State;

(n) further the development of cleaner energy technologies on a cost-effective basis to protect the natural resources of this State, promote the health and well-being of the people of this State, and attract investments, create employment opportunities, drive economic growth, and foster innovation in this State; and

(o) accomplish regulatory processes and issue orders in a timely manner.

~~(B)~~(C) The commission must develop and publish a policy manual which must set forth guidelines for the administration of the commission. All procedures must incorporate state requirements and good management practices to ensure the efficient and economical utilization of resources.

~~(C)~~(D) The commission must facilitate access to its general rate request orders in contested matters involving more than one hundred thousand dollars by publishing an order guide which indexes and cross-references orders by subject matter and case name. The order guide must be made available for public inspection.

~~(D)~~(E) The commission must promulgate regulations to require the direct testimony of witnesses appearing on behalf of utilities and of witnesses appearing on behalf of persons having formal intervenor status, such testimony to be reduced to writing and prefiled with the commission in advance of any hearing. In contested case proceedings, the applicant seeking relief from the commission shall have the right to prefile rebuttal testimony responsive to the direct prefiled testimony of other parties. The commission may allow supplemental testimony in cases where new matters arise after the filing of direct testimony, provided that parties shall have the right to respond to such supplemental testimony. The procedural schedule for each contested case proceeding shall include dates for completion of each phase of discovery, including discovery related to the application or other initial pleading as filed, direct testimony of the applicant, direct testimony of the Office of Regulatory Staff and other parties and intervenors, rebuttal testimony of the applicant, and surrebuttal testimony but only if allowed by the commission upon motion that there is material new information for which surrebuttal testimony is required. The commission must act on a motion to allow surrebuttal testimony within three business days. Except upon showing of exceptional circumstances or surprise, all discovery

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

must be completed not less than ten days prior to the hearing.

(F) The commission may convene public hearings to allow electrical utility customers to address the commission as public witnesses without intervening in the proceedings and without subjecting themselves to discovery or pre-filing testimony. Public witnesses may address the commission on issues related to customer service, utility operations, reliability, economic hardship, affordability, environmental concerns, or other matters that affect them. The electrical utility and the Office of Regulatory Staff shall work to investigate and resolve individual service issues raised by public witnesses.

(G) Any other provision of law notwithstanding, to the extent the commission is authorized by the General Assembly to employ an independent third-party consultant to assist the commission in its duties with respect to a matter before the commission, such consultant may only rely upon evidence introduced by a party to that proceeding into the record subject to the requirements of the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act. Further, the commission may not give any consultant employed by the commission party status in a proceeding before the commission.

~~(E)~~(H) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to repeal or modify specific exclusions from the commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Title 58 or any other title.

~~(F)~~(I) When required to be filed, tariffs must be filed with the office of the chief clerk of the commission and, on that same day, provided to the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff.

SECTION 6. Section 58-3-250(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(B) A copy of every final order or decision under the seal of the commission must be served by electronic service, or registered or certified mail, upon all parties to the proceeding or their attorneys. Service of every final order or decision upon a party or upon the attorney must be made by emailing a copy of the order to the party's email address provided to the commission or by mailing a copy to the party's last known address. If no email or other address is known, however, service shall be made by leaving a copy with the chief clerk of the commission. The order takes effect and becomes operative when served unless otherwise designated and continues in force either for a period designated by the commission or until changed or revoked by the commission. If, in the judgment of the commission, an order cannot be complied with within the time designated, the commission may grant and prescribe additional time as is reasonably necessary to comply with

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the order and, on application and for good cause shown, may extend the time for compliance fixed in its order.

SECTION 7. Section 58-4-10 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-4-10. (A) There is hereby created the Office of Regulatory Staff as a separate agency of the State with the duties and organizations as hereinafter provided.

(B) Unless and until it chooses not to participate, the Office of Regulatory Staff must be considered a party of record in all filings, applications, or proceedings before the commission. The regulatory staff must represent the public interest of South Carolina before the commission. For purposes of this chapter only, “public interest” means a balancing of:

____ (1) the concerns of the using and consuming public with respect to public utility services, regardless of the class of customer;

____ (2) economic development and job attraction and retention in South Carolina; and

____ (3) preservation of the financial integrity of the State’s public utilities to the extent necessary to provide for the of continued investment in and maintenance of utility facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality utility services.

(C) The Office of Regulatory Staff is subject to the provision of Section 58-3-260 prohibiting ex parte communications with the commission, and any advice given to the commission by the regulatory staff must be given in a form, forum, and manner as may lawfully be given by any other party or person.

SECTION 8. Chapter 4, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-4-150. (A) To further advance and expand upon Executive Order 2023-18 which established the PowerSC Energy Resources and Economic Development Interagency Working Group, the Office of Regulatory Staff, in consultation with a stakeholder group that includes representatives of consumer, environmental, manufacturing, forestry, and agricultural organizations, natural gas and electrical utilities, the South Carolina Public Service Authority, and other affected state agencies, shall prepare a comprehensive South Carolina energy assessment and action plan, hereinafter referred to as “the plan”. This plan must identify recommended actions over a ten-year period to ensure the availability of adequate, reliable, and economical supply of electric power and natural gas to the people and economy of South Carolina. For purposes of this section, natural gas and electrical utilities also includes any investor-owned electrical utility, a public utility as defined in

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Section 58-5-10, the Public Service Authority, electric cooperatives, and any consolidated political subdivision that owns or operates in this State equipment or facilities for generating, transmitting, delivering, or furnishing electricity, but does not include an entity that furnishes electricity only to itself, its residents, or tenants when such current is not resold or used by others.

(B) The Office of Regulatory Staff, in collaboration with the electrical utilities and the South Carolina Public Service Authority, shall aggregate data and analyses from their most recent integrated resource plans approved by the commission, and include any updates or associated filings and other available data in order to create a statewide comprehensive view of the availability of an adequate, reliable, and economical supply of energy resources to the people and economy of South Carolina.

(C) The plan must detail factors, and make recommendations, essential to adequate, reliable, and economical supply of energy resources for the people and economy of South Carolina, including but not limited to:

(1) projections of energy consumption in South Carolina, including the use of fuel resources and costs of electricity and generation resources across the electrical utilities' and the South Carolina Public Service Authority's balancing authority areas used to serve the State;

(2) the adequacy of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution resources in this State to meet projections of energy consumption;

(3) the adequacy of infrastructure utilized by natural gas industries in providing fuel supply to electric generation plants or otherwise for end-use customers;

(4) the overall needs of the South Carolina electric grid and transmission system and details from the plans of each electrical utility and the South Carolina Public Service Authority to meet current and future energy needs in a cost-effective, reliable, economic, and environmental manner;

(5) an assessment of state and local impediments to expanded use of generation or distributed resources and recommendations to reduce or eliminate such impediments;

(6) how energy efficiency, demand-side management programs, and conservation initiatives across the electrical utilities' and the South Carolina Public Service Authority's balancing authority areas may be expanded to lower bills and reduce electric consumption;

(7) details regarding potential siting of energy resource and

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

transmission facilities in order to identify any disproportionate adverse impact of such activities on the environment, agricultural community, land use, and economically disadvantaged or minority communities;

(8) details regarding commercial and industrial consumer clean energy goals and options available to such customers to achieve these goals, including:

(a) an analysis of the barriers commercial and industrial consumers face in making such investments in this State;

(b) an analysis of any electric and natural gas regulatory barriers to the recruitment and retention of commercial and industrial customers in this State; and

(c) recommendations to address any barriers identified in items (a) and (b) in a manner that is consistent with the public interest and which is not duly impactful to nonparticipating customers as it pertains to rate and system impacts, and which is not unduly impactful to entities providing public utility services.

(C) In preparing the plan the Office of Regulatory Staff may retain an outside expert to assist with compiling this report.

(D) In addition to the information required by this section, the plan must include recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or other public and private actions to best ensure a reliable and reasonably priced energy supply in South Carolina that supports the continued growth and success of this State. In forming these recommendations, the Office of Regulatory Staff must confer with the stakeholder group to ensure the recommendations would likely achieve the intended result for the electric grid, electric generation, and natural gas resources serving South Carolina customers.

(E) The plan must be submitted to the Public Utilities Review Committee for approval.

(F) The provisions of this section are subject to funding.

SECTION 9. Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

CHAPTER 38

South Carolina Energy Policy Institute

Section 58-38-10. This chapter is known as and may be cited as the “South Carolina Energy Policy Research and Economic Development Institute” or “EPI”.

Section 58-38-20. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) It is in the public interest of South Carolina to establish an Energy Policy Research and Economic Development Institute, also referred to as EPI, to support the efforts of the Advanced Resilient Energy Nexus, also referred to as SC Nexus, and research and propose

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

solutions to address major challenges in the complex and evolving area of energy generation and storage.

(2) Research and documenting reliable data is essential for thoughtful consideration of the complex issues and concerns impacting energy generation and storage and the need for timely, substantive, and thorough advice from the EPI to the South Carolina General Assembly is critical to continue to position this State as a global leader.

(3) Advancement through the EPI of the broad collaboration through the SC Nexus will assist the State as a global leader in advanced energy by developing, testing, and deploying exportable electricity technologies. It will also allow the State to leverage the region's dynamic and growing manufacturing base, superior research capabilities, and demonstrated record of public-private collaboration to innovate and commercialize emerging energy storage materials and manufacturing techniques, including a demonstrative microgrid implementation that integrates renewable energy and storage into the state's electricity systems.

(4) The topography of South Carolina, with its coastal plains and low country, confronts further complications. While the State possesses renewable energy resources like hydropower potential from its rivers and lakes and biomass from wood and landfill gas, the lack of sustainable energy production exacerbates the energy deficit. It is critical that South Carolina provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

(5) The industrial sector in South Carolina accounts for approximately one-third of the state's total energy use and heavily depends on energy consumption. Continued economic development and industry retention depends upon safe, reliable, and affordable energy generation.

(6) South Carolina will need to continue moving toward reliable power from emerging energy sources to ensure continued economic growth and secure energy for residential usage.

(7) The EPI shall collaborate across South Carolina in coordination with SC Nexus, Savannah River National Laboratory, energy utility providers, private industry, and workforce development to deliver advice on policy creation aligned with the state's distinctive needs and opportunities. EPI shall support and collaborate with SC Nexus, a consortium of public and private entities, formed within the South Carolina Department of Commerce concerning power generation, transmission, and storage.

Section 58-38-30. (A) The EPI shall be established by the University of South Carolina to serve as an expert and reliable advisory

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

resource for state policymakers, government, and industry. This institute shall bring together a coalition of experts from various domains within the energy ecosystem, individuals and organizations specializing in innovating public policy approaches, as well as specialists from across higher education, including but not limited to, the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University. The EPI shall aid South Carolina in developing a strategic long-term approach to address energy-related challenges and economic development opportunities for the State of South Carolina.

(B) The EPI shall be governed by a board of six members which shall provide oversight and guidance to the EPI. This board shall be composed of:

- (1) Speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee;
- (2) President of the Senate or his designee;
- (3) Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, or his designee;
- (4) Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate or his designee;
- (5) Chairman of the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee of the House of Representatives or his designee; and
- (6) Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate or his designee.

Section 58-38-40. (A) Annual deliverables for the EPI shall align with the goals and priorities of critical state objectives and legislative needs of South Carolina as determined by the board.

(B) The EPI shall prepare concise and informative documents that outline the key energy policy issues in South Carolina for members of the South Carolina General Assembly. These briefs shall offer evidence-based recommendations and their potential impacts to assist the legislature in decision making.

(C) The EPI shall provide in-depth research on various aspects of energy policy relevant to South Carolina, at the direction of the board.

(D) The EPI shall provide stakeholder engagement reports, including identification and engagement with relevant stakeholders in the energy sector, including industry representatives, environmental groups, consumer advocates, and community organizations. The EPI shall compile reports on stakeholder perspectives, concerns, and suggestions to aid the legislature in understanding different viewpoints.

(E) The EPI shall evaluate the economic implications of different energy policy options, including the potential costs and benefits to the state's economy, job market, industry competitiveness, and

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

underdeveloped communities. The EPI must use modeling techniques to estimate direct and indirect impacts on various sectors.

(F) The EPI shall develop practical framework recommendations for implementing energy policies in South Carolina, considering regulatory mechanisms, enforcement mechanisms, and coordination between different government agencies. These frameworks must address potential challenges and propose strategies for successful implementation.

(G) The EPI may host fellowships by which entities could offer the time and services of employees by which the EPI could leverage the knowledge, experience, and participation of such entities.

SECTION 10. Article 3, Chapter 33, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-33-195. (A)(1) The General Assembly finds:

(a) The Public Service Commission, hereinafter referred to as “the commission”, issued Order No. 2023-860 approving Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.’s integrated resource plan, and Order No. 2024-171 approving the South Carolina Public Service Authority’s integrated resource plan. The commission determined these integrated resource plans represented the most reasonable and prudent means to meet each utility’s energy and capacity needs as of the time each integrated resource plan was reviewed.

(b) Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.’s integrated resource plan identified a natural gas combined cycle unit as the optimum replacement unit for the Williams Station, which Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. intends to retire in 2030, assuming replacement capacity is available at that time. Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. proposed to locate this natural gas combined cycle unit facility at the site of its now retired Canadys coal plant, and Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. is pursuing a plan to build it jointly with the Public Service Authority under a Memorandum of Understanding, also referred to as the “Joint Resource”.

(c) The commission found that Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.’s Reference Build Plan replacing the Williams Station with the Joint Resource best meets the criterion of “consumer affordability and least cost” pursuant to Section 58-37-40(C)(2)(b).

(d) The commission found that the Public Service Authority’s Preferred Portfolio, referred to as “Supplemental”, as the preferred plan to guide the Public Service Authority’s generation and transmission planning over the next three years, with updates as necessary, represented the most reasonable and prudent means of meeting the

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Public Service Authority's energy and capacity needs.

(e) The commission found the Supplemental is the most cost-effective and least ratepayer-risk resource portfolio to meet the Public Service Authority's total capacity and energy requirements, while maintaining safe and reliable electric service.

(f) The commission determined the Public Service Authority sufficiently considered alternatives to the natural gas combined cycle unit.

(g) The commission found that the Supplemental allows the Public Service Authority to meet the electric power needs of its retail and wholesale customers reliably and affordably, reduces its carbon footprint, and adds flexibility and innovation to support a growing state economy.

(2) The General Assembly encourages Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. and the Public Service Authority to jointly complete evaluations related to the Joint Resource and to use such information as may be necessary from such evaluations to make a filing as soon as practicable with the commission to obtain a certificate pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter. The General Assembly instructs all governmental agencies to provide accelerated consideration of any action required to permit or authorize construction and operation of the facilities subject to this section in preference to all other pending nonemergency applications or requests. The General Assembly finds adding natural gas generation capacity at the retired Canadys coal site would advance the economy and general welfare of the State based on current conditions and information as of the effective date of this Act. However, this subsection does not exempt the entities from complying with the requirements of the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act, including the requirement to seek commission approval for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity nor does this subsection limit the commission's independent decision-making authority. The entities are further encouraged to use existing rights of way to the greatest extent practicable.

(B) The General Assembly hereby encourages Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC to complete evaluations for constructing a second powerhouse using the existing reservoir at Bad Creek Pumped Hydro Station in Oconee County, South Carolina, which will approximately double the size and peak hourly capacity of the facility, and to use such information as may be necessary from such evaluations to make a filing as soon as practicable with the commission to obtain a certificate

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter. The General Assembly further encourages Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC to complete evaluations as to what may be necessary to interconnect such an expansion of Bad Creek Pumped Hydro Station to the electric grid or otherwise deliver electric power from Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC to its customers, and to include such information as may be necessary from such evaluations in a filing to the commission pursuant to Section 58-33-110 or as otherwise required by law. The General Assembly instructs all governmental agencies to provide accelerated consideration of any action required to permit or otherwise authorize construction and operation of the facilities subject to this subsection in preference of all other pending nonemergency applications or requests.

(C) The General Assembly hereby encourages Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC to complete evaluations for constructing hydrogen capable natural gas generation or otherwise to place into service such natural gas generation within the utilities' balancing areas serving South Carolina, and to use such information from the evaluations as may be necessary to make a filing as soon as practicable with the commission to obtain a certification pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter or as otherwise required by law. The General Assembly further encourages Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC to determine what facilities may be necessary to interconnect such natural gas generation to the electric grid or otherwise deliver electric power from the utilities to its customers, and to include such information in any filing to the commission pursuant to Section 58-33-110 or as otherwise required by law. The General Assembly instructs all governmental agencies to provide accelerated consideration of any action required to permit or otherwise authorize construction or operation of the facilities subject to this subsection in preference of all other pending nonemergency applications or requests.

(D)(1) In the event any of the projects described in subsections (A), (B), or (C) are approved, the Office of Regulatory Staff, using its authority provided in Title 58, must continuously monitor the project or projects. This includes, but is not limited to, a review of the construction in progress, such as meeting projected timelines and financial projections are met. The Office of Regulatory Staff must provide monthly updates, in writing, to the commission and to the members of the General Assembly. Each electrical utility and the Public Service Authority must cooperate to the fullest extent with the Office of Regulatory Staff.

(2) The commission may, on its own motion, schedule a hearing

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

to address concerns raised by the Office of Regulatory Staff in its written monthly review to the commission.

(3) The commission shall consider the Office of Regulatory Staff's written monthly reviews in any future matters concerning any facility described in this section.

SECTION 11. Article 1, Chapter 31, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-31-205. (A) The Public Service Authority shall have the power to jointly own, as tenants-in-common or through a limited liability company, with investor-owned electric utilities of electrical generation and transmission facilities, the power to plan, finance, acquire, own, operate, and maintain an interest in such plants and facilities necessary or incidental to the generation and transmission of electric power and the power to make plans and enter into such contracts as are necessary or convenient for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, ownership, operation, and maintenance of such plants and facilities. However, the Public Service Authority shall own a percentage of such plants and facilities equal to the percentage of the money furnished or the value of property supplied by the Public Service Authority for the acquisition and construction of the plants and facilities. The Public Service Authority shall also own and control a like percentage of the electrical output thereof.

(B) The Public Service Authority shall be severally liable in proportion to its ownership share of such plants and facilities acquired pursuant to this section for the acts, omissions, or obligations performed, omitted, or incurred by the operator or other owners of the plants and facilities while acting as the designated agent of the Public Service Authority for the purposes of constructing, operating, or maintaining the plants and facilities, or any of them. However, the Public Service Authority shall not be otherwise liable, jointly or severally, for the acts, omissions, or obligations of other owners of the plants and facilities, nor shall any money or property of the Public Service Authority be credited or otherwise applied to the account of the operator or other owners of the plants and facilities, or be charged with any debt, lien, or mortgage as a result of any debt or obligation of the operator or other owners of the plants and facilities.

SECTION 12. Article 9, Chapter 7, Title 13 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Article 9

Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council

Section 13-7-810. There is hereby established a Nuclear Advisory

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Council in the ~~Department of Administration, Office of Regulatory Staff~~, which shall be responsible to the Executive Director of the Department of Administration Office of Regulatory Staff and report to the Governor.

Section 13-7-820. The duties of the council, in addition to such other duties as may be requested by the Governor, shall be:

(1) to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor on issues involving the use, handling, and management of the transportation, storage, or disposal of nuclear materials within South Carolina, or such use, handling, transportation, storage, or disposal of nuclear materials outside of the State which may affect the public health, welfare, safety, and environment of the citizens of South Carolina;

(2) to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor regarding matters pertaining to the Atlantic Compact Commission;

(3) to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor regarding the various programs of the United States Department of Energy pertaining to nuclear waste;

(4) to meet at the call of the chair or at a minimum twice a year; and

(5) to engage stakeholders and develop a strategic plan to advance the development of advanced nuclear generation including small modular reactors, molten salt reactors, and spent nuclear fuel recycling facilities to serve customers in this State in the most economical manner at the earliest reasonable time possible.

Section 13-7-830. The recommendations described in Section ~~13-7-620~~ 13-7-820 shall be made available to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Section 13-7-840. The council shall consist of ~~nineteen~~ members. One at-large member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one at-large member shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. ~~Seven~~Eight members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: two shall be actively involved in the area of environmental protection; one shall have experience in the generation of power by nuclear means; one shall have experience in the field of nuclear activities other than power generation; two shall be scientists or engineers from the faculties of institutions of higher learning in the State; and ~~one~~two shall be from the public at large; of which one shall be appointed to serve as the chairman and director of the Nuclear Advisory Council. The terms of the members of the council appointed by the Governor shall be coterminous with that of the appointing Governor, but they shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Vacancies of the council shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Section 13-7-850. The Governor shall designate the chairman from the membership. When on business of the council, members shall be entitled to receive such compensation as provided by law for boards and commissions.

Section 13-7-860. Staff support for the council shall be provided by the ~~Department of Administration~~Office of Regulatory Staff. The Director of the Nuclear Advisory Council must be a full-time employee of the Office of Regulatory Staff.

SECTION 13. Section 37-6-604(C) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(C) ~~The~~As of July 1, 2025, the Consumer Advocate ~~shall be provided notice of any matter filed at the Public Service Commission that Advocate's duties regarding intervention in matters that could impact consumers' utility rates, and may intervene as a party and ability to advocate for the interest of consumers before the Public Service Commission and appellate courts in such matters as the Consumer Advocate deems necessary and appropriate are transferred to the Office of Regulatory Staff in order to promote efficiency and avoid duplication of duties.~~

SECTION 14. Article 3, Chapter 33, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-33-196. Electrical utilities and the Public Service Authority are encouraged to explore the potential for deploying advanced nuclear facilities including, but not limited to, small modular nuclear facilities at suitable sites. Suitable sites may include sites of current nuclear facilities, sites where nuclear facilities have been proposed but not constructed, and other brownfield sites, such as coal-generation sites. Any utility pursuing deployment of such nuclear facilities must provide annual progress reports to the commission and the Public Utilities Review Committee; this report may be in writing or in the form of testimony in an appropriate proceeding. The utility must provide estimates of the cost of the studies including, but not limited to, planning, licensing, and project development to the commission. If the commission finds such estimated costs are reasonable, prudent, and in the public interest, such costs may be recoverable through rates as they are incurred. Nothing in this section relieves an electrical utility of the burden of filing for a certificate under this article and obtaining appropriate approvals from the commission before commencing construction.

SECTION 15. Chapter 37, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Section 58-37-70. (A) It is the policy of this State to promote the development and operation of advanced nuclear facilities, including small modular nuclear reactors, in the most economical manner and at the earliest reasonable time possible. These facilities are intended to provide electricity that is reliable, resilient, secure, and free of carbon dioxide emissions, as well as promote this state's economic development and industry retention.

(B) As used in this section:

(1) "Electrical utility" has the same meaning as provided in Section 58-27-10(7) and includes the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

(2) "Site" means the geographic location of one or more small modular nuclear reactors.

(3) "Small modular nuclear reactor" means an advanced nuclear reactor that produces nuclear power and has a power capacity of up to 500 megawatts per reactor.

(C) The commission may establish a small modular nuclear reactor pilot program, if such a program is endorsed by the Nuclear Advisory Council. A pilot program must include the following requirements:

(1) any entity that holds a current license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to construct or operate at least one existing nuclear electrical generating facility at the time of the application may apply to the commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act;

(2) a certificate may be granted if obtaining a certification of public convenience and necessity would permit the applicant to apply for, use, or leverage at least thirty percent of the construction costs of the small modular nuclear reactor by utilizing any benefits or incentives available to lower the capital or operating costs including, but not limited to, governmental funds, tax credits, grants, and loan guarantees;

(3) the costs and benefits of a small modular nuclear reactor are reasonable and prudent compared to the levelized costs of electricity generation from other resources, applying any governmental tax credits and incentives. Factors that must be considered in levelized costs include fuel factors, economic and environmental benefits, and costs associated with any relative externalities;

(4) no more than three small modular nuclear reactors may receive a permit pursuant to this pilot program.

(D) An application for this pilot program must include:

(1) if the project's location:

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(a) is on or adjacent to an existing or former coal electrical generation site;

(b) is on or adjacent to an existing nuclear facility;

(c) enables coal plant retirement or emissions reduction in the electrical utility's or the South Carolina Public Service Authority's balancing area; or

(d) supports diversity in energy production, reliability, and energy security;

(2) if the project is subject to competitive procurement or solicitation for services and equipment;

(3) a demonstration that the program's costs and benefits are reasonable and prudent and in the interest of South Carolina customers; and

(4) any other information the commission may wish to include in the application.

Nothing in this subsection limits any factors that the commission may consider in its determination of an application.

(E)(1) Reasonable and prudent costs incurred for a small modular nuclear reactor approved pursuant to this section shall be recoverable. In the event an electrical utility abandons a small modular nuclear reactor approved by the commission before its commercial operation, the electrical utility must provide a fulsome accounting to the commission of the circumstances of abandonment. Capital costs may only be recovered if the commission determines that the decision to abandon was reasonable, prudent, and in the public interest; however, these costs shall not include a rate of return. The commission may impose conditions it determines to be necessary to protect customers against unreasonable construction, development, or operational risk including, but not limited to, reporting, inspection, and the potential of requiring the utility to hire an independent third-party construction monitor to evaluate the prudence of the utility's actions and associated expense during the development of the project and construction of the reactor.

(2) The commission must not allow any cost recovery related to a small modular nuclear reactor outside of a rate case.

(F)(1) In addition to the small modular nuclear facility pilot program, electrical utilities and the South Carolina Public Service Authority are encouraged to evaluate the potential for deploying nuclear facilities at suitable sites within this State. A "suitable site" may include sites of current nuclear facilities, sites where nuclear facilities have been proposed but not constructed, and brownfield sites, such as coal generation sites.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(2) When evaluating the potential of a nuclear facility, the applicant must provide notice and annual progress reports to the Public Utilities Review Committee, the Nuclear Advisory Council, and the commission. When available, the applicant must also provide cost estimates of the studies related to a potential nuclear facility to serve customers in South Carolina. This includes, but is not limited to, planning, licensing, and project development, the anticipated timeline of an early site permit, and current possibilities or barriers to co-ownership of such facilities, and available federal benefits which may defray costs of these facilities.

(3) In the event the commission finds cost estimates pursuant to item (2) are reasonable and prudent, the costs may be recoverable through rates, even if an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity have not been filed. However, these costs shall not include a rate of return.

(G) Nothing in this section relieves an electrical utility or the South Carolina Public Service Authority of the burden of filing for a certificate pursuant to this article and obtaining appropriate approvals from the commission before commencing construction.

SECTION 16. Chapter 37, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Article 3

Energy Infrastructure Projects

Section 58-37-100. As used in this article:

(1) “Agency” means any agency, department, board, commission, or political subdivision of this State. However, it does not include the Public Service Commission, except for Sections 58-37-110 and 58-37-120.

(2) “Application” means a written request made to an agency for grant of a permit or approval of an action of matter within the agency’s jurisdiction pertaining to an energy infrastructure project.

(3) “Brownfield energy site” means an existing or former electrical generating site or other existing or former industrial site.

(4) “Energy corridor” means a corridor in which a utility or the South Carolina Public Service Authority has:

(a) transmission lines with a rated voltage of at least 110 kilovolts, including the substations, switchyards, and other appurtenant facilities associated with such lines; or

(b) high pressure natural gas transmission pipelines and the metering, compression stations, valve station, and other appurtenant facilities associated with such lines.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(5) “Energy corridor project” means an energy infrastructure project that involves the expansion of electric or natural gas delivery capacity in whole or in principal part within an existing energy corridor.

(6) “Energy infrastructure project” means the construction, placement, authorization, or removal of energy infrastructure including, but not limited to, electric transmission and generation assets, natural gas transmission assets, and all associated or appurtenant infrastructure and activities, including communications and distribution infrastructure.

(7) “Permit” means a permit, certificate, approval, registration, encroachment permit, right of way, or other form of authorization.

(8) “Person” means an individual, corporation, association, partnership, trust, agency, or the State of South Carolina.

Section 58-37-110. (A) Given the importance of sufficient, reliable, safe, and economical energy to the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of South Carolina and to the state’s economic development and prosperity, the General Assembly finds that the prompt siting, permitting, and completion of energy infrastructure projects, energy corridor projects, and brownfield electrical generation projects are crucial to the welfare of the State.

(B) All state agencies are instructed to give expedited review of applications for energy infrastructure projects, to provide reasonable and constructive assistance to applicants to allow the applicants to comply with state law and regulatory requirements as expeditiously as possible, and to be guided by the policy goals established in subsection (A).

(C) All state agencies are instructed to give due weight to the reduction in the environmental, aesthetic, and socioeconomic impacts that are incurred to support the safe, reliable, and economic provision of energy to the people of South Carolina when energy infrastructure projects can be located in existing energy corridors or on brownfield energy sites, and shall consider the relative reductions in such impacts compared to greenfield projects in evaluating projects in existing energy corridors or on brownfield energy sites.

Section 58-37-120. (A) Any agency presented with an application for a permit for an energy infrastructure project shall issue a decision on the application no later than six months after the date the application is received by the agency. If the agency fails to take final action within six months of receipt of the application, the application shall be deemed approved, and the agency shall promptly issue documentation that the applicant may reasonably request establishing that the agency has granted the relief requested.

(B) Upon receipt of an application, the agency shall promptly

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

review it for sufficiency and shall provide the applicant with a list of all deficiencies within thirty days of receipt. The identification of by the agency of deficiencies in the application shall not toll the six-month period for agency determination.

Section 58-37-130. The applicant or any person whose private rights are affected by an agency decision or action on an application for a permit for any energy infrastructure project may appeal that decision or action to the South Carolina Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall hear these appeals as a direct appeal in accordance with the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. The Court shall provide for an expedited briefing and hearing of the appeal, in preference to all other nonemergency matters on its docket, and decide such appeals on an expedited basis.

Section 58-37-140. The provisions of this article shall expire ten years after its effective date.

SECTION 17. Section 58-40-10(C) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(C) "Customer-generator" means the owner, operator, lessee, or customer-generator lessee of an electric energy generation unit which:

(1) generates or discharges electricity from a renewable energy resource, including an energy storage device configured to receive electrical charge solely from an onsite renewable energy resource;

(2) has an electrical generating system with a capacity of:

(a)(i) not more than the lesser of one thousand kilowatts (1,000 kW AC) or one hundred percent of contract demand if a nonresidential customer; or

(ii) after June 1, 2024, not more than the lesser of five thousand kilowatts (5,000kW AC) or one hundred percent of contract demand for a nonresidential customer, provided the customer-generator is on a time-of-use rate schedule and any excess energy produced by the customer-generator is credited and reset at the end of each monthly period; or

(iii) more than five thousand kilowatts (5,000kW AC) if agreed to by the customer-generator and the electrical utility, provided that the electrical utility submits the agreement to the commission for consideration and approval if the commission finds the agreement to contain appropriate ratemaking provisions and is in the public interest; or

(b) not more than twenty kilowatts (20 kW AC) if a residential customer;

(3) is located on a single premises owned, operated, leased, or

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

otherwise controlled by the customer;

(4) is interconnected and operates in parallel phase and synchronization with an electrical utility and complies with the applicable interconnection standards;

(5) is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's own electrical energy requirements; and

(6) meets all applicable safety, performance, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the commission, the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Underwriters Laboratories, the federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and any local governing authorities.

SECTION 18. Section 58-41-30 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-41-30. (A) The ability to utilize clean energy resources for electric power generation is important to attract prospective commercial or industrial entities to invest in South Carolina and to encourage and incent robust economic growth in the State.

(B) The commission shall be responsive to the clean energy needs of customers and the economic development and industry retention implications for the State when reviewing and approving voluntary clean energy programs. The commission shall consider updates to these voluntary renewable energy programs on an ongoing basis.

(C) Within one hundred and twenty days of the effective date of this chapter, ~~subject to subsection (F),~~ each electrical utility shall file a proposed voluntary renewable energy program for review and approval by the commission, unless as of July 1, 2024, the electrical utility already has a voluntary renewable energy program that conforms with the requirements of this section on file with the commission. The commission shall conduct a proceeding to review the program and establish reasonable terms and conditions for the program. Interested parties shall have the right to participate in the proceeding. The commission ~~may~~ must periodically hold additional proceedings to ~~update the program~~ evaluate whether updates to the programs are necessary. At a minimum, each electrical utility must submit to the commission a program for which ~~the program shall provide that:~~

(1) the participating customer shall have the right to select the renewable energy facility and negotiate with the renewable energy supplier on the price to be paid by the participating customer for the energy, capacity, and clean energy environmental attributes of the renewable energy facility and the term of such agreement so long as such terms are consistent with the voluntary renewable program service

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

agreement as approved by the commission;

(2) the renewable energy contract and the participating customer agreement must be of equal duration;

(3) in addition to paying a retail bill calculated pursuant to the rates and tariffs that otherwise would apply to the participating customer, reduced by the amount of the generation credit, a participating customer shall reimburse the electrical utility on a monthly basis for the amount paid by the electrical utility to the renewable energy supplier pursuant to the participating customer agreement and renewable energy contract, plus an administrative fee approved by the commission; and

(4) eligible customers must be allowed to bundle their demand under a single participating customer agreement and renewable energy contract and must be eligible annually to procure an amount of capacity as approved by the commission.

(D) The commission must approve voluntary renewable energy programs, in addition to those provided for in subsection (C), where the participating customer purchases clean energy environmental attributes of new or existing renewable energy facilities owned and operated and recovered on a cost-of-service basis by the electrical utility or otherwise supplies through the execution of agreements with third parties within the utility's balancing authority area. Voluntary renewable energy programs shall also facilitate behind-the-meter options for customers and access to renewable energy resource generation.

~~(B)(E)~~ The commission may approve a program that provides for options that include, but are not limited to, both variable and fixed generation credit options.

~~(C)(F)~~ The commission ~~may~~ shall limit the total portion of each electrical utility's voluntary renewable energy program that is eligible for the program at a level consistent with the public interest and shall provide standard terms and conditions for the participating customer agreement and the renewable energy contract, subject to commission review and approval.

~~(D)(G)~~ A participating customer shall bear the burden of any reasonable costs associated with participating in a voluntary renewable energy program. ~~An electrical utility may not charge any nonparticipating customers for any costs incurred pursuant to the provisions of this section. Purchased power costs incurred by an electrical utility as a result of subsection (C) shall be recovered in the electrical utility's fuel clause pursuant to Section 58-27-865.~~

~~(E)(H)~~ A renewable energy facility may be located anywhere in the electrical utility's service territory within the utility's balancing authority.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~—(F) If the commission determines that an electrical utility has a voluntary renewable energy program on file with the commission as of the effective date of this chapter, that conforms with the requirements of this section, the utility is not required to make a new filing to meet the requirements of subsection (A).~~

SECTION 19. Section 58-41-10 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(17) “Energy storage facilities” means any commercially available technology that is capable of absorbing energy and storing it for a period of time for use at a later time including, but not limited to, electrochemical, thermal, and electromechanical technologies.

SECTION 20. Section 58-41-20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-41-20. (A) As soon as is practicable after the effective date of this chapter, the commission shall open a docket for the purpose of establishing each electrical utility's standard offer, avoided cost methodologies, form contract power purchase agreements, commitment to sell forms, and any other terms or conditions necessary to implement this section. Within six months after the effective date of this chapter, and at least once every twenty-four months thereafter, the commission shall approve each electrical utility's standard offer, avoided cost methodologies, form contract power purchase agreements, commitment to sell forms, and any other terms or conditions necessary to implement this section. Within such proceeding the commission shall approve one or more standard form power purchase agreements for use for qualifying small power production facilities not eligible for the standard offer. Such power purchase agreements shall contain provisions, including, but not limited to, provisions for force majeure, indemnification, choice of venue, and confidentiality provisions and other such terms, but shall not be determinative of price or length of the power purchase agreement. The commission may approve multiple form power purchase agreements to accommodate various generation technologies and other project-specific characteristics. This provision shall not restrict the right of parties to enter into power purchase agreements with terms that differ from the commission-approved form(s). Any decisions by the commission shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electrical utility, in the public interest, consistent with PURPA and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's implementing regulations and orders, and nondiscriminatory to small power producers; and shall strive to reduce the risk placed on the using and consuming public.

(1) Proceedings conducted pursuant to this section shall be separate from the electrical utilities' annual fuel cost proceedings

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

conducted pursuant to Section 58-27-865.

(2) Proceedings shall include an opportunity for intervention, discovery, filed comments or testimony, and an evidentiary hearing.

(B) In implementing this chapter, the commission shall treat small power producers on a fair and equal footing with electrical utility-owned resources by ensuring that:

(1) rates for the purchase of energy and capacity fully and accurately reflect the electrical utility's avoided costs;

(2) power purchase agreements, including terms and conditions, are commercially reasonable and consistent with regulations and orders promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission implementing PURPA; and

(3) each electrical utility's avoided cost methodology fairly accounts for costs avoided by the electrical utility or incurred by the electrical utility, including, but not limited to, energy, capacity, and ancillary services provided by or consumed by small power producers including those utilizing energy storage equipment. Avoided cost methodologies approved by the commission may account for differences in costs avoided based on the geographic location and resource type of a small power producer's qualifying small power production facility.

(C) The avoided cost rates offered by an electrical utility to a small power producer not eligible for the standard offer must be calculated based on the avoided cost methodology most recently approved by the commission. In the event that a small power producer and an electrical utility are unable to mutually agree on an avoided cost rate, the small power producer shall have the right to have any disputed issues resolved by the commission in a formal complaint proceeding. The commission may require mediation prior to a formal complaint proceeding.

(D) A small power producer shall have the right to sell the output of its facility to the electrical utility at the avoided cost rates and pursuant to the power purchase agreement then in effect by delivering an executed notice of commitment to sell form to the electrical utility. The commission shall approve a standard notice of commitment to sell form to be used for this purpose that provides the small power producer a reasonable period of time from its submittal of the form to execute a power purchase agreement. In no event, however, shall the small power producer, as a condition of preserving the pricing and terms and conditions established by its submittal of an executed commitment to sell form to the electrical utility, be required to execute a power purchase agreement prior to receipt of a final interconnection agreement from the electrical utility.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(E)(1) Electrical utilities shall file with the commission power purchase agreements entered into pursuant to PURPA, resulting from voluntary negotiation of contracts between an electrical utility and a small power producer not eligible for the standard offer.

(2) The commission is authorized to ~~open a generic docket for the purposes of creating programs~~ approve programs proposed by electrical utilities for the competitive procurement of energy and capacity from renewable energy facilities and, at the electrical utility's option, associated co-located energy storage ~~by an electrical utility~~ within the utility's balancing authority area if the commission determines such action to be in the public interest.

(3) In establishing standard offer and form contract power purchase agreements, the commission shall consider whether such power purchase agreements should prohibit any of the following:

(a) termination of the power purchase agreement, collection of damages from small power producers, or commencement of the term of a power purchase agreement prior to commercial operation, if delays in achieving commercial operation of the small power producer's facility are due to the electrical utility's interconnection delays; or

(b) the electrical utility reducing the price paid to the small power producer based on costs incurred by the electrical utility to respond to the intermittent nature of electrical generation by the small power producer.

(F)(1) Electrical utilities, subject to approval of the commission, shall offer to enter into fixed price power purchase agreements with small power producers for the purchase of energy and capacity at avoided cost, with commercially reasonable terms and a duration of ten years. The commission may also approve commercially reasonable fixed price power purchase agreements with a duration longer than ten years, which must contain additional terms, conditions, and/or rate structures as proposed by intervening parties and approved by the commission, including, but not limited to, a reduction in the contract price relative to the ten year avoided cost. Notwithstanding any other language to the contrary, the commission will make such a determination in proceedings conducted pursuant to subsection (A). The avoided cost rates applicable to fixed price power purchase agreements entered into pursuant to this item shall be based on the avoided cost rates and methodologies as determined by the commission pursuant to this section. The terms of this subsection apply only to those small power producers whose qualifying small power production facilities have active interconnection requests on file with the electrical utility prior to the effective date of this act. The

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

commission may determine any other necessary terms and conditions deemed to be in the best interest of the ratepayers. This item is not intended, and shall not be construed, to abrogate small power producers' rights under PURPA that existed prior to the effective date of the act.

(2) Once an electrical utility has executed interconnection agreements and power purchase agreements with qualifying small power production facilities located in South Carolina with an aggregate nameplate capacity equal to twenty percent of the previous five-year average of the electrical utility's South Carolina retail peak load, that electrical utility shall offer to enter into fixed price power purchase agreements with small power producers for the purchase of energy and capacity at avoided cost, with the terms, conditions, rates, and terms of length for contracts as determined by the commission in a separate docket or in a proceeding conducted pursuant to subsection (A). The commission is expressly directed to consider the potential benefits of terms with a longer duration to promote the state's policy of encouraging renewable energy.

(3) Any electrical utility administering a program for the competitive procurement of renewable energy resources and associated co-located energy storage facilities that have been approved by the commission pursuant to Section 58-41-25 that is open to qualifying small power production facilities within the electrical utility's balancing authority area in South Carolina may competitively procure new renewable energy capacity pursuant to that competitive solicitation process as a means of complying with the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. Further, the commission must establish a five-year term for energy purchased at administratively established avoided cost rates outside of competitive procurement of renewable energy resources, with the exception of voluntarily negotiated agreements to serve the public interest, for any electrical utility administering a program for the competitive procurement of renewable energy resources and associated co-located energy storage facilities that has been approved by the commission if the commission determines that doing so will incentivize participation in the competitive procurement process.

(G) Nothing in this section prohibits the commission from adopting various avoided cost methodologies or amending those methodologies in the public interest.

(H) Unless otherwise agreed to between the electrical utility and the small power producer, a power purchase agreement entered into pursuant to PURPA may not allow curtailment of qualifying facilities in any manner that is inconsistent with PURPA or implementing

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

regulations and orders promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

~~—(I) The commission is authorized to employ, through contract or otherwise, third party consultants and experts in carrying out its duties under this section, including, but not limited to, evaluating avoided cost rates, methodologies, terms, calculations, and conditions under this section. The commission is exempt from complying with the State Procurement Code in the selection and hiring of a third party consultant or expert authorized by this subsection. The commission shall engage, for each utility, a qualified independent third party to submit a report that includes the third party's independently derived conclusions as to that third party's opinion of each utility's calculation of avoided costs for purposes of proceedings conducted pursuant to this section. The qualified independent third party is subject to the same ex parte prohibitions contained in Chapter 3, Title 58 as all other parties. The qualified independent third party shall submit all requests for documents and information necessary to their analysis under the authority of the commission and the commission shall have full authority to compel response to the requests. The qualified independent third party's duty will be to the commission. Any conclusions based on the evidence in the record and included in the report are intended to be used by the commission along with all other evidence submitted during the proceeding to inform its ultimate decision setting the avoided costs for each electrical utility. The utilities may require confidentiality agreements with the independent third party that do not impede the third party analysis. The utilities shall be responsive in providing all documents, information, and items necessary for the completion of the report. The independent third party shall also include in the report a statement assessing the level of cooperation received from the utility during the development of the report and whether there were any material information requests that were not adequately fulfilled by the electrical utility. Any party to this proceeding shall be able to review the report including the confidential portions of the report upon entering into an appropriate confidentiality agreement. The commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff may not hire the same third party consultant or expert in the same proceeding or to address the same or similar issues in different proceedings.~~

~~(J)(I) Each electrical utility's avoided cost filing must be reasonably transparent so that underlying assumptions, data, and results can be independently reviewed and verified by the parties and the commission. The commission may approve any confidentiality protections necessary~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

to allow for independent review and verification of the avoided cost filing.

SECTION 21. Chapter 41, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-41-25. (A) Unless an electrical utility makes an application pursuant to subsection (F) or (G), electrical utilities may file for commission approval of a program for the competitive procurement of renewable energy facilities which may also include, at the utility's option, associated co-located energy storage facilities, also referred to as "eligible facilities", or purchase one-hundred percent of the output from such eligible facilities, including all energy, capacity, ancillary services, and environmental and renewable attributes. Eligible facilities may be located anywhere in the electrical utility's balancing authority area to meet needs for new generation and energy storage resources identified by the electrical utility's integrated resource plan and associated filings. The commission may not grant approval unless the commission finds and determines that the electrical utility satisfied the requirements of this section and the proposed program is just and reasonable and in the best interests of the electrical utility's customers.

(B) An electrical utility's competitive procurement program filed pursuant to this section must describe the solicitation process, eligibility criteria, timelines, bid evaluation methodology, and identify whether resources procured are intended to also service customer-directed renewable energy procurement programs. The program must be designed to procure renewable energy facilities and at the utility's election, associated co-located energy storage resources, or the output of those facilities, subject to the following requirements:

(1) renewable energy facilities, and if applicable, energy storage resources, or their output, must be procured via a competitive solicitation process open to all market participants that meet minimum stated eligibility requirements;

(2) the electrical utility shall issue public notification of its intention to issue a competitive solicitation to procure renewable energy facilities and associated co-located energy storage facilities, if applicable, at least ninety days prior to the release of the solicitation, including identifying the proposed target procurement volume, procurement process, and timeline for administering the solicitation;

(3) renewable energy facilities eligible to participate in competitive procurement are those that use renewable generation resources identified in Section 58-39-120(F), which must also satisfy that electrical utility's capacity, energy, or operational needs, as

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

identified by the electrical utility, and take into account the required operating characteristics of the needed capacity;

(4) energy storage facilities, if included by the electrical utility in the solicitation, must be associated equipment located at the same site as the renewable energy facility;

(5) electrical utilities may seek to ensure that their procurement of eligible facilities results in a reasonable balance of ownership of eligible facilities between such utility, including its affiliates and unrelated market participants, and may offer self-developed proposals. However, if an electrical utility or its affiliate seek to participate in the procurement, the electrical utility's program must include an independent evaluator to evaluate all bids offered and to ensure they are fairly and competitively evaluated. For purposes of this section, "independent evaluator" means an independent third party retained by the electrical utility that has no ownership in the electrical utility or a market participant and has the skills and experience necessary to oversee the solicitation process and provide the utility with an independent evaluation of all proposals for ultimate selection. At the conclusion of the solicitation, the independent evaluator shall report to the commission on the openness and fairness of the bid evaluation process and certify that the selection of proposals adhered to the evaluation methodology and requirement of the program.

(C) An electrical utility must make the following publicly available at least forty-five days prior to each competitive solicitation:

(1) pro-forma contract to inform prospective market participants of the procurement terms and conditions for the output purchased by the electrical utility from eligible resources. The pro-forma contract must:

(a) provide for the purchase of renewable energy, capacity, and environmental and renewable attributes from renewable energy facilities owned and operated by third parties that commit to allow the procuring electrical utility rights to dispatch, operate, and control the solicited renewable energy facilities in the same manner as the electrical utility's own generating resources;

(b) include standardized and commercially reasonable requirements for contract performance security; and

(c) define limits and compensation for resource dispatch and curtailments.

In the event an electrical utility chooses to procure output from co-located storage, the pro-forma contract must also cover similar terms and conditions as specified herein for those eligible facilities.

(2) pro-forma agreements to govern the procurement of eligible

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

facilities by the electrical utility from market participants;

(3) bid evaluation methodology that ensures all bids are treated equitably, including price and non-price evaluation criteria; and

(4) interconnection requirements, including specification of how bids without existing interconnection agreements will be treated for purposes of evaluation.

(D) After bids are submitted and evaluated, the electrical utility will elect the winning bids based upon the public evaluation methodology.

(E) An electrical utility shall file with the commission a public report summarizing the results of each competitive solicitation within thirty days of finalizing the contract with the winning bidder. The report must include, at a minimum, a summary of the bids received and an anonymized list of the project awards, including size, location, and average award price and tenor.

(F) Notwithstanding the requirements in subsections (B) and (C), the results of all other competitive procurement programs undertaken by an electrical utility within its balancing authority area outside of South Carolina that will serve customers in the electrical utility's balancing authority area within South Carolina and are open to equal participation by eligible facilities located within South Carolina may be approved by the commission if the commission determines such programs enable economic, reliable, and safe operation of the electricity grid in a manner consistent with the public interest. For purposes of this section, "public interest" shall also include the ability of customers to subscribe to customer programs which leverage the competitively procured solar and potential storage contemplated within this section. Any electrical utility that requests acceptance of a system-wide procurement pursuant to this section must demonstrate to the commission that the utility has adhered to subsection (D) as defined in that specific competitive procurement program and submit the post solicitation report to the commission, as required by subsection (E).

(G) The commission may determine that a competitive procurement program within an electrical utility's balancing authority area outside of South Carolina that serves customers in the utility's area within South Carolina and is open to equal participation by eligible facilities located within South Carolina satisfies the requirements of this section.

(H) Electrical utilities are permitted to recover costs incurred pursuant to this section, including reasonable and prudent administrative costs to develop and propose procurements under this section, and if approved by the commission, the costs resulting from such procurements through rates established pursuant to Section 58-27-865 or otherwise

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

through rates established pursuant to Section 58-27-870. If the commission denies an application made pursuant to subsection (F) or (G) of this section, and the utility continues with the procurement, then the utility must allocate all costs and benefits associated with the resources being procured away from South Carolina customers.

(I) An electrical utility administering a program for the competitive procurement of renewable energy resources and storage facilities that has been approved by the commission pursuant to Section 58-41-25 that is open to qualifying small power production facilities located in South Carolina may utilize such programs as means to satisfy its purchase obligations for avoidable capacity from qualifying small power production facilities under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, consistent with Section 58-41-20(F)(3).

SECTION 22.A.A. Section 58-33-20 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(10) The term “like facility” with reference to generation facilities and without limitation, includes a facility or facilities that are proposed to provide capacity on a site currently or previously used for siting electric generation that replaces the capacity of a facility or facilities that are being retired, downrated, mothballed, or dedicated to standby or emergency service at the same site, limited to facilities no more than 300 megawatts, so long as those new facilities will provide an amount of effective load-carrying capacity that in whole or in part will serve to replace the capacity to be lost as a result of retirement, and includes associated transmission facilities needed to deliver power from that facility to customers. A “like facility” with reference to transmission facilities, and without limitation, includes any facility that represents the rebuilding, reconductoring, paralleling, increasing voltage, adding circuits or otherwise reconfiguring of an existing transmission line or other transmission facilities including, without limitation, projects to increase the capacity of such facilities, provided such facilities are: (a) located materially within a utility right of way or corridor; (b) located materially within a new right of way or corridor; or (c) substantially located on the property of a customer, prospective customer, or the State.

B. Section 58-33-20(2)(a) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(2) The term “major utility facility” means:

(a) electric generating plant and associated facilities designed for, or capable of, operation at a capacity of more than seventy-five megawatts or that requires a footprint of more than one hundred twenty-five acres of land.

SECTION 23. Article 3, Chapter 33, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

amended to read:

Article 3

Certification of Major Utility Facilities

Section 58-33-110. (1) No person shall commence to construct a major utility facility without first having obtained a certificate issued with respect to such facility by the Commission. The replacement of an existing facility with a like facility, as determined by the Commission, shall not constitute construction of a major utility facility. Upon application for a determination by the Commission that a proposed utility facility constitutes a like facility replacement, the Commission must issue a written order approving or denying the application within sixty days of filing. If the Commission fails to issue a written order within sixty days of the application's filing, the application shall be deemed as approved. Any facility, with respect to which a certificate is required, shall be constructed, operated and maintained in conformity with the certificate and any terms, conditions and modifications contained therein. A certificate may only be issued pursuant to this chapter; provided, however, any authorization relating to a major utility facility granted under other laws administered by the Commission shall constitute a certificate if the requirements of this chapter have been complied with in the proceeding leading to the granting of such authorization.

(2) A certificate may be transferred, subject to the approval of the Commission, to a person who agrees to comply with the terms, conditions and modifications contained therein.

(3) A certificate may be amended.

(4) This chapter shall not apply to any major utility facility:

(a) the construction of which is commenced within one year after January 1, 1972; or

(b) for which, prior to January 1, 1972, an application for the approval has been made to any federal, state, regional, or local governmental agency which possesses the jurisdiction to consider the matters prescribed for finding and determination in subsection (1) of Section 58-33-160.

(c) for which, prior to January 1, 1972, a governmental agency has approved the construction of the facility and indebtedness has been incurred to finance all or part of the cost of such construction;

(d) which is a hydroelectric generating facility over which the ~~Federal Power Commission~~ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has licensing jurisdiction; or

(e) which is a transmission line or associated electrical

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

transmission facilities constructed by the South Carolina Public Service Authority; (i) for which construction either is commenced within one year after January 1, 2022; or (ii) which is necessary to maintain system reliability in connection with the closure of the Winyah Generating Station, provided that such transmission is not for generation subject to this chapter; or (iii) which is necessary to serve an identified commercial or industrial customer to promote economic development or industry retention as determined by the South Carolina Public Service Authority and agreed to by the Office of Regulatory Staff where such agreement is documented in a letter by the Office of Regulatory Staff to the Public Utilities Review Committee and the commission.

(5) Any person intending to construct a major utility facility excluded from this chapter pursuant to subsection (4) of this section or Section 58-33-20(10) may elect to waive the exclusion by delivering notice of the waiver to the Commission. This chapter shall thereafter apply to each major utility facility identified in the notice from the date of its receipt by the Commission.

(6) The Commission shall have authority to waive the normal notice and hearing requirements of this chapter and to issue a certificate on an emergency basis if it finds that immediate construction of a major utility facility is justified by public convenience and necessity; provided, that the Public Service Commission shall notify all parties concerned under Section 58-33-140 prior to the issuance of such certificate; provided, further, that the Commission may subsequently require a modification of the facility if, after giving due consideration to the major utility facility, available technology and the economics involved, it finds such modification necessary in order to minimize the environmental impact.

(7) The Commission shall have authority, where justified by public convenience and necessity, to grant permission to a person who has made application for a certificate under Section 58-33-120 to proceed with initial clearing, excavation, dredging and construction; ~~provided,~~ No permission from the Commission shall be required to proceed with initial clearing, excavation, dredging, and initial construction of any facility which constitutes a component of the preferred generation plan in an integrated resource plan or update approved by the Commission pursuant to Chapter 37 of this title, or any like facility; provided that in engaging in such clearing, excavation, dredging or construction, the person shall proceed at his own risk, and such permission shall not in any way indicate approval by the Commission of the proposed site or facility.

~~(8)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of item (7), and not limiting~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~the provisions above, a person may not commence construction of a major utility facility for generation in the State of South Carolina without first having made a demonstration. In seeking a certificate, the applicant must provide credible information demonstrating that the facility to be built has been compared to other generation options in terms of cost, reliability, schedule constraints, fuel cost and availability, transmission constraints and costs, ancillary services capabilities, current and reasonably expected future environmental costs and restrictions, that the facility supports system efficiency and reliability in light of those considerations, and any other regulatory implications deemed legally or reasonably necessary for consideration by the commission. The commission is authorized to adopt rules for such evaluation of other generation options.~~

~~(b) The commission may, upon a showing of a need, require a commission approved process that includes Office of Regulatory Staff may provide to the commission a report that includes any or all of the following:~~

~~(i) the an assessment of an unbiased independent evaluator retained by the Office of Regulatory Staff as to reasonableness of any certificate sought under this section for new generation;~~

~~(ii) a report from the independent evaluator to the commission regarding the transparency, completeness, and integrity of bidding processes, if any;~~

~~(iii) an assessment of whether there was a reasonable period for interested parties to review and comment on proposed requests for proposals, bid instructions, and bid evaluation criteria, if any, prior to finalization and issuance, subject to any trade secrets that could hamper future negotiations; however, the independent evaluator may access all such information;~~

~~(iv) independent evaluator access and review of final bid evaluation criteria and pricing information for any and all projects to be evaluated in comparison to the request for proposal bids received;~~

~~(v) access through discovery, subject to appropriate confidentiality, attorney client privilege or trade secret restrictions, for parties to this proceeding to documents developed in preparing the certificate of public convenience and necessity application;~~

~~(vi) (iv) a demonstration that an assessment of whether the facility is consistent with an integrated resource plan or update approved by previously filed with the commission or is otherwise justified by generation planning modeling comparable to that filed as part of the utility's integrated resource plan but updated with current data~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

concerning system loads, fuel prices, environmental regulations, location-specific transmission costs, updated construction costs and updated construction timelines, updated costs of gas supply facilities, if any, and other relevant costs, schedules or inputs establishing that the facility in question supports system economy and reliability; and

(vii)–(v) an assessment detailing the treatment of utility affiliates in the same manner as compared to nonaffiliates participating in the request for proposal process, if any.

(9) The applicant may, but must not be required to, issue requests for proposals or otherwise conduct market procurement activities in support of the showings required pursuant to this chapter.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, an electrical utility serving customers in this state may seek a certificate of public convenience and necessity when building a major utility facility, as defined in Section 58-33-20(2), in another state but within the electrical utility’s balancing area serving customers in South Carolina. In such a case, the provisions of Sections 58-33-120, 58-33-140, and 58-33-160(1)(b), (c), and (e) shall not apply, but all other requirements of this section affecting customers in this state shall apply. In addition:

(a) an applicant for a certificate shall file an application with the commission in such form as the commission may prescribe. The application must contain the following information:

(i) a description of the location and of the major utility facility to be built;

(ii) a summary of any studies which have been made by or for the applicant of the environmental impact of the major utility facility;

(iii) a statement explaining the need for the major utility facility;

(iv) any other information the applicant may consider relevant or as the commission may by regulation require. A copy of the report referred to in item (8)(b) must be filed with the commission, if ordered by the commission, and shall be available for public information.

(b) The parties to a proceeding for a certificate pursuant to this section shall include:

(i) the applicant;

(ii) the Office of Regulatory Staff; and

(iii) intervenors with standing as approved by the commission.

(c) If the commission denies an application made pursuant to this section and the utility continues to build such major utility facility, the utility must allocate all costs and benefits associated with the major utility facility away from the utility’s South Carolina customers.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Section 58-33-120. (1) An applicant for a certificate shall file an application with the commission, in such form as the commission may prescribe. The application must contain the following information:

(a) a description of the location and of the major utility facility to be built;

(b) a summary of any studies which have been made by or for applicant of the environmental impact of the facility;

(c) a statement explaining the need for the facility; and

(d) any other information as the applicant may consider relevant or as the commission may by regulation ~~or order~~ require. A copy of the study referred to in item (b) above shall be filed with the commission, if ordered, and shall be available for public information.

(2) Each application shall be accompanied by proof of service of a copy of the application on the Office of Regulatory Staff, the chief executive officer of each municipality, and the head of each state and local government agency, charged with the duty of protecting the environment or of planning land use, in the area in the county in which any portion of the facility is to be located. The copy of the application shall be accompanied by a notice specifying the date on or about which the application is to be filed.

(3) Each application also must be accompanied by proof that public notice was given to persons residing in the municipalities entitled to receive notice under subsection (2) of this section, by the publication of a summary of the application, and the date on or about which it is to be filed, in newspapers of general circulation as will serve substantially to inform such persons of the application.

(4) Inadvertent failure of service on, or notice to, any of the municipalities, government agencies, or persons identified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section may be cured pursuant to orders of the commission designed to afford them adequate notice to enable their effective participation in the proceeding. In addition, the commission may, after filing, require the applicant to serve notice of the application or copies thereof, or both, upon such other persons, and file proof thereof, as the commission may deem appropriate.

(5) An application for an amendment of a certificate shall be in such form and contain such information as the commission shall prescribe. Notice of the application shall be given as set forth in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

Section 58-33-130. (1) Upon the receipt of an application complying with Section 58-33-120, the Commission shall promptly fix a date for the commencement of a public hearing, not less than sixty nor

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

more than ninety days after the receipt, and ~~shall conclude the proceedings as expeditiously as practicable~~ complete the hearing and issue an order on the merits within one hundred eighty days of receipt of the application.

(2) The testimony presented at the hearing may be presented in writing or orally, provided that the Commission may make rules designed to exclude repetitive, redundant or irrelevant testimony; however, all expert testimony must be prefiled with the Commission, with responsive expert testimony of non-applicants being received with enough time for the applicant to meaningfully respond, and in no case would expert testimony be filed less than twenty days before the hearing.

~~(2)~~(3) On an application for an amendment of a certificate, the Commission shall hold a hearing in the same manner as a hearing is held on an application for a certificate if the proposed change in the facility would result in any significant increase in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility; provided, that the Public Service Commission shall forward a copy of the application to all parties upon the filing of an application.

Section 58-33-140. (1) The parties to a certification proceeding shall include:

(a) the applicant;

(b) the Office of Regulatory Staff, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism;

(c) each municipality and government agency entitled to receive service of a copy of the application under subsection (2) of Section 58-33-120 if it has filed with the commission a notice of intervention as a party within thirty days after the date it was served with a copy of the application; and

(d) any person residing in a municipality entitled to receive service of a copy of the application under subsection (2) of Section 58-33-120, any domestic nonprofit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health, or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interest, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the facility is to be located; or any other person, if such a person or organization has petitioned the commission for leave to intervene as a party, within thirty days after the date given in the published notice as the date for filing the application, and if the petition has been granted by the commission for good cause shown.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(2) Any person may make a limited appearance in the sixty days after the date given in the published notice as the date for filing the application. No person making a limited appearance shall be a party or shall have the right to present oral testimony or argument or cross-examine witnesses.

(3) The commission may, in extraordinary circumstances for good cause shown, and giving consideration to the need for timely start of construction of the facility, grant a petition for leave to intervene as a party to participate in subsequent phases of the proceeding, filed by a municipality, government agency, person, or organization which is identified in paragraphs (b) or (c) of subsection (1) of this section, but which failed to file a timely notice of intervention or petition for leave to intervene, as the case may be.

Section 58-33-150. A record shall be made of ~~the~~any hearing and of all testimony taken and the cross-examination thereon. ~~Upon request of a party, either before or after the decision, a State agency which proposes to or does require a condition to be included in the certificate as provided for in Section 58-33-160 shall furnish for the record all factual findings, documents, studies, rules, regulations, standards, or other documentation, supporting the condition. The Commission may provide for the consolidation of the representation of parties having similar interests.~~

Section 58-33-160. (1) The Commission shall render a decision upon the record either granting or denying the application as filed, or granting it upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance of the major utility facility as the Commission may deem appropriate; such conditions shall be as determined by the applicable State agency having jurisdiction or authority under statutes, rules, regulations or standards promulgated thereunder, and the conditions shall become a part of the certificate. The Commission ~~may not~~must grant a certificate for the construction, operation and maintenance of a major utility facility, either as proposed or as modified by the Commission, ~~unless it shall find and determine if it finds and determines that the applicant has shown:~~

- (a) The basis of the need for the facility.
- (b) The nature of the probable environmental impact.
- (c) That the impact of the facility upon the environment is justified, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives and other pertinent considerations.
- (d) That the facilities will serve the interests of system economy and reliability, and in the case of generating facilities, will do so

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

considering reasonably available alternatives and their associated costs, risks, and operating attributes.

(e) That there is reasonable assurance that the proposed facility will conform to applicable State and local laws and regulations issued thereunder, including any allowable variance provisions therein, except that the Commission may refuse to apply any local law or local regulation if it finds that, as applied to the proposed facility, such law or regulation is unreasonably restrictive in view of the existing technology, or of factors of cost or economics or of the needs of consumers whether located inside or outside of the directly affected government subdivisions.

(f) That public convenience and necessity require the construction of the facility.

(2) If the Commission determines that the location of all or a part of the proposed facility should be modified, it may condition its certificate upon such modification, provided that the municipalities and persons residing therein affected by the modification shall have been given reasonable notice.

(3) A copy of the decision and any ~~opinion order~~ shall be served by the Commission upon each party.

Section 58-33-170. In rendering a decision on an application for a certificate, the Commission shall issue an ~~opinion order~~ stating its reasons for the action taken. If the Commission has found that any regional or local law or regulation, which would be otherwise applicable, is unreasonably restrictive pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of Section 58-33-160, it shall state in its ~~opinion order~~ the reasons therefor.

Section 58-33-180. (A)(1) In addition to the requirements of Articles 1, 3, 5, and 7 of Chapter 33, Title 58, a certificate for the construction of a major utility facility shall be granted only if the Public Service Authority demonstrates and proves by a preponderance of the evidence and the commission finds:

~~(a)~~(1) the construction of a major utility facility constitutes a more cost-effective means for serving direct serve and wholesale customers than other feasibly available long-term power supply alternatives and provides less ratepayer risk while maintaining safe and reliable electric service than other feasibly available long-term power supply alternatives; and

~~(b)~~(2) energy efficiency measures; demand-side management; renewable energy resource generation; available long-term power supply alternatives, or any combination thereof, would not establish or maintain a more cost-effective and reliable generation system and that

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the construction and operation of the facility is in the public interest.

~~(2)~~(B) Available long-term power supply alternatives may include, but are not limited to, power purchase agreements, competitive procurement of renewable energy, joint dispatch agreements, market purchases from an existing regional transmission organization, joining or creating a new regional transmission organization, using best available technology for energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution, or any combination thereof.

~~(3)~~(C) The commission shall consider any previous analysis performed pursuant to Section 58-37-40 in acting upon any petition by the Public Service Authority pursuant to this section. The commission shall also take into account the Public Service Authority's resource and fuel diversity, reasonably anticipated future operating costs, arrangements with other electric utilities for interchange of power, pooling of plants, purchase of power and other alternative methods for providing reliable, efficient, and economical electric service.

~~(B)~~(D) The Public Service Authority shall file an estimate of construction costs in such detail as the commission may require. ~~No certificate shall be granted unless the commission has approved the estimated construction costs and made a finding that construction will be consistent with the Authority's commission-approved plan for expansion of electric generating capacity.~~

Section 58-33-185. (A) The Public Service Authority may not ~~enter into a contract for the acquisition of~~ acquire a major utility facility without approval of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, provided that the approval is required only to the extent the transaction is not subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or any other federal agency.

(B)(1) In acting upon any petition by the Public Service Authority pursuant to this section, the Public Service Authority must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the proposed transaction constitutes a more cost-effective means for serving direct serve and wholesale customers than other feasibly available long-term power supply alternatives and provides less ratepayer risk while maintaining safe and reliable electric service than other feasibly available long-term power supply alternatives. The commission shall consider any previous analysis performed pursuant to Section 58-37-40 in acting upon any petition by the Public Service Authority pursuant to this section. The commission shall also take into account the Public Service Authority's arrangements with other electric utilities for interchange of power, pooling of plants, purchase of power and other alternative methods for

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

providing reliable, efficient, and economical electric service.

(2) Available long-term power supply alternatives may include, but not be limited to, power purchase agreements of a different duration than proposed, competitive procurement of renewable energy, joint dispatch agreements, market purchases from an existing regional transmission organization, joining or creating a new regional transmission organization, using best available technology for energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution, or any combination thereof.

(C) Application for the approval of the commission shall be made by the Public Service Authority and shall contain a concise statement of the proposed action, the reasons therefor, and such other information as may be required by the commission.

(D) Upon the receipt of an application, the commission shall promptly fix a date for the commencement of a public hearing, not less than sixty nor more than ninety days after the receipt, and shall conclude the proceedings as expeditiously as practicable. The commission shall establish notice requirements and proceedings shall include an opportunity for intervention, discovery, filed comments or testimony, and an evidentiary hearing.

(E) The commission shall render a decision upon the record either granting or denying the application as filed, or granting it upon such terms, conditions or modifications as the commission may deem appropriate.

(F)(1) The commission may not grant approval unless it shall find and determine that the Public Service Authority satisfied all requirements of this section and the proposed transaction is in the best interests of the retail and wholesale customers of the Public Service Authority.

(2) The commission also may require compliance with any provision of Article 3, Chapter 33, Title 58 that the commission determines necessary to grant approval.

Section 58-33-190. (1) The Public Service Authority may not enter into a contract for the purchase of power with a duration longer than ten years without approval of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, provided that the approval is required only to the extent the transaction is not subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or any other federal agency. This section does not apply to purchases of renewable power through a commission approved competitive procurement process.

(2) The commission shall consider any previous analysis performed

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

pursuant to Section 58-37-40 in acting upon any petition by the Public Service Authority pursuant to this section. The commission shall also take into account the Public Service Authority's resource and fuel diversity, reasonably anticipated future operating costs, arrangements with other electric utilities for interchange of power, pooling of plants, purchase of power, and other alternative methods for providing reliable, efficient, and economical electric service.

(3) The commission may not grant approval unless it shall find and determine that the proposed transaction is in the best interests of the retail and wholesale customers of the Public Service Authority.

SECTION 24. Section 58-37-40 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-37-40. (A) Electrical utilities, electric cooperatives, municipally owned electric utilities, and the South Carolina Public Service Authority must each prepare an integrated resource plan. An integrated resource plan must be prepared and submitted at least every three years. Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring interstate natural gas companies whose rates and services are regulated only by the federal government or gas utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the commission to prepare and submit an integrated resource plan.

(1) Each electrical utility with one hundred thousand or more customer accounts and the Public Service Authority must submit its integrated resource plan to the commission. The integrated resource plan must be posted on the electrical utility's website and on the commission's website.

(2) Electric cooperatives, electric utilities with less than one hundred thousand customer accounts, and municipally owned electric utilities shall each submit an integrated resource plan to the State Energy Office. Each integrated resource plan must be posted on the State Energy Office's website. If an electric cooperative, electric utility with less than one hundred thousand customer accounts, or municipally owned utility has a website, its integrated resource plan must also be posted on its website. For distribution, electric cooperatives that are members of a cooperative that provides wholesale service, the integrated resource plan may be coordinated and consolidated into a single plan provided that nonshared resources or programs of individual distribution cooperatives are highlighted. Where plan components listed in subsection (B)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply to a distribution or wholesale cooperative or a municipally owned electric utility as a result of the cooperative or the municipally owned electric utility not owning or operating generation resources, the plan may state that fact or refer to the plan of the wholesale power generator. Where plan components

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

listed in subsection (B)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply to an electrical utility with less than one hundred thousand customer accounts as a result of its own generation resources being comprised of more than seventy-five percent renewable energy or because it purchases wholesale load balancing generation services, then the plan may state that fact or refer to the plan of the wholesale power generator. For purposes of this section, a wholesale power generator does not include a municipally created joint agency if that joint agency receives at least seventy-five percent of its electricity from a generating facility owned in partnership with an electrical utility and that electrical utility:

(a) generally serves the area in which the joint agency's members are located; and

(b) is responsible for dispatching the capacity and output of the generated electricity.

(3) The South Carolina Public Service Authority shall submit its integrated resource plan to the commission. The Public Service Authority shall develop a public process allowing for input from all stakeholders prior to submitting the integrated resource plan. The integrated resource plan must be developed in consultation with the electric cooperatives and municipally owned electric utilities purchasing power and energy from the Public Service Authority and consider any feedback provided by retail customers and shall include the effect of demand-side management activities of the electric cooperatives and municipally owned electric utilities that directly purchase power and energy from the Public Service Authority or sell power and energy generated by the Public Service Authority. The integrated resource plan must be posted on the commission's website and on the Public Service Authority's website.

(4)(a) In addition to the requirements of Section 58-37-40(B), the Public Service Authority's integrated resource plan shall include an analysis of long-term power supply alternatives and enumerate the cost of various resource portfolios over various study periods including a twenty-year study period and, by comparison on a net present value basis, identify the most cost-effective and least ratepayer-risk resource portfolio to meet the Public Service Authority's total capacity and energy requirements while maintaining safe and reliable electric service.

(b) In addition to the requirements of Section 58-37-40(B), the commission shall review and evaluate the Public Service Authority's analysis of long-term power supply alternatives and various resource portfolios over various study periods including a twenty-year study period and, by comparison on a net present value basis, identify the most

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

cost-effective and lowest ratepayer-risk resource portfolio to meet the Public Service Authority's total capacity and energy requirements while maintaining safe and reliable electric service. The commission's evaluation shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) evaluating the cost-effectiveness and ratepayer-risk of self-build generation and transmission options compared with various long-term power supply alternatives, including power purchase agreements, competitive procurement of renewable energy, joint dispatch agreements, market purchases from an existing regional transmission organization, joining or creating a new regional transmission organization, using best available technology for energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution, or any combination thereof. In evaluating and identifying the most cost-effective and least ratepayer-risk resource portfolio, the commission shall strive to reduce the risk to ratepayers associated with any generation and transmission options while maintaining safe and reliable electric service; and

(ii) an analysis of any potential cost savings that might accrue to ratepayers from the retirement of remaining coal generation assets.

(c) The Authority's integrated resource plan must provide the information required in Section 58-37-40(B) and must be developed in consultation with the electric cooperatives, including Central Electric Power Cooperative, and municipally owned electric utilities purchasing power and energy from the Public Service Authority, and consider any feedback provided by retail customers and shall include the effect of demand-side management activities of the electric cooperatives, including Central Electric Power Cooperative, and municipally owned electric utilities that directly purchase power and energy from the Public Service Authority or sell power and energy generated by the Public Service Authority. The Integrated Resource Plan of the South Carolina Public Service Authority shall include and evaluate at least one resource portfolio, which will reflect the closure of the Winyah Generating Station by 2028, designed to provide safe and reliable electric service while meeting a net zero carbon emission goal by the year 2050.

(B)(1) An integrated resource plan shall include all of the following:

(a) a long-term forecast of the utility's sales and peak demand under various reasonable scenarios;

(b) the type of generation technology proposed for a generation facility contained in the plan and the proposed capacity of the generation facility, including fuel cost sensitivities under various reasonable scenarios;

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(c) projected energy purchased or produced by the utility from a renewable energy resource;

(d) a summary of the electrical transmission investments planned by the utility;

(e) several resource portfolios developed with the purpose of fairly evaluating the range of demand-side, supply-side, storage, and other technologies and services available to meet the utility's service obligations. Such portfolios and evaluations must include an evaluation of low, medium, and high cases for the adoption of renewable energy and cogeneration, energy efficiency, and demand response measures, including consideration of the following:

(i) customer energy efficiency and demand response programs;

(ii) facility retirement assumptions; and

(iii) sensitivity analyses related to fuel costs, environmental regulations, and other uncertainties or risks;

(f) data regarding the utility's current generation portfolio, including the age, licensing status, and remaining estimated life of operation for each facility in the portfolio;

(g) plans for meeting current and future capacity needs with the cost estimates for all proposed resource portfolios in the plan;

(h) an analysis of the cost and reliability impacts of all reasonable options available to meet projected energy and capacity needs; ~~and~~

(i) a forecast of the utility's peak demand, details regarding the amount of peak demand reduction the utility expects to achieve, and the actions the utility proposes to take in order to achieve that peak demand reduction; and

(j) a report addressing updates to the utility's transmission plan under the utility's open-access transmission tariff pursuant to the federal jurisdiction planning process. In this report, the utility shall describe if applicable planned transmission improvements may enable specific siting of new resources or provide expected and planned impacts to other resource interconnection constraints or operations of the systems. The utility shall also describe how it evaluated alternate transmission technologies when developing solutions for identified transmission needs for interconnecting resources.

(2) An integrated resource plan may include distribution resource plans or integrated system operation plans.

(C)(1) The commission shall have a proceeding to review each electrical utility subject to subsection (A)(1) and the Public Service

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Authority's integrated resource plan. As part of the integrated resource plan filing, the commission shall allow intervention by interested parties. The procedural schedule shall include dates for completion of each phase of discovery, including discovery related to the integrated resource plan as filed, direct testimony of the applicant, direct testimony of the Office of Regulatory Staff and other parties and intervenors, and rebuttal testimony of the applicant. Except upon showing exceptional circumstances, all discovery shall be served in time to allow its completion, but not less than ten days prior to the hearing. The commission shall establish a procedural schedule to permit reasonable discovery after an integrated resource plan is filed in order to assist parties in obtaining evidence concerning the integrated resource plan, including the reasonableness and prudence of the plan and alternatives to the plan raised by intervening parties. No later than three hundred days after an electrical utility files an integrated resource plan, the commission shall issue a final order approving, modifying, or denying the plan filed by the electrical utility or the Public Service Authority.

(2) The commission shall approve an electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's integrated resource plan if the commission determines that the proposed integrated resource plan represents the most reasonable and prudent means of meeting the electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's energy and capacity needs as of the time the plan is reviewed. ~~To determine whether the integrated resource plan is the most reasonable and prudent means of meeting energy and capacity needs, the commission, in its discretion, shall consider whether the plan appropriately balances the following factors.~~ In reviewing an integrated resource plan, the commission shall give due consideration as to the resources and actions necessary for the utility to fulfill compliance and reliability obligations pursuant to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements, as well as environmental requirements applicable to resources serving customers in this state. Matters related to the scope and sufficiency of an electrical utility's demand-side plans and activities shall be considered exclusively in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 58-37-20. In reviewing an integrated resource plan, the commission shall focus its review on the decisions which the applicant must make in the near term based on the triennial integrated resource plan under consideration at the time and shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan appropriately balances the following factors:

(a) resource adequacy and capacity to serve anticipated peak

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

electrical load, including the need for electric capacity and energy required to support economic development and industry retention in the electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's service territory and to meet applicable planning reserve margins;

(b) consumer affordability and least reasonable cost, considering the resources needed to support economic development and industry retention, and other risks and benefits;

(c) compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations;

(d) power supply reliability;

(e) commodity price risks;

(f) diversity of generation supply; ~~and~~

(g) the efficiencies and optimum plans for any electrical utility system spanning state lines located within the electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's balancing authority area; and

(h) other foreseeable conditions that the commission determines to be for the public's interest.

(3) In modifying or rejecting an electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's integrated resource plan, the commission shall only require revisions that are reasonably anticipated to materially change resource procurement decisions to be made on the basis of the integrated resource plan under review. If the commission modifies or rejects an electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's integrated resource plan, the electrical utility or the Public Service Authority, within sixty days after the date of the final order, shall submit a revised plan addressing concerns identified by the commission and incorporating commission-mandated revisions to the integrated resource plan to the commission for approval. Within sixty days of the electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's revised filing, the Office of Regulatory Staff shall review the electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's revised plan and submit a report to the commission assessing the sufficiency of the revised filing. Other parties to the integrated resource plan proceeding also may submit comments. No later than sixty days after the Office of Regulatory Staff report is filed with the commission, the commission at its discretion may determine whether to accept the revised integrated resource plan or to mandate further remedies that the commission deems appropriate.

(4) The submission, review, and acceptance of an integrated resource plan by the commission, or the inclusion of any specific resource ~~or experience~~ in an accepted integrated resource plan, shall not be determinative of the reasonableness or prudence of the acquisition or

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

construction of any resource or the making of any expenditure. An electrical utility shall retain the burden of proof to show that all of its investments and expenditures are reasonable and prudent when seeking cost recovery in rates.

(D)(1) An electrical utility and the Public Service Authority shall each submit annual updates to its integrated resource plan to the commission. An annual update must include an update to the electric utility's or the Public Service Authority's base planning assumptions relative to its most recently accepted integrated resource plan, including, but not limited to: energy and demand forecast, commodity fuel price inputs, renewable energy forecast, energy efficiency and demand-side management forecasts, changes to projected retirement dates of existing units, along with other inputs the commission deems to be for the public interest. The electrical utility's or Public Service Authority's annual update must describe the impact of the updated base planning assumptions on the selected resource plan.

(2) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall review each electrical utility's or the Public Service Authority's annual update and submit a report within ninety days to the commission providing a recommendation concerning the reasonableness of the annual update. After reviewing the annual update and the Office of Regulatory Staff report, the commission may accept the annual update or direct the electrical utility or the Public Service Authority to make changes to the annual update that the commission determines to be in the public interest within sixty days from the submittal of the Office of Regulatory Staff's report.

(E) Intervenors shall bear their own costs of participating in proceedings before the commission.

~~(F)~~(F) The commission is authorized to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 25. Section 58-3-260 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-3-260. (A) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Proceeding" means a contested case, generic proceeding, or other matter to be adjudicated, decided, or arbitrated by the commission.

(2) "Person" means a party to a proceeding pending before the commission, a member of the Office of Regulatory Staff, a representative of a party to a proceeding pending before the commission, individuals, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, elected officials of state government, and other public and elected officials.

(3) "Communication" means the transmitting of information by

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

any mode including, but not limited to, oral, written, or electronic.

(4) “Allowable ex parte communication briefing” means any communication that is conducted pursuant to the procedure outlined in subsection (C)(6) of this section.

(5) “Communication of supplemental legal citation” means the submission, subsequent to the submission of post-hearing briefs or proposed orders in a proceeding, of statutes, regulations, judicial or administrative decisions that are enacted, promulgated, or determined after the submission of post-hearing briefs or proposed orders.

(6) “Issue” means a specific request for relief or for other action from the commission in a pending or anticipated matter, legal or regulatory arguments, and policy considerations. “Issue” does not include:

(a) general information concerning the operations, administration, planning, projects, customer service, storms or storm response, accidents, outages, or investments of an entity regulated by the commission that is not confidential and proprietary and is available to the public; or

(b) any confidential information that affects energy security, such as physical or cybersecurity matters, provided that such information is also provided to the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff.

Any communication pursuant to subitems (a) or (b) that does not contain a specific request for relief or for other action from the commission in a pending matter or anticipated matter and is provided to the commission must be in writing and must be posted on the commission’s website with any confidential information redacted.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided herein or unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by law, a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, regarding any issue that is an issue in any proceeding or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in any proceeding with any person without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication, nor shall any person communicate, directly or indirectly, regarding any issue that is an issue in any proceeding or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in any proceeding with any commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication.

(2) Commissioners must limit their consideration of matters before them to the record presented by the parties and may not rely on

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

material not presented in the record by the parties.

(C) The following communications are exempt from the prohibitions of subsection (B) of this section:

(1) a communication concerning compliance with procedural requirements if the procedural matter is not an area of controversy in a proceeding;

(2) statements made by a commission employee who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in formulating a decision, rule, or order in a proceeding, where the statements are limited to providing publicly available information about pending proceedings;

(3) inquiries relating solely to the status of a proceeding, unless the inquiry: (a) states or implies a view as to the merits or outcome of the proceeding; (b) states or implies a preference for a particular party or which states why timing is important to a particular party; (c) indicates a view as to the date by which a proceeding should be resolved; or (d) is otherwise intended to address the merits or outcome or to influence the timing of a proceeding;

(4) a communication made by or to commission employees that concerns judicial review of a matter that has been decided by the commission and is no longer within the commission's jurisdiction; however, if the matter is remanded to the commission for further action, the provisions of this section shall apply during the period of the remand;

(5) where circumstances require, ex parte communications for scheduling, administrative purposes, or emergencies that do not deal with substantive matters or issues on the merits are authorized provided:

(a) the commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee reasonably believes that no party will gain a procedural or tactical advantage as a result of the ex parte communication; and

(b) the commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee makes provision promptly to notify all other parties of the substance of the ex parte communication and, where possible, allows an opportunity to respond;

(6)(a) subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title 30, communications, directly or indirectly, regarding any fact, law, or other matter that is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in a proceeding for the purposes of an allowable ex parte communication briefing if:

~~—(i) the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff or his designee attends the briefing and files a written certification, within seventy two hours of the briefing, attaching copies of all statements and all other matters filed by all persons pursuant to~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~subsubitems (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subsection, with the chief clerk of the commission that such briefing was conducted in compliance with the provisions of this section and that each party, person, commissioner, or commission employee present has complied with the reporting and certification requirements of subsubitems (ii), (iii), and (iv); and within twenty four hours of the submission by the executive director, the commission posts on its web site the written certification, statements, and other matters filed by the executive director;~~

~~_____ (ii) each party, person, commissioner, and commission employee present files a written, certified statement with the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff within forty eight hours of the briefing accurately summarizing the discussions in full and attaching copies of any written materials utilized, referenced, or distributed;~~

~~_____ (iii) each party, person, commissioner, and commission employee present, within forty eight hours of the briefing, files a certification with the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff that~~

~~_____ (i) in the course of such briefing, no commissioner or commission employee shall make any~~ne~~ commitment, predetermination, or prediction of any commissioner's action as to any ultimate or penultimate issue or any commission employee's opinion or recommendation as to any ultimate or penultimate issue in any proceeding, ~~was requested by any person or party~~ nor shall any person request any commitment, predetermination, or prediction ~~wasto be~~ given by any commissioner or commission employee as to any commission action or commission employee opinion or recommendation on any ultimate or penultimate issue;~~

~~_____ (ii) the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff or his designee must attend the briefing and certify that the commissioners and commission employees complied with the provisions in subitem (i);~~

~~(iv)(iii) each commissioner or commission employee present at the allowable ex parte communication briefing grants to every other party or person requesting an allowable ex parte communication briefing on the same or similar matter that is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in a proceeding, similar access and a reasonable opportunity to communicate, directly or indirectly, regarding any fact, law, or other matter that is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in a proceeding under the provisions of subsection (C)(6) of this section and files a written, certified statement with the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff within forty-eight~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

hours of the briefing stating that the commissioner or commission employee will comply with this provision;

~~(v)~~(iv) the commission ~~posts~~ must post on its web site, at least five business days prior to the proposed briefing, a notice of each request for an allowable ex parte communication briefing that includes the date and time of the proposed briefing, the name of the person or party who requested the briefing, the name of each commissioner and commission employee whom the person or party has requested to brief, and the subject matter to be discussed at the briefing;

(v) the commission must post on its web site within three business days after the briefing, all nonconfidential materials and documents provided to the commission as part of the ex parte briefing and a statement signed by the chief clerk of the commission that the provisions of this subsection have been followed, including the justification for actions taken to preserve the confidentiality of any confidential information provided to the commission;

(vi) the person or party initially seeking the briefing ~~requests~~must request the briefing with sufficient notice, as required in subsubitem ~~(v)~~(iv), to allow the initial briefing to be held at least twenty business days prior to the hearing in the proceeding at which the matter that is the subject of the briefing is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue, and the initial briefing must be held at least twenty business days prior to the hearing in the proceeding; and

(vii) any person or party desiring to have a briefing on the same or similar matter as provided for in subsubitem (vi) shall be entitled to request ~~requests~~ a briefing so long as the request is made with sufficient time for notice, as required in subsubitem ~~(v)~~(iv), to allow the briefing to be held at least ten business days prior to the hearing in the proceeding at which the matter that is the subject of the briefing is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue, and any such briefing must be held at least ten business days prior to the hearing in the proceeding;

~~— (b) any person or party may object to the attendance of the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff at an allowable ex parte communication briefing on the grounds of bias or a conflict of interest on the part of the executive director. Any such objection must be made in writing and must be filed with the executive director no later than twenty four hours prior to the scheduled briefing. If the objecting person or party and the executive director agree upon a neutral person, that person shall serve in the executive director's stead and shall comply with the reporting and certification requirements of the executive director contained in subsubitem (i) and the executive director shall~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~comply with the requirements contained in subsubitems (ii) and (iii). The costs of such person's services shall be charged to the party requesting the briefing and may be an allowable cost of the proceedings. If the objecting person or party and the executive director cannot agree upon a neutral person, the objecting person or party shall petition the Administrative Law Court for the appointment of a neutral person to serve in the executive director's stead, and the petition shall be given priority over all other matters within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Law Court. In the petition, the objecting party shall set forth the specific grounds supporting the objecting person's or party's allegation of bias or conflict on the part of the executive director and shall generally describe the matters to be discussed at the briefing. It shall not be sufficient grounds that the executive director is or is likely to be a party to a proceeding. The executive director shall be given an opportunity to respond. Part of the executive director's response shall include recommendations as to the experience required of the person to act in his stead. Upon a showing of actual bias or conflict of interest, the administrative law judge shall designate a person to act in the executive director's stead and that person shall comply with the reporting and certification requirements of the executive director contained in subsubitem (i) and the executive director shall comply with the requirements contained in subsubitems (ii) and (iii). Such person must have the expertise to act in the executive director's stead. The decision of the administrative law judge shall be considered interlocutory and not immediately appealable and may be appealed with the final order of the commission. The costs of such person's services shall be charged to the party requesting the briefing and may be an allowable cost of the proceedings;~~

~~——(c) should the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff desire to conduct an allowable ex parte communication briefing, the chief clerk of the commission shall appoint a neutral person who shall serve in the executive director's stead and that person shall comply with the reporting and certification requirements of the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff contained in subsubitem (i). The Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff shall comply with the requirements contained in subsubitems (ii) and (iii);~~

~~——(d)(b) nothing in subsection (C)(6) of this section requires any commissioner or commission employee to grant a request for an allowable ex parte communication briefing, except as provided in subsection (C)(6)(a)(iv)(iii) of this section;~~

(7) a communication of supplemental legal citation if the party

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

files copies of such documents, without comment or argument, with the chief clerk of the commission and simultaneously provides copies to all parties of record;

(8) subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title 30, communications between and among commissioners regarding matters pending before the commission; provided, further, that any commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee may receive aid from commission employees if the commission employees providing aid do not:

(a) receive ex parte communications of a type that the commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee would be prohibited from receiving; or

(b) furnish, augment, diminish, or modify the evidence in the record.

(D) If before serving in a proceeding, a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee receives an ex parte communication of a type that may not properly be received while serving, the commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee must disclose the communication in the following manner: a commissioner, hearing officer, or a commission employee who receives an ex parte communication in violation of this section must promptly after receipt of the communication or, in the case of a communication prior to a filing, as soon as it is known to relate to a filing, place on the record of the matter all written and electronic communications received, all written and electronic responses to the communications, and a memorandum stating the substance of all oral communications received, all responses made, and the identity of each person from whom the commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee, as appropriate, received an ex parte communication and must advise all parties that these matters have been placed on the record. Within ten days after receipt of notice of the ex parte communication, any party who desires to rebut the contents of the communication must request and shall be granted the opportunity to rebut the contents. Parties affected by a violation may agree to a resolution of any claim regarding such violation, including the waiver of a hearing and the waiver of the obligation to report violations under subsection (I) of this section.

(E) Any person who makes an inadvertent ex parte communication must, as soon as it is known to relate to an issue in a proceeding, disclose the communication by placing on the record of the matter the communication made, if written or electronic, or a memorandum stating the substance of an inadvertent oral communication, and the identity of

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

each person to whom the inadvertent ex parte communication was made or given. Within ten days after receipt of notice of the ex parte communication, any party who desires to rebut the contents of the communication must request and shall be granted the opportunity to rebut the contents. If no party rebuts the inadvertence of the ex parte communication within ten days after notice of the ex parte communication, the ex parte communication shall be presumed inadvertent. Parties affected by a violation may agree to a resolution of any claim regarding such violation, and the provisions of subsection (J) of this section shall not apply.

(F) If necessary to eliminate the effect of an ex parte communication received in violation of this section, a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee who receives the communication may be disqualified by the commission, and the portions of the record pertaining to the communication may be sealed by protective order.

(G) Nothing in this section alters or amends Section 1-23-320(i).

(H) Nothing in this section prevents a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee from:

(1) attending educational seminars sponsored by state, regional, or national organizations and seminars not affiliated with any utility regulated by the commission; however, the provisions of this section shall apply to any communications that take place outside any formal sessions of any seminars or group presentations; or

(2) conducting a site visit of a utility facility under construction or attending educational tours of utility plants or other facilities provided:

(a) the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff or his designee also attends the site visit or educational tour;

(b) a summary of the discussion is produced and posted on the commission's website, along with copies of any written materials utilized, referenced, or distributed; and

(c) each party, person, commission, and commission employee who participated in the site visit or educational tour, within forty-eight hours of the site visit or educational tour, files a certification with the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff that no commitment, predetermination, or prediction of any commissioner's action as to any ultimate or penultimate issue or any commission employee's opinion or recommendation as to any ultimate or penultimate issue in any proceeding was requested by any person or party, nor any commitment, predetermination, or prediction was given

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

by any commissioner or commission employee as to any commission action or commission employee opinion or recommendation on any ultimate or penultimate issue.

(I) Subject to any privilege under Rule 501 of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence, any commissioner, hearing officer, commission employee, party, or any other person must report any wilful violation of this section on the part of a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee to the review committee.

(J) Any commissioner, hearing officer, commission employee, or person who wilfully violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months. If a commissioner wilfully communicates with any party or person or if any person or party wilfully communicates with a commissioner regarding any fact, law, or other matter that is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in a proceeding less than ten business days prior to the scheduled hearing on the merits, during the hearing or after the hearing but prior to the issuance of a final order, including an order on rehearing, in a proceeding where such facts, law, or other matter is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue, the commissioner shall be removed from office. If a hearing officer or commission employee wilfully communicates with any party or person or any party or person wilfully communicates with a hearing officer or commission employee regarding any fact, law, or other matter that is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue in a proceeding less than ten days prior to the scheduled hearing on the merits, during the hearing or after the hearing but prior to the issuance of a final order, including an order on rehearing, in a proceeding where such facts, law, or other matter is or can reasonably be expected to become an issue, the hearing officer or commission employee shall be terminated from employment by the commission. For purposes of this section: (1) "wilful" means an act done voluntarily and intentionally with the specific intent to do something the law forbids, or with specific intent to fail to do something the law requires to be done, that is to say with bad purpose either to disobey or disregard the law, and (2) a violation of the provisions of this section must be proved by clear and convincing evidence before a commissioner, hearing officer, or commission employee can be removed from office or terminated from employment.

SECTION 26. Section 58-3-270(E) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(E) The administrative law judge assigned to the ex parte

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

communication complaint proceeding by the Administrative Law Court may issue an order tolling any deadlines imposed by any state statute for a decision by the commission on the proceeding that is the subject of the ex parte communication complaint but only to the extent that the allegations of the complaint are verified and if found to be true would indicate that the proceeding was prejudiced to the extent that the commission is unable to consider the matter in the proceeding impartially. The administrative law judge assigned to the ex parte communication complaint proceeding by the Administrative Law Court must conduct a hearing and must issue a decision within sixty days after the complaint is filed.

SECTION 27. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(1) the economic and financial well-being of South Carolina and its citizens depends upon continued economic development and industry retention and opportunities for job attraction and retention; and

(2) the cost of electricity and the availability of clean energy sources for electricity are important factors in the decision for a commercial and industrial entity to locate, expand, or maintain their existing establishments in South Carolina; and

(3) competitive electric rates, terms, and conditions, and the ability to utilize clean energy sources for electric power generation are necessary to attract prospective commercial or industrial entities to invest in South Carolina and to encourage and incent robust economic development growth and industry retention in this State; and

(4) electrical utilities are critical economic development and industry retention partners for South Carolina by offering affordable power that has helped to attract jobs and associated development.

Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

CHAPTER 43

Economic Development Rates

Section 58-43-10. Unless otherwise specified, for purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Public Service Commission.

(2) "Contract" has the same meaning as the term is used in Section 58-27-980.

(3) "Electrical utility" has the same meaning as provided in Section 58-27-10(7).

(4) "Marginal cost" means the electrical utility's marginal cost for producing energy.

(5) "Qualifying customer" means either:

(a) an existing commercial or industrial customer with a

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

combined firm and interruptible contract demand greater than 20 megawatts that agrees to a new or extended electric service contract with a term of five years or more; or

(b) a commercial or industrial customer that agrees to locate its operations in South Carolina or expands its existing establishment, and such location or expansion results in the minimum of:

(i) 500 kilowatts at one point of delivery;

(ii) fifty new employees; and

(iii) capital investment for \$400,000 following the electrical utility's approval for service.

(6) "Rate proposal" means a written document that identifies the rates, terms, and conditions for electric service offered by an electrical utility to a prospective customer.

(7) "Renewable energy facility" means a solar array or other facility constructed by or on behalf of a qualifying customer for the exclusive purpose of supplementing electrical power generation from a renewable energy source for its economic development location, expansion, or retention.

(8) "Transformational customer" means a commercial or industrial customer that agrees to locate its operations in South Carolina or expand its existing establishment, and such location or expansion results in the addition of a minimum of:

(a) 50 megawatts at one point of delivery;

(b) 500 new employees;

(c) capital investment of \$100,000,000 following the electrical utility's approval for service; and

(d) who is designated by the South Carolina Department of Commerce as a business which will bring substantial benefit to the economy of South Carolina and its citizens, such that it is in the public interest to have such transformational customer located in this State.

Section 58-43-20. (A) When considering whether the rates, terms, and conditions negotiated with economic development prospects are just and reasonable, the commission shall give full weight and consideration to the economic development benefits to the electrical utility's customers that result from prospective commercial or industrial entities locating or expanding their activities in South Carolina.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an electrical utility may provide the South Carolina Department of Commerce or a prospective qualifying customer or transformational customer with a rate proposal containing terms and conditions to incentivize the prospective customer to make capital investments and employ additional workforce

in the electrical utility's service territory. The rate proposal initially provided by an electrical utility may differ from the final contract, rate, terms, and conditions with the qualifying customer or transformational customer.

(C) An electrical utility may offer special rates, terms, and conditions to a qualifying customer or transformational customer, including rates that are lower than the rates that the customer otherwise would be charged. The agreement with the customer must be for a term not exceeding ten years and the electrical utility may offer the customer interruptible and real-time pricing options and riders for other clean energy attributes which may support the qualifying customer's or transformational customer's needs. However, rates for qualifying customers may not be lower than the electrical utility's marginal cost of providing service to the customer and rates for transformational customers may not be lower than twenty-five percent less than the electrical utility's marginal cost of providing service to the customer.

(D) Rates, terms, and conditions negotiated with qualifying and transformational customers shall be deemed just and reasonable if:

- (1) for qualifying customers, the terms of this section are met;
- (2) for transformational customers, the commission determines

that:

(a) the economic development rate offered significantly impacts the customer's decision to locate or expand in South Carolina;

(b) the financial value realized by the electrical utility's system from the transformational customer being on the electrical utility's system for ten years is greater than or equal to the financial value of the rate incentive given to the transformational customer;

(c) measures have been taken to avoid or reduce cross-customer class subsidization; and

(d) the consequences of offering the economic development rate are beneficial to the system as a whole considering all customer classes.

The commission must either approve or deny an application pursuant to this section within sixty days.

(E) Nothing in this chapter shall otherwise restrict the commission's authority to regulate rates and charges or review contracts entered into pursuant to this section or to otherwise supervise the operations of electrical utilities.

(F) The construction of a proposed renewable energy facility by or on behalf of a qualifying customer to support electric power generation at its location must comply with federal, state, and local laws and

ordinances.

(G) Consistent with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, the electrical utility may expedite interconnection of a proposed renewable energy facility to be constructed by a qualifying or transformational customer to support electrical power generation at its location where high-quality and reliable electric service are not adversely impacted.

(H) In the event a qualifying customer or transformational customer leaves this State or terminates its operations in this State during the ten-year contract period, such customer must reimburse the electrical utility and its customers the difference between standard rates and the rates paid during the term of the agreement between the electrical utility and its customers.

(I) For facilities designated as high priority sites by the South Carolina Department of Commerce, an electrical utility may enter into agreements to provide energy infrastructure to such sites if the South Carolina Department of Commerce determines it will increase the probability of attracting transformational customers to this State. Costs of such infrastructure shall be accounted for and recorded as an element of rate base for inclusion in general rates by the electrical utility provided the commission finds such costs are reasonable and prudent and shall not include a rate of return until the facilities are placed into service for a customer.

(J) An electrical utility shall not be required to adjust its cost of service in a rate proceeding as a result of a rate, agreement, or infrastructure provided pursuant to this section in any matter that would impute revenue at a level higher than received by the electrical utility from a qualifying customer or transformational customer or would otherwise reduce the electrical utility's revenue as a result of entering into contracts with qualifying customers or transformational customers pursuant to this section.

(K) If an electrical utility offers special rates, terms, and conditions to a qualifying customer or a transformational customer, any electrical utility in South Carolina may also offer all directly competing existing customers in its service territory in this State with similar special rates, terms, and conditions at the time the agreement is entered into with the qualifying customer or transformational customer to the extent the directly competing existing customer is able to substantiate its status as a directly competing existing customer. For purposes of this section, customers are "directly competing" if they make the same end-product, or offer the same service, for the same general group of customers.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Customers that only produce component parts of the same end-product are not directly competing customers.

SECTION 28. Sections 58-33-310 and 58-33-320 of the S.C. Code are amended to read:

Section 58-33-310. Any party may appeal, in accordance with Section 1-23-380, from all or any portion of any final order or decision of the commission, including conditions of the certificate required by a state agency under Section 58-33-160 as provided by Section 58-27-2310. ~~Any appeals may be called up for trial out of their order by either party.~~ Any final order on the merits issued pursuant to this chapter shall be immediately appealable to the Supreme Court of South Carolina, without petition for rehearing or reconsideration. The Supreme Court shall provide for expedited briefing and hearing of the appeal in preference to all other nonemergency matters. The commission must not be a party to an appeal.

Section 58-33-320. Except as expressly set forth in Section 58-33-310, no court of this State shall have jurisdiction to hear or determine any issue, case, or controversy concerning any matter which was or could have been determined in a proceeding before the commission under this chapter or to stop or delay the construction, operation, or maintenance of a major utility facility, except to enforce compliance with this chapter or the provisions of a certificate issued hereunder, and any such action shall be brought only by the Office of Regulatory Staff. Provided, however, that subject to Section 58-33-175, nothing herein contained shall be construed to abrogate or suspend the right of any individual or corporation not a party to maintain any action which he might otherwise have been entitled.

SECTION 29. Chapter 4, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-4-160. (A)(1) The Office of Regulatory Staff must conduct a study to evaluate the potential costs and benefits of the various administrator models for energy efficiency programs and other demand-side management programs funded by, or potentially funded by, electrical utilities in this State. This study must be conducted on each electrical utility in this State. For purposes of this section, administrator models for energy efficiency programs shall include the following models: utility administrator, state or government agency administrator, an independent third-party administrator, and a hybrid administrator.

(2) For purposes of this section only, "electrical utility" means an investor-owned electrical utility that serves more than 100,000 customers in this State.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(B) This study must consider which administrator model would most meaningfully improve programs offered by the electrical utility.

(C) The study must also evaluate which administrator model offers the best opportunities to increase cost and energy savings, improve the quality of services rendered, reduce ratepayer costs, or more effectively serve low-income customers, within a program portfolio that is cost effective overall, as compared to similar program administration by individual electrical utilities, or to increase the cost effectiveness of energy efficiency program portfolios. This study must consider, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) whether third-party administration subject to a pay for performance contract and independent third-party evaluation, measurement, and verification could reduce administrative costs, as compared to separate administration of energy efficiency programs by individual electrical utilities;

(2) whether a system benefit charge or other funding or financing mechanism would more efficiently, effectively, and fairly fund energy efficiency and other demand side management programs through an administrator;

(3) which administrator model provides the best mechanism to increase ratepayer energy savings in the case of electrical utilities that have experienced lower historical performance in terms of annual and cumulative energy savings as a percentage of retail sales;

(4) which administrator model provides the best mechanism to increase ratepayer energy savings in the case of electrical utilities that have experienced high historical performance in terms of annual and cumulative energy savings as a percentage of retail sales;

(5) the legal and practical implications of implementing the various administrator models for an electrical utility with a multistate balancing authority area;

(6) which administrator model could most enhance an electrical utility's delivery of nonenergy benefits, such as resiliency, reliability, health, economic development, industry retention, energy security, and pollution reduction; and

(7) which administrator model could most effectively pursue nonratepayer funding including, but not limited to, federal, state, or local governmental support, as a means of either reducing reliance of ratepayer funds or increasing the scope, reach, or effectiveness of energy efficiency and demand side management programs.

(D) This study must be conducted with public input from stakeholders through written comments and at least one public forum.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(E) The Office of Regulatory Staff is authorized to retain the services of an expert or consultant with expertise and experience in the successful implementation of energy efficiency administrator programs. The Office of Regulatory Staff is exempt from the procurement code for the purposes of retaining services for this study.

(F) The provisions of this section are subject to funding. However, the Office of Regulatory Staff must initiate the study within one year from receipt of necessary funding and complete its report within six months. Upon completion of this study, the Office of Regulatory Staff must provide its report to the General Assembly and the commission. This report may include a recommendation as to which administrator model should be established for each electrical utility, draft legislation, and requirements that should be established.

SECTION 30. Section 58-37-10 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-37-10. As used in this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) “Demand-side activity” or “demand-side management program” means a program conducted or proposed by a producer, supplier, or distributor of energy for the reduction or more efficient use of energy requirements of the producer's, supplier's, or distributor's customers, through measures, including, but not limited to, conservation and energy efficiency, load management, cogeneration, and renewable energy technologies.

(2) “Integrated resource plan” means a plan which contains the demand and energy forecast for at least a fifteen-year period, contains the supplier's or producer's program for meeting the requirements shown in its forecast in an economic and reliable manner, including both demand-side and supply-side options, with a brief description and summary cost-benefit analysis, if available, of each option which was considered, including those not selected, sets forth the supplier's or producer's assumptions and conclusions with respect to the effect of the plan on the cost and reliability of energy service, and describes the external environmental and economic consequences of the plan to the extent practicable. For electrical utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina Public Service Commission, this definition must be interpreted in a manner consistent with the integrated resource planning requirements pursuant to Section 58-37-40 and any process adopted by the commission. For electric cooperatives subject to the regulations of the Rural ~~Electrification Administration~~ Utilities Service, this definition must be interpreted in a manner consistent with any integrated resource planning process prescribed by Rural ~~Electrification Administration~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Utilities Service regulations.

(3) “Cost-effective” means that the net present value of benefits of a program or portfolio exceeds the net present value of the costs of the program or portfolio. A cost-effective program or portfolio must pass any two of the following tests:

- _____ (a) utility cost test;
- _____ (b) total resource cost test;
- _____ (c) participant cost test; or
- _____ (d) ratepayer impact measure test.

In evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a program or portfolio, a utility or program administrator must present the results of all four tests. In calculating cost-effectiveness, a utility must use a standard utility practice for determining the percentage of energy savings that would or would not have been achieved through customer adoption of an efficiency behavior or technology without any incentive allowed pursuant to this chapter to install and utilize the technology as part of the associated demand-side management program. The utility must designate the expected useful life of the measure and evaluate the costs and benefits of the measures over their useful lives in the program application based on industry-accepted standards. Further, in calculating the cost-effectiveness, the commission must consider the efficiencies and scale of programs that are or may be available across a utility’s balancing area, even if that balancing area extends outside of the state.

(4) “Demand-side management pilot program” means a demand-side management program that is of limited scope, cost, and duration and that is intended to determine whether a new or substantially revised program or technology would be cost-effective.

SECTION 31. Section 58-37-20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-37-20. (A) The General Assembly declares that expanding utility investment in and customer access to cost-effective demand-side management programs will result in more efficient use of existing resources, promote lower energy costs, mitigate the increasing need for new generation and associated resources, and assist customers in managing their electricity usage to better control their electric bill, and is therefore in the public interest.

(B) The commission may approve any program filed by a public utility if the program is found to be cost-effective. Furthermore, the commission may, in its discretion, approve any program filed by a public utility that is not cost-effective, so long as the proposed demand-side management program is targeted to low-income customers, provided that the public utility’s portfolio of demand-side management programs

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

is cost-effective as a whole.

(C) The South Carolina Public Service Commission ~~may~~ must adopt procedures that ~~encourage~~ require electrical utilities and public utilities providing gas services subject to the jurisdiction of the commission to plan for and invest in all reasonable, prudent, and available energy efficiency and demand-side resources that are cost-effective energy efficient technologies and energy conservation programs in an amount to be determined by the commission. If an electrical utility fails to meet the requirements of this section as determined by the commission, the commission is authorized to appoint a third-party administrator to carry out the residential low-income energy efficiency duties pursuant to this section on behalf of the electrical utility if the commission determines that having such a third-party administrator is in the public interest and consistent with law. Upon notice and hearings that the commission may require, the commission may issue rules, regulations, or orders pursuant to this chapter to implement applicable programs and measures under this section. If adopted, these procedures must: provide incentives and cost recovery for energy suppliers and distributors who invest in energy supply and end-use technologies that are cost-effective, environmentally acceptable, and reduce energy consumption or system or local coincident peak demand; allow energy suppliers and distributors to recover costs and obtain a reasonable rate of return on their investment in qualified demand-side management programs sufficient to make these programs at least as financially attractive as construction of new generating facilities; require the Public Service Commission to establish rates and charges that ensure that the net income of an electrical or gas utility regulated by the commission after implementation of specific cost-effective energy conservation measures is at least as high as the net income would have been if the energy conservation measures had not been implemented. For purposes of this section only, the term “demand-side activity” means a program conducted by an electrical utility or public utility providing gas services for the reduction or more efficient use of energy requirements of the utility or its customers including, but not limited to, utility transmission and distribution system efficiency, customer conservation and efficiency, load management, cogeneration, and renewable energy technologies.

(D) Each investor-owned electrical utility must submit an annual report to the commission describing the demand-side management programs implemented by the electrical utility in the previous year, provided the program has been operational for a reasonable period of

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

time, as well as the results of such programs. The commission may require certain information including, but not limited to:

(1) achieved savings levels from the utility's portfolio of programs in the prior year, reported as a percentage of the utility's annual sales;

(2) program expenditures, including incentive payments;

(3) peak demand and energy savings impacts and the techniques used to estimate those impacts;

(4) avoided costs and the techniques used to estimate those costs;

(5) estimated cost-effectiveness of the demand-side management programs;

(6) a description of economic benefits of the demand-side management programs;

(7) the number of customers eligible to opt-out of the electrical utility's demand-side management programs, the percentage of those customers that opted-out in the previous year, and the annual sales associated with those opt-out customers; and

(8) any other information required by the commission.

(E) To ensure prudent investments by an electrical utility in energy efficiency and demand response, as compared to potential investments in generation, transmission, distribution, and other supply related utility equipment and resources, the commission must review each investor-owned electrical utility's portfolio of demand-side management programs on at least a triennial basis to align the review of that utility's integrated resource plan pursuant to Section 58-37-40. The commission is authorized to order modifications to an electrical utility's demand-side management portfolio, including program budgets, if the commission determines that doing so in the public interest.

(F) The provisions of subsections (C), (D), and (E) do not apply to an electrical utility that serves less than 100,000 customers in this State.

SECTION 32. Section 58-37-30 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-37-30. (A) The South Carolina Public Service Commission must report annually to the General Assembly on available data regarding the past, on-going, and projected status of demand-side ~~activities~~ management programs and purchase of power from qualifying facilities, as defined in the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, by electrical utilities and public utilities providing gas services subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.

(B) Electric cooperatives providing resale or retail services, municipally-owned electric utilities, and the South Carolina Public Service Authority shall report annually to the State Energy Office on

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

available data regarding the past, on-going, and projected status of demand-side ~~activities~~management programs and purchase of power from qualifying facilities. For electric cooperatives, submission to the State Energy Office of a report on demand-side ~~activities~~management programs in a format complying with then current Rural ~~Electrification Administration~~Utilities Service regulations constitutes compliance with this subsection. An electric cooperative providing resale services may submit a report in conjunction with and on behalf of any electric cooperative which purchases electric power and energy from it. The State Energy Office must compile and submit this information annually to the General Assembly.

(C) The State Energy Office may provide forms for the reports required by this section to the Public Service Commission and to electric cooperatives, municipally-owned electric utilities, and the South Carolina Public Service Authority. The office shall strive to minimize differing formats for reports, taking into account the reporting requirements of other state and federal agencies. For electrical utilities and public utilities providing gas services subject to the jurisdiction of the commission, the reporting form must be in a format acceptable to the commission.

SECTION 33.31. Chapter 37, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-37-35. (A) An electrical utility may propose programs and customer incentives to encourage or promote demand-side management programs whereby a customer uses a customer-sited distributed energy resource, as defined in Section 58-39-120(C), or combination of such resources, to: (1) reduce the customer's electric consumption or demand from the electric grid, or (2) beneficially shape the customer's electric consumption or demand in a manner that reduces the customer's contribution to the electrical utility's system or local coincidental peak demand, subject to the associated load to utility management for reliability or economic purposes, or reduce future electrical utility system costs to serve its customers. Programs authorized pursuant to this section may also include distributed energy resources that draw additional power from the electric grid including, but not limited to, electric heat pumps with programmable or utility controlled thermostats, electric heat pump water heaters controlled through utility programs, smart home panels, advanced inverters, and energy storage devices located on the customer's side of the meter, provided that any programs or customer incentives otherwise meet the requirements of this section. These programs may also include a combination of resources,

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

including renewable energy microgrids, to provide economic benefits to the utility system or to help address specific transmission or distribution issues that would otherwise require significant capital investment.

(B) In evaluating a program or customer incentive proposed pursuant to this section to assure reasonableness, promotion of the public interest, and consistency with the objectives of Sections 58-27-845 and 58-37-20, the commission must apply the procedure approved pursuant to Section 58-37-20. An electrical utility must use standard utility practices for determining the percentage of customers that would or would not have adopted a distributed energy resource without any incentive allowed under this section to install and utilize the distributed energy resource as part of the associated demand-side management program. The electrical utility must designate the expected useful life of the distributed energy resource and evaluate the costs and benefits of demand-side measures over their useful lives in the program application based on industry-accepted standards. All initial program costs, benefits, and participation assumptions used in the electrical utility's cost-effectiveness evaluations must be reviewed by the commission to assure the electrical utility has presented a reasonable basis for its calculation. Electrical utilities must update the cost-effectiveness analysis based on the actual program costs, benefits, and participation as soon as practicably possible based on standard evaluation, measurement, and verification protocols, and the electrical utility's cost recovery must be reconciled accordingly.

(C) For demand-side programs or customer incentives proposed in this section, the electrical utility may recover costs through the procedures in Section 58-37-20. The prohibition in Section 58-40-20(I) against recovery of lost revenues associated with distributed energy resources pursuant to Chapter 39, Title 58 is inapplicable to recovery of net lost revenues associated with a distributed energy resource that is installed as a result of a demand-side program incentive pursuant to this section or Section 58-37-20.

(D) The commission may approve any program filed pursuant to this section if the commission finds the program to be cost effective pursuant to Section 58-37-10(3). For any demand-side programs or customer incentives submitted under this section with projected annual customer incentive amounts less than five million dollars per year for each of the first two program years, the commission must issue an order as expeditiously as practicable on the written submissions of the electrical utility but may require an evidentiary hearing where novel or complex issues of fact require special review by the commission.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Nothing in this section prevents the commission from ordering an electrical utility to modify or terminate a program approved pursuant to this section based on the results of standard evaluation, measurement, and verification protocols.

(E) The Energy Office must develop and publish materials intended to inform and educate the public regarding programs available to a customer pursuant to this section. The Energy Office must maintain a list of approved vendors who are qualified and in good standing to provide services associated with these programs.

SECTION 34. Section 58-37-50 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-37-50. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Electricity provider" means an electric cooperative, an investor-owned electric utility, the South Carolina Public Service Authority, or a municipality or municipal board or commission of public works that owns and operates an electric utility system.

(2) "Natural gas provider" means an investor-owned natural gas utility or publicly owned natural gas provider.

(3) "Meter conservation charge" means the charge placed on a customer's account by which electricity providers and natural gas providers recover the costs, including financing costs, of energy efficiency and conservation measures.

(4) "Notice of meter conservation charge" means the written notice by which subsequent purchasers or tenants will be given notice that they will be required to pay a meter conservation charge.

(5) "Customer" means a homeowner or tenant receiving electricity or natural gas as a retail customer.

(6) "Community action agency" means a nonprofit eleemosynary corporation created pursuant to Chapter 45, Title 43 providing, among other things, weatherization services to a homeowner or tenant.

(B) Electricity providers and natural gas providers may enter into written agreements with customers and landlords of customers for the financing of the purchase price and installation costs of energy efficiency and conservation measures. These agreements may provide that the costs must be recovered by a meter conservation charge on the customer's electricity or natural gas account, provided that the electricity providers and natural gas providers comply with the provisions of this section. A failure to pay the meter conservation charge may be treated by the electricity provider or natural gas provider as a failure to pay the electricity or natural gas account, and the electricity provider or natural gas provider may disconnect electricity or natural gas service for nonpayment of the meter conservation charge, provided the electricity

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

provider or natural gas provider complies with the provisions of Article 25, Chapter 31, Title 5; Article 17, Chapter 11, Title 6; Article 17, Chapter 49, Title 33; Article 11, Chapter 5, Title 58; Article 21, Chapter 27, Title 58; Article 5, Chapter 31, Title 58; and any applicable rules, regulations, or ordinances relating to disconnections.

(C) Any agreement permitted by subsection (B) must state plainly the interest rate to be charged to finance the costs of the energy efficiency and conservation measures. The interest rate must be a fixed rate over the term of the agreement and must not exceed four percent above the stated yield for one-year treasury bills as published by the Federal Reserve ~~at the time the agreement is entered~~ on the first business day of the calendar year in which the agreement is entered. An electrical utility entering into such an agreement whose rates are regulated by the commission must fix the interest rate over the term of the agreement to not exceed such utility's weighted average cost of equity and long-term debt as most recently approved by the commission at the time the agreement is entered. Any indebtedness created under the provisions of this section may be paid in full at any time before it is due without penalty.

(D) An electricity provider or natural gas provider may recover the costs, including financing costs, of these measures from its members or customers directly benefiting from the installation of the energy efficiency and conservation measures. Recovery may be through a meter conservation charge to the account of the member or customer and any such charge must be shown by a separate line item on the account. A utility entering into such agreement whose rates are regulated by the commission shall recover all reasonable and prudent incremental costs incurred to implement agreements for financing and installing energy-efficiency and conservation measures in base rates. Incremental costs may include, but are not limited to, billing system upgrades, overhead, incremental labor, and all other expenses properly considered to be associated with ensuring the ongoing premise bill savings are realized from offering during the terms of such agreements.

(E) An electricity provider or natural gas provider shall assume no liability for the installation, operation, or maintenance of energy efficiency and conservation measures when the measures are performed by a third party, and shall not provide any warranty as to the merchantability of the measures or the fitness for a particular purpose of the measures, and no action may be maintained against the electricity provider or natural gas provider relating to the failure of the measures. An electricity provider or natural gas provider shall assume no liability

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

for energy audits performed by third parties and shall provide no warranty relating to any energy audit done by any third party. Nothing in this section may be construed to limit any rights or remedies of utility customers and landlords of utility customers against other parties to a transaction involving the purchase and installation of energy efficiency and conservation measures.

(F) Before entering into an agreement contemplated by this section, the electricity provider or natural gas provider shall cause to be performed an energy audit on the residence considered for the energy efficiency measures. The energy audit must be conducted by an energy auditor certified by the Building Performance Institute or similar organization. The audit must provide an estimate of the costs of the proposed energy efficiency and conservation measures and the expected savings associated with the measures, and it must recommend measures appropriately sized for the specific use contemplated. An agreement entered following completion of an energy audit shall specify the measures to be completed and the contractor responsible for completion of the measures. The choice of a contractor to perform the work must be made by the owner of the residence. Upon request, the electricity provider or natural gas provider must provide the owner of the residence with a list of contractors qualified to do the work. Upon completion of the work, it must be inspected by an energy auditor certified by the Building Performance Institute or similar organization. Any work that is determined to have been done improperly or to be inappropriately sized for the intended use must be remedied by the responsible contractor. Until the work has been remedied, funds due to the contractor must be held in escrow by the electricity provider or natural gas provider.

(G) An electricity provider or natural gas provider that enters into an agreement as provided in this section may recover the costs, including financing costs, of energy efficiency and conservation measures from subsequent purchasers of the residence in which the measures are installed, provided the electricity provider or natural gas provider gives record notice that the residence is subject to the agreement. Notice must be given, at the expense of the filer, by filing a notice of meter conservation charge with the appropriate office for the county in which the residence is located, pursuant to Section 30-5-10. The notice of meter conservation charge does not constitute a lien on the property but is intended to give a purchaser of the residence notice that the residence is subject to a meter conservation charge. Notice is deemed to have been given if a search of the property records of the county discloses the existence of the charge and informs a prospective purchaser: (1) how to

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

ascertain the amount of the charge and the length of time it is expected to remain in effect, and (2) of his obligation to notify a tenant if the purchaser leases the property as provided in subsection (H)(3).

(H) An electricity provider or natural gas provider may enter into agreements for the installation of energy efficiency and conservation measures and the recovery of the costs, including financing costs, of the measures with respect to rental properties by filing a notice of meter conservation charge as provided in subsection (G) and by complying with the provisions of this subsection:

(1) The energy audit required by subsection (F) must be conducted and the results provided to both the landlord and the tenant living in the rental property at the time the agreement is entered.

(2) If both the landlord and tenant agree, the electricity provider or natural gas provider may recover the costs of the energy efficiency and conservation measures, including financing costs, through a meter conservation charge on the account associated with the rental property occupied by the tenant. The agreement must provide notice to the landlord of the provisions contained in item (3).

(3) With respect to a subsequent tenant occupying a rental unit benefiting from the installation of energy efficiency and conservation measures, the electricity provider or natural gas provider may continue to recover the costs, including financing costs, of the measures through a meter conservation charge on the account associated with the rental property occupied by the tenant. With respect to a subsequent tenant, the landlord must give a written notice of meter conservation charge in the same manner as required by Section 27-40-240. If the landlord fails to give the subsequent tenant the required notice of meter conservation charge, the tenant may deduct from his rent, for no more than one-half of the term of the rental agreement, the amount of the meter conservation charge paid to the electricity provider or natural gas provider.

(I) Agreements entered pursuant to the provisions of this section are exempt from the provisions of the South Carolina Consumer Protection Code, Title 37 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

(J) An electricity provider or natural gas provider may contract with third parties to perform functions permitted under this section, including the financing of the costs of energy efficiency and conservation measures. A third party must comply with all applicable provisions of this section. When an electricity or natural gas provider contracts with a third party to perform administrative or financing functions under this subsection, the liability of the third party is limited in the same manner as an electricity provider or natural gas provider is under subsection (E).

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(K) The provisions of this section apply only to energy efficiency and conservation measures for a residence already occupied ~~at~~^{before} the time the measures are taken. ~~The procedures allowed by this section may not be used with respect to a new residence or a residence under construction.~~ The provisions of this section may not be used to implement energy efficiency or conservation measures that result in the replacement of natural gas appliances or equipment with electric appliances or equipment, or that result in the replacement of electric appliances or equipment with natural gas appliances or equipment, unless (1) the customer who seeks to install the energy efficiency or conservation measure is being provided electric and natural gas service by the same provider, or (2) an electric appliance used for home heating is being replaced by an appliance that operates primarily on electricity but which has the capability of also operating on a secondary fuel source.

(L) Electricity providers or natural gas providers may offer their customers other types of financing agreements available by law, instead of the option established in this section, for the types of energy efficiency or conservation measures described in this section.

(M)(1) An electricity provider or natural gas provider must not obtain funding from the following federal programs to provide loans provided by this section:

(a) the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), created by Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and codified as Chapter 94, Title 42 of the United States Code, as amended by the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1984, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1986, the Augustus F. Hawkins Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1990, the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, the Low Income Home Energy Amendments of 1994, the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which is administered and funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services on the federal level and administered locally by community action agencies;

(b) the Weatherization Assistance Program, created by Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976 and codified as Part A, Subchapter III, Chapter 81, Title 42 of the United States Code, amended by the National Energy Conservation Policy Act, the Energy Security Act, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1984, and the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 and administered and funded by the United States Department of Energy on the federal level and administered locally by community action agencies.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(2) Nothing in this section changes the exclusive administration of these programs by local community action agencies through the South Carolina Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity pursuant to its authority pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 45, Title 43, the Community Economic Opportunity Act of 1983.

(3) Nothing in this subsection prevents a customer or member of an electricity provider or natural gas provider from obtaining services under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program or the Weatherization Assistance Program.

SECTION 35. Article 1, Chapter 31, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-31-215. (A) The Public Service Authority, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Commerce, shall have the authority to serve as an anchor subscriber of incremental natural gas and pipeline capacity needed in the future by the State to recruit new transformational projects or to assist in the expansion of transformational projects as identified by the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

(B) The Public Service Authority is authorized to act on behalf of the State, to aid natural gas pipeline construction companies and natural gas shippers in obtaining approval for incremental capacity and delivery to this State to support economic growth. The Public Service Authority is authorized to demonstrate market support in required filings including, but not limited to, binding precedent agreements, and to make other attestations in furtherance of satisfaction of the application requirements of federal law and regulations. This subsection is subject to available funding.

(C) There is hereby established the "Energy Investment and Economic Development Fund" to be held in an operating account by the Public Service Authority to further the provisions of this section and other energy investment needs. Subject to the approval of the Joint Bond Review Committee, the Energy Investment and Economic Development Fund may be funded by the amount required to be paid to the State pursuant to Section 58-31-110 less the annual costs billed by the Office of Regulatory Staff and the South Carolina Public Service Commission. The South Carolina Department of Commerce shall report, at least once annually and no later than September first, to the Joint Bond Review Committee as to the level and need for funding to advance the provisions of this section. Unless sufficient funding is allocated to the Energy Investment and Economic Development Fund and such action is approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee, the Public Service Authority shall not execute a binding precedent agreement on behalf of

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the State pursuant to this section. In no event shall the costs associated with serving as an anchor affect the rates and charges for electric or water service for the Public Service Authority's customers.

(D) The South Carolina Department of Commerce, with input from the Public Service Authority, is authorized to resell natural gas pipeline capacity rights procured pursuant to this section subject to a plan approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee. The proceeds of any sales of natural gas pipeline capacity rights must be deposited in the general fund of the State.

(E) When the Public Service Authority enters into a binding agreement on behalf of the State, the Office of Regulatory Staff, in representing the public interest and in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, is directed to make such filings supporting required federal regulatory approvals.

(F) The provisions of this section do not alter, amend, expand, or reduce, any other authority granted to the Public Service Authority in this chapter to enter into any agreements necessary for the provision of electric service.

SECTION 36.A. Section 58-3-70 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 58-3-70. ~~The chairman and members of the commission shall receive annual salaries payable in the same manner as the salaries of other state officers are paid.~~ The commission members shall receive a salary in an amount equal to ninety-seven and one-half percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. Each commissioner must devote full time to his duties as a commissioner and must not engage in any other employment, business, profession, or vocation during the normal business hours of the commission.

B. This section is effective beginning with the fiscal year immediately following the Public Service Commission election for the reconstituted three-member commission.

SECTION 37. Chapter 41, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-41-50. (A) The General Assembly encourages electrical utilities to explore cost effective, efficient bulk power solutions, particularly during periods of constrained capacity, for non-residential customers with electric loads in excess of 25 megawatts.

(B)(1) An electrical utility may file a proposed agreement regarding co-located resources between the utility and a customer with an electric load in excess of 25 megawatts for the commission's consideration. The proposed agreement must contain at least one of the following requirements:

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(a) co-location of electric generation or storage on the customer's property provides bulk system benefits for all customers and benefits for the host customer;

(b) co-location of renewable electric generation resources on the customer's property provides bulk system benefits for all customers and the renewable attributes associated with such generation can be allocated to the host customer;

(c) co-location of electric generation on the customer's property would result in permitting and siting efficiencies to enable electric generation to come online earlier than otherwise could occur; or

(d) co-location of electric generation resources on the customer's property could be utilized as resiliency resources to serve the electric grid in times of need.

(2) In the filing with the commission, the electrical utility must include a description of:

(a) how the resource helps to serve resource needs identified in the electrical utility's most recent integrated resource plan filing;

(b) credit and ratepayer protections included in the agreement;

(c) the contractual terms that preserves the electrical utility's operation of resources; and

(d) how costs and benefits associated with the agreement would be allocated among the customer who is a party to the agreement and other customers in the electrical utility's balancing area.

(C) The commission must give a proposed agreement filed pursuant to this section expedited consideration. The commission may approve the proposed agreement if the commission finds:

(1) the proposed program was voluntarily agreed upon by the electrical utility and the customer,

(2) the filing meets the requirements of this section; and

(3) the proposed agreement is in the public interest.

(D) For purposes of this section, "co-located" or "co-location" includes electric generation and associated facilities on a customer's site as well as any location where the connection to the electrical utility is in such proximity to the customer's site that enables resilient power supply to support the development of power supply to meet the customer's needs. An agreement regarding co-location may also include potential co-ownership of the electric generation and associated facilities by the electrical utility and the customer.

(E) Notwithstanding opportunities for co-located resources, the General Assembly also encourages electrical utilities to continue to facilitate service to new electric loads in excess of 50 megawatts and to

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

require operational and financial performance requirements for such customers to receive service pursuant to tariffed electrical utility rates or contracts approved by the commission, and to ensure appropriate protections and risk mitigation for the protection of the electrical utility's existing customers. The electrical utility may meet these objectives by: (1) filing form contracts with the commission; (2) tariff offerings or services regulations filed with the commission; or (3) performance and credit policies reviewed by the Office of Regulatory Staff.

SECTION 38. Chapter 4, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58-4-15. (A) As of July 1, 2025, there is hereby created within the Office of Regulatory Staff a division that must be separate and apart from all other divisions within the Office of Regulatory Staff and titled the Division of Consumer Advocacy.

(B) The duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Division of Consumer Advocacy in the Department of Consumer Affairs related to appearances before the commission are hereby transferred to the Division of Consumer Advocacy in the Office of Regulatory Staff on July 1, 2025. All appropriations and full-time equivalent positions of the Division of Consumer Advocacy in the Department of Consumer Affairs that are devoted solely to advocating on behalf of consumers before the commission shall be transferred to the Office of Regulatory Staff on July 1, 2025.

(C) The Division of Consumer Advocacy shall have the ability to represent residential utility consumers in matters before the commission and appellate courts.

(D) The Division of Consumer Advocacy shall consist of a Residential Utility Consumer Advocate and other personnel as may be necessary in order for the division to represent residential utility consumers in matters before the commission and appellate courts. The Residential Utility Consumer Advocate must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years practice experience and must be appointed in the same manner as the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff pursuant to the procedure set forth in Section 58-4-30.

(E) To the extent necessary to carry out its responsibilities, the Division of Consumer Advocacy may hire third-party consultants as the Residential Utility Consumer Advocate may consider necessary to assist the Division of Consumer Advocacy in its participation in proceedings before the commission and appellate courts.

(F) The Division of Consumer Advocacy is exempt from the State

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Procurement Code in the hiring of third-party consultants. However, the Division of Consumer Advocacy must not hire the same third-party consultant hired by the Office of Regulatory Staff or the commission.

(G) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall provide such administrative support to the Division of Consumer Advocacy as the division may require in the performance of its duties including financial management, human resources management, information technology, procurement services, and logistical support. The Office of Regulatory Staff shall not provide to the Division of Consumer Advocacy, and the Division of Consumer Advocacy shall not require of the Office Regulatory Staff, legal representation, technical, economic, or auditing assistance regarding any matter pending before the Public Service Commission when providing such assistance would create a conflict of interest.

SECTION 39. (A) To foster economic development and future jobs in this State resulting from the supply-chains associated with the same while supporting the significant and growing energy and capacity needs of the State, enhance grid resiliency, and maintain reliability, the General Assembly finds that the State of South Carolina should take steps necessary to encourage the development of a diverse mix of long-lead, clean generation resources that may include advanced small modular reactors, biomass as defined in Section 12-63-20(B)(2) of the S.C. Code, hydrogen-capable resources, and the Carolina Long Bay Project, and should preserve the option of efficiency development of such long-lead resources with timely actions to establish or maintain eligibility for or capture available tax or other financial incentives or address operational needs.

(B) For an electrical utility to capture available tax or other financial or operational incentives for South Carolina ratepayers in a timely manner, the commission may find that actions by an electrical utility in pursuit of the directives in Section 58-37-35(A) are in the public interest, provided that the commission determines that such proposed actions are in the public interest and reasonably balance economic development and industry retention benefits, capacity expansion benefits, resource adequacy and diversification, emissions reduction levels, and potential risks, costs, and benefits to ratepayers and otherwise comply with all other legal requirements applicable to the electrical utility's proposed action. For the South Carolina Public Service Authority, the Office of Regulatory Staff and the Public Service Authority's board of directors shall apply the same principles described in this subsection in evaluating and approving actions proposed by the management of the Public

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Service Authority to achieve the objectives of this section.

SECTION 40. All reasonable and prudent costs incurred by an electrical utility necessary to effectuate this act, that are not precluded from recovery by other provisions of this act and that do not have a recovery mechanism otherwise specified in this act or established by state law, shall be deferred for commission consideration of recovery in any proceeding initiated pursuant to Section 58-27-870, and allowed for recovery if the commission determines the costs are reasonable and prudent.

SECTION 41. An electrical utility, including the Public Service Authority, may not offer a tariff, rider, or rate proposal for a reduced electric rate, nor any other form of incentive that would result in a reduced electric rate to a data center until July 1, 2034. For purposes of this section, “data center” means any facility that primarily contains electronic equipment used to process, store, and transmit digital information which may be (a) a free-standing structure; or (b) a facility within a larger structure, that uses environmental control equipment to maintain the proper conditions for the operation of electronic equipment.

SECTION 42. Section 58-40-10(F) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(F) “Renewable energy resource” means solar photovoltaic and solar thermal resources, wind resources, hydroelectric resources, geothermal resources, tidal and wave energy resources, recycling resources, hydrogen fuel derived from renewable resources, combined heat and power derived from renewable resources, and biomass resources as defined in Section 12-63-20(B)(2).

SECTION 43. The General Assembly finds that the sections presented in this act constitute one subject as required by Section 17, Article III of the South Carolina Constitution, in particular finding that each change and each topic relates directly to or in conjunction with other sections to the subject of the regulation of electrical utilities, the provision of electricity, and economic development as clearly enumerated in the title. The General Assembly further finds that a common purpose or relationship exists among the sections, representing a potential plurality but not disunity of topics, notwithstanding that reasonable minds might differ in identifying more than one topic contained in the act.

SECTION 44. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this act is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this act, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed this act,

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

SECTION 45. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. SANDIFER moved to table the amendment, which was agreed to.

Rep. HARDEE explained the Bill.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 103; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Clyburn	Cobb-Hunter	Collins
Connell	B. L. Cox	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Forrest	Gagnon
Garvin	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hartnett	Hayes
Henderson-Myers	Henegan	Hewitt
Hiott	Hosey	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Magnuson	McCabe

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

McCravy	McDaniel	Mitchell
J. Moore	T. Moore	A. M. Morgan
T. A. Morgan	Moss	Murphy
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Ott	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Robbins	Sandifer	Schuessler
Sessions	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Spann-Wilder	Trantham	Vaughan
Weeks	West	Wetmore
Wheeler	White	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--103

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on S. 728. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Bill Hixon

S. 1021--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1021 -- Senators Davis, Matthews and Campsen: A BILL TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ABANDONED BUILDINGS REVITALIZATION ACT TO 2035; AND TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-67-140, RELATING TO THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS TAX CREDIT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE MAXIMUM TAX CREDIT THAT MAY BE EARNED.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Reps. HIOTT, B. NEWTON, CARTER, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, HARRIS, MAGNUSON, GUEST, WEST, CHAPMAN, GAGNON, BEACH, CROMER, GILLIAM, WHITE, CHUMLEY and LONG requested debate on the Bill.

S. 577--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 577 -- Senator Alexander: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-8-530, SECTION 12-8-540, SECTION 12-8-570, SECTION 12-8-580, AND SECTION 12-8-595, ALL RELATING TO THE WITHHOLDING OF INCOME TAXES, SO AS TO UPDATE A REFERENCE TO THE TOP MARGINAL INCOME TAX RATE.

Reps. HIOTT, B. NEWTON, CARTER, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, J. E. JOHNSON, GUEST and PACE requested debate on the Bill.

S. 969--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 969 -- Senators Alexander, Peeler, Setzler, K. Johnson, Young, Malloy, Senn, Stephens and McLeod: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-1140, RELATING TO DEDUCTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL TAXABLE INCOME, SO AS TO INCREASE THE SUBSISTENCE DEDUCTION AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN PAID PUBLIC SERVANTS SUCH AS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIREFIGHTERS, AND TO INCREASE THE VOLUNTEER EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN UNPAID PUBLIC SERVANTS SUCH AS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIREFIGHTERS.

The Committee on Ways and Means proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 969 (LC-969.DG0009H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding appropriately numbered SECTIONS to read:

SECTION X.A. Section 12-6-3800(A), (B), and (C) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(A) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Independent institution of higher learning" has the same meaning as provided in Section 59-113-50.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(2) “Medical school-required clinical rotation”, “physician assistant program-required clinical rotation”, or “advanced practice nursing program-required clinical rotation” means a clinical rotation for a public teaching institution or independent institution of higher learning that:

(a) is established for a student who is enrolled in a South Carolina public teaching institution or an independent institution of higher learning, including:

- (i) medical school;
- (ii) a physician assistant program; and
- (iii) an advanced practice nursing program; and

(b) includes a minimum of one hundred sixty hours of instruction in one of the following clinical settings:

- (i) family medicine;
- (ii) internal medicine;
- (iii) pediatrics;
- (iv) obstetrics and gynecology;
- (v) emergency medicine;
- (vi) psychiatry; or
- (vii) general surgery under the guidance of a physician,

advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant; or

(viii) specialty care including, but not limited to, dermatology, hematology, neurology, and oncology.

(3) “Preceptor” means a physician, advanced practice nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who provides supervision and instruction during student clinical training experiences, is otherwise not compensated for doing so, and provides a minimum of two required clinical rotations within a calendar year.

(B)(4) There is allowed an income tax credit for each clinical rotation a physician serves as the preceptor for a medical school-required clinical rotation, advanced practice nursing program-required clinical rotation, and physician assistant program-required clinical rotation. -

~~—(2) If at least fifty percent of if the physician's practice consists of a combined total of includes Medicaid insured, or Medicare insured, and self-pay patients, then the credit is equal to one thousand dollars for each rotation served, not to exceed four thousand dollars a year. The provider must be a Medicaid-participating provider and have a minimum of at least one hundred Medicaid and Medicare patients combined or be a free clinic.~~

~~—(3) If at least thirty percent of the physician's practice consists of a combined total of Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, and self-pay~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

patients, then the credit is equal to seven hundred fifty dollars for each rotation served, not to exceed three thousand dollars a year.

~~— (4) If less than thirty percent of the physician's practice consists of a combined total of Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, and self-pay patients, then the credit is disallowed.~~

~~— (5) The credits allowed by this subsection are not cumulative and may not be combined.~~

(C)(1) There is allowed an income tax credit for each clinical rotation an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant serves as the preceptor for an advanced practice nursing or physician assistant-required clinical rotation. The credit is equal to one thousand dollars for each rotation served, not to exceed four thousand dollars a year. The provider must be a Medicaid-participating provider and have a minimum of at least one hundred Medicaid and Medicare patients combined or be a free clinic.

~~— (2) If at least fifty percent of the advanced practice registered nurse's or physician assistant's practice consists of a combined total of Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, and self-pay patients, then the credit is equal to seven hundred fifty dollars for each rotation served, not to exceed three thousand dollars a year.~~

~~— (3) If at least thirty percent of the advanced practice registered nurse's or physician assistant's practice consists of a combined total of Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, and self-pay patients, then the credit is equal to five hundred dollars for each rotation served, not to exceed two thousand dollars a year.~~

~~— (4) If less than thirty percent of the advanced practice registered nurse's or physician assistant's practice consists of a combined total of Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, and self-pay patients, then the credit is disallowed.~~

~~— (5) The credits allowed by this subsection are not cumulative and may not be combined.~~

B. Section 4 of Act 45 of 2019 is amended to read:

Section 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and shall apply to tax years 2020 through ~~2025~~2029. Section 12-6-3800 and Section ~~12-6-1140~~(12-6-1140(14)) are repealed January 1, ~~2026~~2030.

C. This SECTION takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2024.

SECTION X.A. Section 4-37-30(A)(9) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(9) The tax authorized by this section is in addition to all other local sales and use taxes and applies to the gross proceeds of sales in the

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

applicable jurisdiction which are subject to the tax imposed by Chapter 36-~~of~~ Title 12 and the enforcement provisions of Chapter 54-~~of~~ Title 12. The gross proceeds of the sale of items subject to a maximum tax in Chapter 36-~~of~~ Title 12 are exempt from the tax imposed by this section. The gross proceeds of the sale of food lawfully purchased with United States Department of Agriculture food stamps are exempt from the tax imposed by this section. For any tax authorized by this section pursuant to a referendum held on or after November 5, 2024, unprepared food items eligible for purchase with United States Department of Agriculture food coupons may be exempt from the tax imposed pursuant to this section at the election of the governing body of a county as may be provided in the authorizing ordinance required by item (1). The tax imposed by this section also applies to tangible personal property subject to the use tax in Article 13, Chapter 36-~~of~~ Title 12.

B. This SECTION takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. B. NEWTON explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 99; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bauer	Beach	Bernstein
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Clyburn
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Forrest	Gagnon	Garvin
Gatch	Gibson	Gilliam
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Henderson-Myers	Henegan

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hosey	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	W. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	King	Kirby
Landing	Lawson	Leber
Ligon	Long	Magnuson
McCabe	McCrary	McDaniel
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Ott	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Robbins	Rutherford	Sandifer
Schuessler	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Spann-Wilder	Trantham	Vaughan
Weeks	Wetmore	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Williams
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total--99

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

Dear Mr. Clerk,

For the House Journal, please be informed that I would have voted in favor of second reading with amendment on S. 969. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Rep. Paula Calhoon

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on S. 969. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Brandon L. Cox

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 862--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 862 -- Senators Shealy and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 63-13-30, RELATING TO CAREGIVER REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PRE-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIOTT, B. NEWTON, CARTER, FELDER, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, GUEST, WEST, KIRBY, HOSEY, HEWITT, LONG and OREMUS requested debate on the Bill.

S. 946--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 946 -- Senator Shealy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 63-13-1210, RELATING TO THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE REGULATION OF CHILDCARE FACILITIES, SO AS TO CHANGE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MEMBERS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 63-13-1220, RELATING TO COMMITTEE DUTIES, SO AS TO CHANGE THE QUORUM OF MEMBERS REQUIRED TO VOTE FROM EIGHT TO SIX.

Reps. HIOTT, B. NEWTON, CARTER, SESSIONS, GUEST, HEWITT, CALHOON and ERICKSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 241--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 241 -- Senators Garrett and Gambrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 84 TO TITLE 40 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS, TO ESTABLISH THE BOARD OF GENETIC COUNSELOR EXAMINERS, TO PROVIDE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD, TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMINOLOGY, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR LICENSURE BY THE BOARD, TO PROVIDE RELATED DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

LICENSING AND REGULATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATIONS AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

Reps. M. M. SMITH, CARTER, HIOTT, HARRIS, SESSIONS, MAGNUSON, GUEST, WHITE, BUSTOS and JEFFERSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 445--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 445 -- Senators Garrett and Matthews: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 49, TITLE 44 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES TO APPROVE A CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR RECOVERY HOUSING; TO REQUIRE THE APPROVED CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO ESTABLISH RECOVERY HOUSING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES BASED UPON NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED QUALITY STANDARDS; AND TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 49 AS ARTICLE 1, ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS".

Reps. M. M. SMITH, HIOTT, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, ERICKSON, CARTER, DAVIS, HEWITT and JEFFERSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 455--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 455 -- Senator Verdin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-29-230, RELATING TO TESTING REQUIRED WHEN A HEALTH CARE WORKER IS EXPOSED TO BLOODBORNE DISEASE, SO AS TO REPLACE REFERENCES TO PHYSICIAN WITH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, TO INCLUDE DENTISTS IN THE DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND TO ADD HEPATITIS C TO THE LIST OF BLOODBORNE DISEASES.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Reps. M. M. SMITH, HIOTT, CARTER, DAVIS, B. NEWTON, SESSIONS, GUFFEY, MCCRAVY, WEST, HEWITT, ANDERSON and LONG requested debate on the Bill.

S. 558--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 558 -- Senators Verdin and Senn: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 44-31-40 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TUBERCULOSIS TESTING OF APPLICANT RESIDENTS AND NEWLY ADMITTED RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES IN THIS STATE.

Reps. M. M. SMITH, DAVIS, HIOTT, CARTER, B. NEWTON, MCCRAVY, SESSIONS, B. L. COX, WEST, HEWITT, JEFFERSON and ERICKSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 858--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 858 -- Senators Davis, Garrett, Kimbrell, Setzler and Malloy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-7-130, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE FACILITY LICENSURE DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR "ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME"; BY AMENDING SECTION 44-7-170, RELATING TO CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM EXEMPTIONS, SO AS TO EXEMPT ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 44-7-267 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS FOR LICENSING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

The Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 858 (LC-858.VR0003H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 2, by striking Section 44-7-170(A)(4) and (5) and inserting:

(4) acute hospital care at home programs and services delivered

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

by a licensed acute care hospital. The delivery of acute hospital care at home programs and services by a licensed acute care hospital does not require a written exemption from the department. Additionally, patients enrolled in the hospital care at home program shall not be considered within the licensed bed capacity of the hospital participating in the program.

Amend the bill further, SECTION 4, by striking Section 44-69-75(A), (B), and (C) and inserting:

Section 44-69-75. (A) A home health agency shall obtain a certificate of need before licensure. Procedures for applying for a certificate must be in accordance with the “State Certification of Need and Health Facility Licensure Act”. No certificate is required for home health agencies providing home health services before July 1, 1980.

(B)(1) A continuing care retirement community licensed pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 11, may provide home health services and is exempt from subsection (A) if:

~~__~~(1)(a) the continuing care retirement community furnishes or offers to furnish home health services only to residents who reside in living units provided by the continuing care retirement community pursuant to a continuing care contract;

~~__~~(2)(b) the continuing care retirement community maintains a current license and meets applicable home health agency licensing standards;

~~__~~(3)(c) residents of the continuing care retirement community may choose to obtain home health services from other licensed home health agencies.

~~__~~(2) Staff from other areas of the continuing care retirement community may deliver the home health services, but at no time may staffing levels in any area of the continuing care retirement community fall below minimum licensing standards or impair the services provided.

~~__~~(3) If the continuing care retirement community includes charges for home health services in its base contract, it is prohibited from billing additional fees for those services. Continuing care retirement communities certified for Medicare or Medicaid, or both, must comply with governmental reimbursement requirements concerning charges for home health services.

~~__~~(4) For purposes of this subsection “resident”, “living unit”, and “continuing care contract” have the same meanings as provided in Section 37-11-20.

(C) Subsection (B) applies only to multi-level continuing care

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

retirement communities which incorporate a skilled nursing facility.

(D) The continuing care retirement community shall not bill in excess of its costs. These costs will be determined on nonfacility-based Medicare and/or Medicaid standards.

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. M. M. SMITH explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 106; Nays 1

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bernstein	Blackwell	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Cobb-Hunter
Collins	Connell	B. L. Cox
Crawford	Cromer	Davis
Dillard	Elliott	Erickson
Felder	Forrest	Gagnon
Garvin	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Hartnett	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Henegan	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hosey	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Magnuson	McCrary
McDaniel	McGinnis	Mitchell
J. Moore	T. Moore	A. M. Morgan
T. A. Morgan	Moss	Murphy

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Ott	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Robbins
Rutherford	Sandifer	Schuessler
Sessions	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Spann-Wilder	Taylor	Trantham
Vaughan	West	Wetmore
Wheeler	White	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--106

Those who voted in the negative are:

Harris

Total--1

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

S. 1074--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1074 -- Senators Davis and Fanning: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40-47-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS OF A CMA, SO AS TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A QUALIFIED CMA; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40-47-196, RELATING TO DELEGATION OF TASKS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, PURSUANT TO THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES, MAY DELEGATE NURSING TASKS TO UAP UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

Reps. M. M. SMITH, HIOTT, DAVIS, CARTER, B. L. COX, WEST, HEWITT, JEFFERSON, SANDIFER and WHITMIRE requested debate on the Bill.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 134--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 134 -- Senators Hembree, Gustafson, Verdin, Climer and Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-19-85 SO AS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BY REQUIRING SCHOOL BOARDS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROVIDE LIVE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SUCH MEETINGS, TO EXTEND APPLICABILITY OF THESE PROVISIONS TO THE GOVERNING BODIES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO PROVIDE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE JULY 1, 2024.

Reps. ERICKSON, SANDIFER, ROBBINS, HIOTT, CARTER, SESSIONS, GUFFEY, MCCRAVY and HEWITT requested debate on the Bill.

S. 1188--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1188 -- Senators Tedder and Hembree: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-63-240, RELATING TO EXPULSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR AND HEARINGS, SO AS TO AMEND REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF THE PUPIL.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIOTT, CARTER, B. NEWTON, LIGON, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, MCCRAVY, WEST, LONG, LEBER and SANDIFER requested debate on the Bill.

S. 1051--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1051 -- Senators Kimbrell and Talley: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

50-25-1330, RELATING TO WATERCRAFT RESTRICTIONS ON LAKE H. TAYLOR BLALOCK, SO AS TO EXTEND THE HUNTING OF WATERFOWL FOR FIVE YEARS.

Reps. HIOTT, FORREST, CARTER, LIGON, SESSIONS, GUFFEY, MCCRAVY, KIRBY, HEWITT and LEBER requested debate on the Bill.

S. 903--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 903 -- Senator Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF ACT 91 OF 2021, RELATING TO FLOUNDER CATCH LIMITS, SO AS TO REPEAL THE SUNSET CLAUSE.

Reps. HIOTT, CARTER, MCDANIEL, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, GAGNON, WEST, HAGER, LEBER and SANDIFER requested debate on the Bill.

S. 955--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 955 -- Senators Campsen and Matthews: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 50-5-400 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE LIMITED COMMERCIAL BLUE CRAB LICENSE AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE LICENSE; BY AMENDING SECTION 50-5-325, RELATING TO COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT LICENSES AND FEES, SO AS TO REVISE THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE COMMERCIAL TRAP LICENSE; BY AMENDING SECTION 50-5-350, RELATING TO THE TRANSFERABILITY OF LICENSES, SO AS TO EXEMPT THE LIMITED COMMERCIAL BLUE CRAB LICENSE FROM THE GENERAL TRANSFER PROHIBITION; BY AMENDING SECTION 50-5-360, RELATING TO LICENSES TO ENGAGE IN SHEDDING PEELER CRABS, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT AN APPLICANT'S OR LICENSEE'S BUSINESS PREMISES BE CAPABLE OF PEELER SHEDDING OPERATIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 50-5-545, RELATING TO TRAPS FOR TAKING BLUE CRAB, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE MATERIAL, DIMENSIONS, AND ESCAPE VENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRAPS; BY ADDING SECTION 50-5-1302 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A RECREATIONAL LIMIT OF

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

ONE-HALF BUSHEL OF BLUE CRABS PER PERSON PER DAY NOT TO EXCEED ONE BUSHEL PER BOAT; BY ADDING SECTION 50-5-1345 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF CRAB TRAPS IN THE WATERS OF THIS STATE FROM JANUARY 16 THROUGH JANUARY 29 OF EACH YEAR; BY AMENDING SECTION 50-5-330, RELATING TO RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT LIMITS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAPS THAT MAY BE USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES FROM TWO TO TEN WITH A RECREATIONAL CRAB TRAP ENDORSEMENT; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 50-9-540, RELATING TO RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING LICENSES SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST OF THE RECREATIONAL CRAB TRAP ENDORSEMENT.

Reps. HIOTT, CARTER, LIGON, HEWITT, BUSTOS, LEBER, SANDIFER and MAGNUSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 1001--ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1001 -- Senator Martin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 24-3-430, RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION OF INMATE LABOR IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT NO INMATE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM MAY EARN LESS THAN THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE.

Rep. JORDAN explained the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 109; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Beach	Bernstein
Blackwell	Brewer	Brittain
Burns	Bustos	Calhoon
Carter	Caskey	Chapman
Chumley	Clyburn	Cobb-Hunter

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Connell	B. L. Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Forrest	Gagnon	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Henegan	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hosey
Hyde	Jefferson	J. E. Johnson
J. L. Johnson	S. Jones	W. Jones
Jordan	Kilmartin	King
Kirby	Landing	Lawson
Leber	Ligon	Long
Magnuson	McCrary	McDaniel
McGinnis	Mitchell	J. Moore
T. Moore	A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan
Moss	Murphy	Neese
B. Newton	W. Newton	Nutt
O'Neal	Oremus	Ott
Pace	Pedalino	Pendarvis
Pope	Rivers	Robbins
Rutherford	Sandifer	Schuessler
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder
Stavrinakis	Taylor	Trantham
Vaughan	West	Wetmore
Wheeler	White	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--109

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on S. 1001. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Heather Bauer

RECURRENCE TO THE MORNING HOUR

Rep. RUTHERFORD moved that the House recur to the morning hour, which was agreed to.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

S. 1234 -- Senator Fanning: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME A PORTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 21 SOUTH IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WEST CHURCH STREET AND LONGTOWN ROAD TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY LINE "DONALD PRIOLEAU SR. ROAD" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS ALONG THIS STRETCH OF ROAD CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5522 -- Reprs. G. M. Smith, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES FOR THEIR SUPERB LEADERSHIP AND FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZATION ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5523 -- Reps. Erickson, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF STEVEN NED BROWN AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5524 -- Reps. Erickson, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LARRY MARK, THE OWNER AND FOUNDER OF FURNITURE WAREHOUSE DESIGN GALLERY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTY-TWO YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE BEAUFORT COMMUNITY, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5525 -- Reps. Erickson, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE SIXTY-EIGHTH BEAUFORT WATER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON JULY 12 THROUGH 21, 2024, AND TO HONOR THOSE WHO ORGANIZE, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER FOR, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5526 -- Reps. Garvin, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. BLAKELY N. SCOTT OF COLUMBIA FOR HIS FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS PASTOR OF

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

FIRST NAZARETH BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO WISH HIM MUCH BLESSING AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5527 -- Reps. Garvin, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND PASTOR JOHN K. BAXTER AND THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE BLYTHEWOOD AND COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5528 -- Reps. Felder, Guffey, King, Ligon, Moss, O'Neal, Pope and Sessions: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CATAWBA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR PERCUSSION AND INDOOR WINDS ENSEMBLES, DIRECTORS, AND SCHOOL

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2024 WGI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5529 -- Rep. McDaniel: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. RONALD L. RHAMES, PRESIDENT OF MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5530 -- Rep. McDaniel: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF UNION NATIVE JAMES HAROLD SIMS, SR., AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5531 -- Reps. McCabe, May, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE DR. DONNA-NEISHA STEELE UPON BEING NAMED 2024-2025 SAXE GOTHA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO CHILDREN, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5532 -- Reps. May, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOSHUA SHUMPERT, CHIEF OF THE SOUTH CONGAREE POLICE DEPARTMENT, UPON THE OCCASION OF

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

HIS RETIREMENT AFTER YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE,
AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN
ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5533 -- Reps. Rose, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HEATHWOOD HALL GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2024 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

S. 841--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 841 -- Senators Alexander and Senn: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

"PROSECUTORS PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT" BY ADDING ARTICLE 9 TO CHAPTER 2, TITLE 30 SO AS TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, AND TO PROVIDE CURRENT AND FORMER PROSECUTORS HAVE THE OPTION OF MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION HELD BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE, TO PROVIDE LIMITED EXCEPTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED PROCEDURES FOR EXERCISING THIS OPTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS; AND TO PROVIDE THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON PROSECUTION COORDINATION SHALL CREATE A FORM FOR USE BY PROSECUTORS WHEN REQUESTING NONDISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION, AND TO SPECIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FORM.

Reps. HIOTT, CARTER, LIGON, TAYLOR, SESSIONS, M. M. SMITH, MCCRAVY, B. L. COX, WEST and SANDIFER requested debate on the Bill.

S. 112--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 112 -- Senators Allen, Hembree and Shealy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 34-11-90, RELATING TO JURISDICTION FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING CHECKS AND PENALTIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE A METHOD TO EXPUNGE CONVICTIONS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 17-22-910, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO APPLICATIONS FOR EXPUNGEMENT, SO AS TO ADD MULTIPLE MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES OF CHECK FRAUD TO THOSE OFFENSES ELIGIBLE FOR EXPUNGEMENT.

Reps. HIOTT, HART, CARTER, HIXON, LIGON, SESSIONS, M. M. SMITH, MCCRAVY, B. L. COX, GUEST, WEST and ROBBINS requested debate on the Bill.

S. 954--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 954 -- Senators Hembree, Senn and Rankin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

17-13-142 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, A CIRCUIT SOLICITOR, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REQUIRE THE DISCLOSURE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER RELATED RECORDS BY A PROVIDER OF AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE OR REMOTE COMPUTING SERVICE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Reps. HIOTT, CARTER, HIXON, LIGON, SESSIONS, KING, M. M. SMITH, MCCRAVY and HART requested debate on the Bill.

S. 947--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 947 -- Senators Hembree, Senn, McLeod and Rankin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-3-910, RELATING TO KIDNAPPING, SO AS TO ALLOW SENTENCING FOR THE CRIME OF KIDNAPPING AND OTHER CRIMES.

Reps. HIOTT, CARTER, SESSIONS, BLACKWELL, MCCRAVY, M. M. SMITH and WEST requested debate on the Bill.

S. 1166--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1166 -- Senators Tedder, Stephens and Rice: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-1-65, RELATING TO THE S.C. CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY/SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 2024, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE MUST DISMISS CERTAIN PENDING UNLAWFUL HANDGUN POSSESSION CHARGES.

The Committee on Judiciary proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 1166 (LC-1166.CM0004H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 17-1-65(B) and inserting:

(B) The State must dismiss all charges pending against a person for unlawful possession of a handgun pursuant to Section 16-23-20 that were nullified by the enactment of the S.C. Constitutional Carry/Second Amendment Preservation Act of 2024, notwithstanding the savings

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

clause contained in SECTION 25 of that act. However, if such unlawful possession of a handgun charge was used as probable cause for another offense arising from the same incident, this section does not mandate that those associated charges be dismissed. Dismissal of the Section 16-23-20 charge may not serve as a basis or support for any civil action due to the arrest of the Section 16-23-20 charge by law enforcement officers or prosecutors.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. ELLIOTT explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 112; Nays 2

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bernstein	Blackwell	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Clyburn
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Forrest	Gagnon
Garvin	Gatch	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hart	Hartnett	Hayes
Henegan	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hosey
Howard	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon

[HJ]

129

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Long	Magnuson	May
McCabe	McGinnis	Mitchell
J. Moore	T. Moore	A. M. Morgan
T. A. Morgan	Moss	Murphy
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Ott	Pace	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Rose	Rutherford	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder	Stavrinakis
Taylor	Trantham	Vaughan
Weeks	West	Wetmore
Wheeler	White	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--112

Those who voted in the negative are:

Gibson	McCraavy
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Total--2

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

S. 207--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 207 -- Senator Fanning: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 57-23-1160 SO AS TO CREATE THE PIEDMONT GATEWAY SCENIC BYWAY AND TO IDENTIFY THE THREE SEGMENTS THAT COMPRISE THE BYWAY.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIOTT, CARTER, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, M. M. SMITH, MAGNUSON, MCCRAVY and WEST requested debate on the Bill.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 968--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 968 -- Senators Peeler and Rankin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-80(A)(6) AND (B), RELATING TO APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PERMIT, SO AS TO ALLOW AN APPLICANT TO VOLUNTARILY DISCLOSE HIS BLOOD TYPE.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIOTT, CARTER, HIXON, GUFFEY, SESSIONS, MCCRAVY, M. M. SMITH, B. L. COX and GUEST requested debate on the Bill.

S. 974--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 974 -- Senator Bennett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 59-104-20, 59-149-10, AND 59-150-370, ALL RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION" FOR PURPOSES OF THE PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS, THE LEGISLATIVE INCENTIVES FOR FUTURE EXCELLENCE (LIFE) SCHOLARSHIPS, AND THE SC HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS, RESPECTIVELY, SO AS TO ADD AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF CAREER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO THE DEFINITION.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIOTT, CARTER, HIXON, GUFFEY, B. NEWTON, SESSIONS, M. M. SMITH, B. L. COX, WEST and LONG requested debate on the Bill.

S. 125--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 125 -- Senators Hembree, Turner, Young, Setzler, Fanning and Climer: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-149-15, RELATING TO ADDITIONAL LIFE SCHOLARSHIP STIPENDS, SO AS TO EXTEND THE STIPEND TO EDUCATION MAJORS AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

EDUCATION PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO DEFINE EDUCATION MAJOR; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-104-25, RELATING TO ADDITIONAL PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP STIPENDS, SO AS TO EXTEND THE STIPEND TO EDUCATION MAJORS AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-149-50, RELATING TO A NUMERICAL ACT EQUIVALENT, SO AS TO SET THE EQUIVALENT SCORE OF THE ACT TO 22; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 59-104-20, RELATING TO PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, SO AS TO ALLOW A STUDENT WHO USES A PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL RECEIVE A MAXIMUM OF FOUR CONTINUOUS SEMESTERS.

Reps. ERICKSON, HIXON, CARTER, O'NEAL, SESSIONS, M. M. SMITH, B. L. COX, GUFFEY, WEST, ROBBINS, CALHOON, BUSTOS and LONG requested debate on the Bill.

S. 881--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 881 -- Senators M. Johnson, McLeod, Devine and Rankin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING THE "PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR REAL ESTATE SERVICE AGREEMENTS ACT"; AND TO MAKE THE PROHIBITIONS EFFECTIVE FOR ANY UNFAIR REAL ESTATE SERVICE AGREEMENTS THAT ARE RECORDED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT OR THAT ARE EXECUTED MODIFIED, EXTENDED, OR AMENDED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT.

Reps. SANDIFER, HIOTT, CARTER, HIXON, BLACKWELL, OREMUS, O'NEAL, LIGON, GUFFEY, MAGNUSON, HARRIS, M. M. SMITH, MCCRAVY, WILLIAMS, WEST, HART, JEFFERSON, BUSTOS and LONG requested debate on the Bill.

S. 434--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 434 -- Senator Alexander: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 38-78-55 SO

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

AS TO PROVIDE THAT NO CLAUSE OF A SERVICE CONTRACT WHICH STATES THAT THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED RENEWED FOR A SPECIFIED ADDITIONAL PERIOD, UNLESS THE SERVICE CONTRACT HOLDER GIVES NOTICE TO THE PROVIDER OF HIS INTENTION TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM, SHALL BE ENFORCEABLE AGAINST THE SERVICE CONTRACT HOLDER.

Reps. SANDIFER, HIOTT, CARTER, HIXON, ERICKSON, BLACKWELL, M. M. SMITH, GUFFEY, WEST, WHITMIRE, CALHOON and JEFFERSON requested debate on the Bill.

S. 700--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 700 -- Senator Davis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 8 TO CHAPTER 5, TITLE 39 TO ESTABLISH THE "SOUTH CAROLINA EARNED WAGE ACCESS SERVICES ACT" SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNED WAGE ACCESS SERVICES PROVIDERS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

Reps. SANDIFER, HIOTT, HIXON, CARTER, ERICKSON, BLACKWELL, B. NEWTON, LIGON, M. M. SMITH, MCCRAVY, WEST, JEFFERSON, CALHOON, WHITMIRE and BUSTOS requested debate on the Bill.

S. 1099--ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1099 -- Senator Verdin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 7-7-360, RELATING TO DESIGNATION OF VOTING PRECINCTS IN LAURENS COUNTY, SO AS TO REDESIGNATE THE MAP NUMBER ON WHICH THESE PRECINCTS ARE DELINEATED.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 112; Nays 0

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bauer	Beach	Bernstein
Blackwell	Brewer	Brittain
Burns	Bustos	Calhoon
Carter	Caskey	Chapman
Chumley	Clyburn	Cobb-Hunter
Collins	Connell	B. L. Cox
Crawford	Cromer	Davis
Dillard	Elliott	Erickson
Felder	Forrest	Gagnon
Garvin	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Gilliard	Guest
Guffey	Haddon	Hager
Hardee	Harris	Hart
Hartnett	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Henegan	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hosey
Howard	Hyde	J. E. Johnson
J. L. Johnson	S. Jones	W. Jones
Kilmartin	King	Kirby
Landing	Lawson	Leber
Ligon	Long	Magnuson
May	McCabe	McCrary
McGinnis	Mitchell	J. Moore
T. Moore	A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan
Moss	Murphy	Neese
B. Newton	W. Newton	Nutt
O'Neal	Oremus	Ott
Pace	Pedalino	Pendarvis
Pope	Robbins	Rose
Rutherford	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder
Stavrinakis	Taylor	Trantham
Vaughan	Weeks	West
Wetmore	Wheeler	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--112

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

Rep. TAYLOR moved that the House recede until 3:00 p.m., which was agreed to.

THE HOUSE RESUMES

At 3:00 P.m. the House resumed, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

POINT OF QUORUM

The question of a quorum was raised.

A quorum was later present.

OBJECTION TO RECALL

Rep. BAMBERG asked unanimous consent to recall S. 423 from the Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs.

Rep. DAVIS objected.

S. 557--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

S. 557 -- Senators M. Johnson, Peeler, Kimbrell, Adams, Rice, Rankin, Reichenbach, Young, Loftis, Climer, Garrett, Alexander, Campsen and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-3477, RELATING TO THE APPRENTICE INCOME TAX CREDIT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT AND THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN WHICH IT MAY BE CLAIMED.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5101--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Joint Resolution were taken up for consideration:

H. 5101 -- Ways and Means Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, AND TO ALLOW UNEXPENDED FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS AND EXPENDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSES.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

H. 5023--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

H. 5023 -- Reps. Brewer, Gilliam, Lawson, Sessions, Schuessler, Hager, Hartnett, Gatch, Mitchell, Hewitt, Robbins, J. Moore, Wooten, Guffey, O'Neal, J. L. Johnson, Pedalino and B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 56-1-219 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE WORK ZONE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-15, RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINATIONS, SO AS TO REQUIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE WORK ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM COURSE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-130, RELATING TO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS AND BASIC AND CLASSIFIED LICENSES, SO AS TO REQUIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE WORK ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM COURSE.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5100--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

H. 5100 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

H. 5314--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

H. 5314 -- Reps. Haddon and Burns: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 25 (WHITE HORSE ROAD) AND SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 183 (SALUDA DAM ROAD) IN THE GREENVILLE COUNTY TOWN OF BEREA "HAROLD M. BATSON, JR. MEMORIAL INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

H. 4947--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following House Resolution was taken up:

H. 4947 -- Reps. Pace, A. M. Morgan, May, Trantham, Oremus, Magnuson, Kilmartin, Cromer, S. Jones, O'Neal, White, T. A. Morgan, Harris, McCabe and Beach: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CONCERNS RAISED BY GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT REGARDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS AND PROTECT THE STATES

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

AND CONDEMN PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO FAITHFULLY EXECUTE IMMIGRATION LAWS ENACTED BY CONGRESS.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Resolution which was agreed to.

S. 1267--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1267 -- Senator Hembree: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY 17 FROM 8TH AVENUE NORTH TO STARWATCH DRIVE IN HORRY COUNTY "GEORGE RAYFORD VEREEN HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Concurrent Resolution which was agreed to.

S. 1268--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1268 -- Senator Matthews: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 315 IN JASPER COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 170 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 17 "BISHOP DELORIS M. YOUNG HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Concurrent Resolution which was agreed to.

S. 1304--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1304 -- Senator Jackson: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

THE PORTION OF BLUFF ROAD IN RICHLAND COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH WINDY DRIVE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH PINEVIEW DRIVE "DEPUTY SHERIFF JACOB ERIC SALRIN MEMORIAL WAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Concurrent Resolution which was agreed to.

S. 1297--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1297 -- Senator Cromer: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF BOUNDARY STREET AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 34 BYPASS (BOB LAKE BOULEVARD) IN NEWBERRY COUNTY "HENRY S. REEDER INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Concurrent Resolution which was agreed to.

S. 1302--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1302 -- Senator Malloy: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 15 AND BROWNTOWN ROAD IN LEE COUNTY "WALLACE A. 'BULL' BERRY INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Concurrent Resolution which was agreed to.

MOTION PERIOD

The motion period was dispensed with on motion of Rep. POPE.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 915--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 915 -- Senators Peeler, Alexander, Setzler, Verdin, Davis, Hutto, Kimbrell, Young, Senn, Fanning and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO CREATE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND POLICY AND PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AGENCY; BY AMENDING SECTION 1-30-10, RELATING TO DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO DISSOLVE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS AND CREATE THE STATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLICY; BY AMENDING SECTION 8-17-370, RELATING TO THE MEDIATION OF GRIEVANCES BY THE STATE HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR SO AS TO ADD THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND POLICY, THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPONENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND POLICY, AND ALL DIRECT REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO DIRECTORS OF THE COMPONENT DEPARTMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 43-21-70, RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND POLICY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING; AND TO REPEAL TITLE 44, CHAPTER 9 RELATING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

H. 5438--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Joint Resolution was taken up:

H. 5438 -- Reps. Hiott, McCravy and Magnuson: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, RELATING TO SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM LIBRARY MATERIALS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5269, PURSUANT TO THE

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Joint Resolution, which was agreed to.

S. 1017--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1017 -- Senators M. Johnson, Peeler, Climer, Setzler and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-37-220, RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OF A NONPROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION ONLY APPLIES TO THE PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY THAT EQUALS THE CORPORATION'S OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CERTIFICATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 12-37-160 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY ASSESSED AS AGRICULTURAL OR RELATED THERETO MAY NOT BE ANNEXED BY A MUNICIPALITY.

Rep. POPE moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

S. 1046--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1046 -- Senators Hembree, Climer, M. Johnson, Peeler, Corbin, Cromer, Shealy, Grooms, Bennett, Gambrell, Loftis, Rice, Gustafson, Martin, Verdin, Turner, Kimbrell, Reichenbach, Cash, Harpootlian, McLeod and Fanning: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-10, RELATING TO JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION, APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS, AND TERMS, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS, INITIAL TERMS, AND SUBSEQUENT TERMS, TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE THAT, EXCEPT THOSE FIRST APPOINTED, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT, THE SENATE JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN, THE

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND THE HOUSE JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN SHALL SERVE AN INITIAL TERM OF TWO YEARS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT NO NOMINEE MAY BE A FAMILY MEMBER OF A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION; BY ADDING SECTION 2-19-15 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-20, RELATING TO INVESTIGATION BY COMMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF VACANCIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE CRITERIA FOR THE QUALIFICATION OF JUDICIAL CANDIDATES; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-30, RELATING TO HEARINGS AND EXECUTIVE SESSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL PUBLIC HEARINGS BE LIVE STREAMED; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-70, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DUAL OFFICES, PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR, AND PLEDGES, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN FLOOR PRIVILEGES AND PROHIBITIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND ESTABLISHING SET TIMES FOR THE RELEASE OF REPORTS AND THE SEEKING OF PLEDGES AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE FORMAL RELEASE OF THE REPORT OF QUALIFICATIONS SHALL OCCUR NO EARLIER THAN TWELVE DAYS AFTER NOMINEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-80, RELATING TO NOMINATION OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES SHALL BE RELEASED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-19-90, RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A CANDIDATE MUST RECEIVE A MAJORITY VOTE OF EACH HOUSE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 22-1-10, RELATING TO APPOINTMENT, TERMS AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION OR RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE GOVERNOR SHALL RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FULL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION OF THE COUNTY THE MAGISTRATE WILL SERVE.

The Committee on Judiciary proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 1046 (LC-1046.AHB0081H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

words and inserting:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 2 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 19

South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Screening and Election of Justices and Judges

Section 2-19-5. (A) There is created the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission composed of thirteen members who must be appointed as follows:

(1) four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and of these appointments:

(a) three members must be members of the House of Representatives; and

(b) one member must be selected from the South Carolina Bar who must be a member of the Bar in good standing with ten years' experience in the practice of law;

(2) four members appointed by the Senate and of these appointments:

(a) two members must be appointed by the President of the Senate one of whom must be a member of the Senate and one of whom must be selected from the South Carolina Bar and must be a member in good standing with ten years' experience in the practice of law; and

(b) two members must be appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee both of whom must be members of the Senate; and

(3) five members appointed by the Governor:

(a) one of which must be a retired judge from the statewide judicial system who shall serve as chairman; and

(b) all of which must be members in good standing of the South Carolina Bar with at least ten years' experience in the practice of law.

(B) No person is eligible for appointment if he individually contributed to a campaign of one of the appointing authorities in the most recent election. Nonlegislative members may not be a public employee or serve in another elected office.

(C) Members of the commission shall serve for a term of two years and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. However, a member of the House of Representatives or Senate who ceases to serve as a member of the General Assembly will have his service on the commission terminated upon the end of his service in the General Assembly. Additionally, a member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term may serve two full terms thereafter. The initial appointments must be made as follows:

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(1) one member each appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subsection (A)(1)(a) and (b) shall serve an initial term of one year and may be reappointed to a following two-year term;

(2) one member each appointed by the President of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee pursuant to subsection (A)(2)(a) and (b) shall serve an initial term of one year and may be reappointed to a following two-year term; and

(3) two members appointed by the Governor pursuant to subsection (A)(3)(b) shall serve an initial term of one year and may be reappointed to a following two-year term.

(D) In making appointments to the commission, race, gender, national origin, and other demographic factors shall be considered to ensure nondiscrimination to the greatest extent possible as to all segments of the population of the State.

(E) The chairman of the commission appointed pursuant to subsection (A)(3)(a) shall serve a two-year term after which he may be reappointed. Other officers may be elected as the commission considers necessary.

(F) A vacancy on the commission must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for the original selection.

(G) Current members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission who have served more than four years as a member of the commission are not eligible for appointment to the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(H) No member of the commission shall receive any compensation for commission services, except those set by law for travel, board, and lodging expenses incurred in the performance of commission duties.

(I) No member of the commission is eligible for nomination and appointment as a judge or justice of the state court system or administrative law court while serving on the commission and for a period of one year thereafter.

(J) The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this chapter including, but not limited to, rules and limits governing campaigning, ethics, and live-streaming of meetings.

Section 2-19-10. ~~(A) Whenever~~When an election is to be held by the General Assembly in Joint Session, for members of the judiciary, ~~at the South Carolina~~ Judicial Merit Selection Commission, composed of ~~ten~~thirteen members, shall be appointed, in the manner prescribed by this

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~section, to consider the qualifications of the candidates. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~commission shall meet at least once annually and at other times as may be designated by the chairman. The ~~commission, at its first meeting and then annually, shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman who shall serve for a term of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified, and~~ adopt rules necessary to the purposes of the commission. These rules shall address, among other things:

- (1) the confidentiality of records and other information received concerning candidates for judicial office;
- (2) the conduct of proceedings before the commission;
- (3) receipt of public statements in support of or in opposition to any of the candidates;
- (4) procedures to review the qualifications of retired judges for continued judicial service;
- (5) ~~contacting incumbent judges regarding their desire to seek re-election~~reelection;
- (6) prohibition against candidates communicating with individual members of the commission concerning the qualifications of candidates unless specifically authorized by the commission.

A member may succeed himself as chairman ~~or vice chairman~~. ~~Six~~Seven members of the commission constitute a quorum at all meetings.

~~(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Judicial Merit Selection Commission shall consist of the following individuals:~~

~~(1) five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and of these appointments:~~

~~(a) three members must be serving members of the General Assembly; and~~

~~(b) two members must be selected from the general public;~~

~~(2) three members, appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who must be serving members of the Senate; and~~

~~(3) two members, appointed by the President of the Senate, who must be selected from the general public.~~

~~(C) In making appointments to the commission, race, gender, national origin, and other demographic factors should be considered to ensure nondiscrimination to the greatest extent possible as to all segments of the population of the State.~~

~~(D) The term of office of a member of the commission who is not a member of the General Assembly shall be for four years subject to a right of removal at any time by the person appointing him, and until his~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

successor is appointed and qualifies. A member of the commission who is a serving member of the General Assembly shall serve for the term of office to which he has been elected.

~~—(E) A vacancy on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for the original selection.~~

~~—(F) No member of the commission shall receive any compensation for commission services, except those set by law for travel, board, and lodging expenses incurred in the performance of commission duties.~~

~~—(G) No member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission is eligible for nomination and appointment as a judge or justice of the state court system or administrative law judge division while serving on the commission and for a period of one year thereafter.~~

Section 2-19-20. (A) It is the responsibility of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission to determine when judicial vacancies are to occur in the ~~administrative law judge division~~Administrative Law Court and on the family court, circuit court, court of appeals, or Supreme Court and to expeditiously investigate in advance the qualifications of those who seek ~~nomination~~the position. For purposes of this chapter, a vacancy is created in the ~~administrative law judge division~~Administrative Law Court or on the family court, circuit court, court of appeals, or Supreme Court when any of the following occurs: a term expires; a new judicial position is created; or a judge can no longer serve due to resignation, retirement, disciplinary action, disability, or death.

(B) The commission, upon receiving notice of a judicial vacancy, ascertaining that a judicial vacancy shall occur, or receiving the decision of an incumbent judge regarding his seeking ~~re-election~~reelection, shall notify the Supreme Court of the vacancy for publication in the advance sheets provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court at least thirty days prior to closing applications for the vacancy. The commission shall, if practicable, also notify the South Carolina Bar, other professional legal organizations it considers appropriate, and each newspaper of this State with daily circulation of the vacancy at least thirty days prior to closing applications for the vacancy. This notice must include, but not be limited to, the judicial office in which the vacancy occurs, the address to which, and the date by which interested candidates may apply.

(C) The ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~commission shall announce and publicize vacancies and forthcoming vacancies in the ~~administrative law judge division~~Administrative Law Court, on the family court, circuit court, court of appeals, and Supreme Court. A

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

person who desires to be considered for ~~nomination~~ a position as justice or judge may make application to the commission. No person may concurrently seek more than one judicial vacancy. The commission shall announce the names of those persons who have applied.

(D) Any person wishing to seek a judicial office, which is elected by the General Assembly, shall file a notice of intention to seek the office with the ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission. Upon receipt of the notice of intention, the commission shall begin to conduct the investigation of the candidate as it considers appropriate and may in the investigation utilize the services of any agency of state government. This agency shall, upon request, cooperate fully with the commission.

Section 2-19-25. (A) The South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission is authorized to investigate and obtain information relative to any candidate for an ~~administrative law~~ Administrative Law Court judgeship or a family court, circuit court, court of appeals, or Supreme Court judgeship from any state agency or other group including, but not limited to, court administration and any law enforcement agency, to the extent permitted by law. And, as part of the investigation, candidates for election to judicial office or reelection to judicial office must disclose any sanctions, including private reprimands, to the commission.

(B) There is created the Bar and Citizens' Judicial Qualifications Committee. The chairman of the commission shall notify the president of the South Carolina Bar of the judgeships to be filled and of the candidates for those judgeships no later than four weeks before the scheduled date for the public hearing. The chairman of the commission shall ~~also~~ request the South Carolina Bar to form this committee to be made up of members of the South Carolina Bar and citizens for each geographic district set by the commission.

(C) The committee may utilize electronic ballot box survey polling or other forms of electronic surveys as it deems appropriate, and shall offer the commission an assessment of each candidate's qualifications for the judgeship sought, and the date by which the assessment must be returned to the commission. This assessment must specify the ~~bar's~~ committee's finding as to whether each candidate is qualified or unqualified for the judgeship sought and the reasons for that finding. The commission may receive the ~~bar's~~ committee's assessment in that form and at that time it desires but shall attach the assessments to its findings of fact in such form as the commission considers appropriate. Failure of the ~~bar~~ committee to return the assessment by the date requested is not a ground for delaying the applicable hearings or election.

(D) The commission shall forward the names of justices and judges

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

who are at the midpoint in their terms to the committee in order for the committee to conduct midterm reviews utilizing the electronic ballot box survey polling or other forms of electronic surveys as it deems appropriate. The results of the midterm reviews must be forwarded to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Midterm reviews also must be provided to the commission at the next public screening of each judicial candidate.

Section 2-19-30. (A) Upon completion of the investigation, the chairman of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission shall schedule a public hearing concerning the qualifications of the candidates. Any person who desires to testify at the hearing, including candidates, shall furnish a written statement of his proposed testimony to the commission no later than two weeks prior to the date and time set for the hearing unless sufficient cause is determined by the ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission for allowing the submitting individual's testimony after the deadline. The commission shall determine the persons who shall testify at the hearing. All testimony, including documents furnished to the commission, must be submitted under oath and persons knowingly furnishing false information either orally or in writing are subject to the penalties provided by law for perjury and false swearing.

(B) During the course of the investigation, the commission may schedule an executive session at which each candidate, and other persons whom the commission wishes to interview, may be interviewed by the commission on matters pertinent to the candidate's qualification for the office to be filled.

(C) ~~At~~ At a reasonable time thereafter the commission shall render its tentative findings as to whether the candidate is qualified for the office to be filled and its reasons therefor as to each candidate.

(D) As soon as possible after the completion of the hearing, a verbatim copy of the testimony, documents submitted at the hearing, and findings of fact must be transcribed and published or otherwise made available in a reasonable number of copies to the members of both houses prior to the date of the scheduled election, and a copy ~~thereof~~ shall be furnished to each candidate and anyone else upon request. A charge for these copies may be made as authorized in the Freedom of Information Act.

(E) A candidate may withdraw at any stage of the proceedings and in this event no further inquiry or consideration of his candidacy shall be made. All materials concerning that candidate including his report, transcript, application, materials, and other information gathered during

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

the commission's investigation must be kept confidential and destroyed as soon as possible after the candidate's written notification to the commission of his withdrawal. The information concerning a withdrawn candidate also shall be exempt from disclosure pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 30. However, once a public hearing begins and a candidate has been sworn in, a candidate may withdraw but all materials concerning the candidate as delineated in this subsection must be retained and may not be destroyed by the commission.

Section 2-19-35. (A) The responsibility of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission is to investigate and consider the qualifications of the candidates for judicial office in ~~the administrative law judge division~~ Administrative Law Court or on the family court, circuit court, court of appeals, or Supreme Court. Investigations and consideration of the commission should include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- (1) constitutional qualifications;
- (2) ethical fitness;
- (3) professional and academic ability;
- (4) character pursuant to the canons of judicial conduct and legal ethics;
- (5) reputation;
- (6) physical health;
- (7) mental stability;
- (8) experience; and
- (9) judicial temperament pursuant to the canons of judicial conduct and legal ethics.

(B) ~~In making nominations, race~~ Race, gender, national origin, and other demographic factors ~~should~~ shall be considered by the commission to ensure nondiscrimination to the greatest extent possible as to all segments of the population of the State.

~~—Section 2-19-40. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, when there is no known opposition to a candidate, and there appears to be no substantial reason for having a public hearing, whether or not a candidate is an incumbent, and no request is made by at least six members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission for a public hearing, the commission chairman upon recommendation of the commission may determine that the public hearing is unnecessary and it may not be held. Reserved.~~

Section 2-19-50. All records, information, and other material that the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission has obtained or used to make its findings of fact, except materials, records, and

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

information presented under oath at the public hearing, must be kept strictly confidential. ~~After the commission has reported its findings of fact, all records, information, and material required to be kept confidential must be destroyed.~~ The information required to be kept confidential also shall be exempt from disclosure pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 30.

Section 2-19-60. (A) The South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission in the discharge of its duties may administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records considered necessary in connection with the investigation of the candidate.

(B) No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, or other records before the ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture. But no individual shall be prosecuted or subjected to any criminal penalty based upon testimony or evidence submitted or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except that the individual so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury and false swearing committed in so testifying.

(C) In case of contumacy by any person or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, any circuit court of this State or circuit judge ~~thereof~~ within the jurisdiction of which the person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission may issue to this person an order requiring him to appear before the commission to produce evidence if so ordered or to give testimony touching the matter under investigation. Any failure to obey an order of the court may be punished as a contempt ~~hereof~~. Subpoenas shall be issued in the name of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission and shall be signed by the commission chairman. Subpoenas shall be issued to those persons as the commission may designate.

Section 2-19-70. (A) No member of the General Assembly may be elected to a judicial office while he is serving in the General Assembly nor shall that person be elected to a judicial office for a period of one

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

year after he either:

(1) ceases to be a member of the General Assembly; or

(2) fails to file for election to the General Assembly in accordance with Section 7-11-15.

(B) The privilege of the floor in either house of the General Assembly may not be granted to any candidate or any immediate family member of a candidate unless the family member is serving in the General Assembly, during the time the candidate's application is pending before the commission and during the time his nomination by the commission for election to a particular judicial office is pending in the General Assembly.

(C) No candidate for judicial office may seek, directly or indirectly, the pledge of a member of the General Assembly's vote or the assistance of a member in seeking another member's vote, directly or indirectly, or contact a member of the General Assembly regarding screening for the judicial office until the qualifications of all candidates for that office have been determined by the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission, ~~and~~ the commission has formally released its report as to the qualifications of all candidates for the vacancy to the General Assembly, and until one week before the election. No member of the General Assembly may offer his pledge until the qualifications of all candidates for that office have been determined by the ~~Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission, ~~and~~ until the commission has formally released its report ~~as to the qualifications of its nominees of all qualified candidates~~ to the General Assembly, and until one week before the election. ~~The formal release of the report of qualifications shall occur no earlier than forty eight hours after the nominees have been initially released to members of the General Assembly.~~ For purposes of this section, indirectly seeking a pledge means the candidate, or someone acting on behalf of and at the request of the candidate, requesting a person to contact a member of the General Assembly on behalf of the candidate before ~~nominations for that office are formally made~~ the report of all qualified candidates by the commission, and until one week before the election. The prohibitions of this section do not extend to an announcement of candidacy by the candidate and statements by the candidate detailing the candidate's qualifications.

(D) No member of the General Assembly may trade anything of value, including pledges to vote for legislation or for other candidates, in exchange for another member's pledge to vote for a candidate for judicial office.

(E) Violations of this section may be considered by the ~~merit~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~selection~~ commission when it considers the candidate's qualifications. Violations of this section by members of the General Assembly shall be reported by the commission to the House or Senate Ethics Committee, as may be applicable. Violations of this section by nonlegislative commission members shall be reported by the commission to the State Ethics Commission. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, the violator must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ninety days. Cases tried under this section may not be transferred from general sessions court pursuant to Section 22-3-545.

Section 2-19-80. (A) The commission ~~shall make nominations to the General Assembly of candidates and their qualifications for election to the Supreme Court, court of appeals, circuit court, family court, and the administrative law judge division. It shall review the qualifications of all applicants for a judicial office and select therefrom and submit to the General Assembly the names and qualifications of the three~~all candidates whom it considers ~~best~~ qualified for the judicial office under consideration. If fewer than three persons apply to fill a vacancy or if the commission concludes there are fewer than three candidates qualified for a vacancy, it shall submit to the General Assembly ~~only the names and qualifications of those who are considered to be qualified, with a written explanation for submitting fewer than three names.~~

(B) The ~~nominations of the commission for any judgeship are binding on the General Assembly, and it shall not elect a person not nominated~~found qualified by the commission. Nothing shall prevent the General Assembly from rejecting all persons ~~nominated~~found qualified by the commission for a judicial office under consideration. In this event, the commission shall submit another group of names and qualifications for that position. Further ~~nominations~~procedures in the manner required by this chapter must be made until the office is filled.

(C)(1) If the commission does not find the incumbent justice or judge qualified for the judicial office held and sought, his name shall not be submitted to the General Assembly for ~~re-election~~reelection and upon expiration of his then current term of office, he shall cease serving in that judicial position.

(2) If the commission finds an incumbent judge not qualified for the office sought, or if an incumbent judge dies, withdraws, or becomes otherwise disqualified for the office sought between the time he makes application for the office and the date of the election ~~therefor~~, the election for the office may not be held at that scheduled time, and the commission shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of this

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

chapter to make other ~~nominations~~arrangements for the office as though a new vacancy without an incumbent exists in that office, including reopening the application process with all required notices. Nothing prevents the commission from including in its new ~~nominations~~list of qualified candidates the names and qualifications of persons other than the incumbent judge it included ~~in its previous nominations~~previously.

(D) The commission shall accompany its ~~nominations~~list of all qualified candidates to the General Assembly with reports ~~or recommendations~~as to the qualifications of particular candidates. These reports must be released on the first day of the legislative session.

(E) A period of at least ~~two~~four weeks, but no more eight weeks, must elapse between the date of the commission's ~~nominations~~release of the list of all qualified candidates to the General Assembly and the date the General Assembly conducts the election for these judgeships.

Section 2-19-90. (A) The General Assembly shall meet in joint session for the election of judges at least four weeks, but no more than eight weeks, after the date of the release of its list of qualified candidates and the reports. The date and time for the joint session shall be set by concurrent resolution upon the recommendation of the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission. The ~~Chairman of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~presiding officer of the joint session shall announce the ~~commission's nominees~~candidates for each judicial race, and no further nominating or seconding speeches shall be allowed by members of the General Assembly. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the vote of the members of the General Assembly voting in joint session.

(B) For judicial elections, at the end of each balloting when there is more than one candidate, the candidate, or candidates in the event of tie, having received the fewest total number of votes will be eliminated and will not be considered on the next ballot. This procedure will continue until only one candidate remains and is therefore elected.

Section 2-19-100. In order to be eligible for appointment by the Chief Justice to serve, any retired justice or judge of this State must have been reviewed by the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission under procedures it shall establish to review retired judges' qualifications for continued judicial service and be found by the commission to be qualified to serve in these situations within four years of the date of his appointment to serve, except that if a justice or judge retired before the expiration of his then current term, no further review of that justice or judge is required until that term would have expired.

Section 2-19-110. Upon a vacancy in the office of

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

master-in-equity, candidates ~~therefor~~ shall submit an application to the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Upon completion of reports and recommendations, the commission shall submit such reports and recommendations on all qualified master-in-equity candidates to the appropriate county legislative delegations. The county legislative delegations ~~shall~~ may then submit the name of a candidate to the Governor for consideration for appointment. Nothing shall prevent the delegation from rejecting a candidate and directing the commission to reopen the process. ~~Nothing~~ And, nothing shall prevent the Governor from rejecting the person nominated by the delegation. In this event, the delegation shall submit another name for consideration. No person found not qualified by the commission may be appointed to the office of master-in-equity. For purposes of this section, a vacancy is created in the office of the master-in-equity when any of the following occurs: a term expires, a new judicial position is created, or a judge no longer can serve due to resignation, retirement, disciplinary action, disability, or death. ~~The Judicial Merit Selection Commission~~ commission may begin screening prior to the actual date of the vacancy in the case of an expiration of term, resignation, or retirement pursuant to written notice thereof.

~~Section 2-19-120. (A) The Chairman of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, upon the advice of the commission, shall select members to serve on Citizens Committees on Judicial Qualifications for each geographic district set by the commission. These committees shall, under the rules adopted by the commission, advise the commission concerning judicial candidates. The committees shall report their findings to the commission in such form as prescribed by the commission.~~

~~—(B) The members appointed to the Citizens Committees on Judicial Qualifications shall be compensated with an emolument of one hundred dollars per round of screening.~~

(A) There is created a Magistrates Review Subcommittee which must be comprised of nine members, five of which shall constitute a quorum, and which shall be comprised of the four members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-19-5(A)(2) and (3).

(B) After a magistrate candidate is forwarded by the Senate to the subcommittee, the subcommittee will conduct the same review as other judicial candidates and may conduct a public hearing in the same manner as other judicial candidates if the subcommittee deems it necessary. The

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

subcommittee will forward a report on a magistrate's qualifications to the Senate and Governor prior to the time for the Governor's appointment. The Governor's appointment process followed by advice and consent of the Senate is pursuant to Section 22-1-10.

SECTION 2. Section 22-1-10(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(A)(1) The Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, may appoint magistrates in each county of the State for a term of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified pursuant to item (2), or until their positions are terminated as provided in subsection (B), Section 22-1-30, or Section 22-2-40.

(2) A magistrate may serve in a holdover capacity for no more than fourteen days from the expiration of the magistrate's term. If a magistrate is not appointed within this time because of the Senate's failure to give advice and consent, then the Governor may make a temporary appointment until advice and consent is received for a permanent appointment. Any magistrate or magistrate candidate who has been reprimanded by the Supreme Court of South Carolina or any other disciplinary authority may not be appointed or reappointed unless approved by a majority of the Senate after the Senate is informed of the reprimand or disciplinary action.

(3) Magistrates serving the counties of Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Dillon, Edgefield, Florence, Greenville, Hampton, Jasper, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Sumter, and Williamsburg shall serve terms of four years commencing May 1, 1990. Magistrates serving the counties of Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Berkeley, Charleston, Chester, Darlington, Dorchester, Fairfield, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Kershaw, Laurens, Lexington, Marlboro, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Spartanburg, Union, and York shall serve terms of four years commencing May 1, 1991.

(4) At least ninety days before the date of the commencement of the terms provided in the preceding paragraph and every four years thereafter, each county governing body must inform, in writing, the Senators representing that county of the number of full-time and part-time magistrate positions available in the county, the number of work hours required by each position, the compensation for each position, and the area of the county to which each position is assigned. If the county governing body fails to inform, in writing, the Senators representing that county of the information as required in this section, then the compensation, hours, and location of the full-time and part-time

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

magistrate positions available in the county remain as designated for the previous four years.

(5) Each magistrate's number of work hours, compensation, and work location must remain the same throughout the term of office, except for a change (1) specifically allowed by statute or (2) authorized by the county governing body at least four years after the magistrate's most recent appointment and after a material change in conditions has occurred which warrants the change. Nothing provided in this section prohibits the raising of compensation or hours and compensation during a term of office. No magistrate may be paid for work not performed except for bona fide illness or as otherwise provided by law.

(6) The number of magistrates to be appointed for each county and their territorial jurisdiction are as prescribed by law before March 2, 1897, for trial justices in the respective counties of the State, except as otherwise provided in this section.

SECTION 3. Section 22-3-10 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 22-3-10. Magistrates have concurrent civil jurisdiction in the following cases:

(1) in actions arising on contracts for the recovery of money only, if the sum claimed does not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars;

(2) in actions for damages for injury to rights pertaining to the person or personal or real property, if the damages claimed do not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars;

(3) in actions for a penalty, fine, or forfeiture, when the amount claimed or forfeited does not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars;

(4) in actions commenced by attachment of property, as provided by statute, if the debt or damages claimed do not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars;

(5) in actions upon a bond conditioned for the payment of money, not exceeding ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars, though the penalty exceeds that sum, the judgment to be given for the sum actually due, and when the payments are to be made by installments an action may be brought for each installment as it becomes due;

(6) in any action upon a surety bond taken by them, when the penalty or amount claimed does not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five~~ seven-twenty-five thousand ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars;

(7) in any action upon a judgment rendered in a court of a magistrate or an inferior court when it is not prohibited by the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure;

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(8) to take and enter judgment on the confession of a defendant in the manner prescribed by law when the amount confessed does not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars;

(9) in any action for damages or for fraud in the sale, purchase, or exchange of personal property, if the damages claimed do not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars;

(10) in all matters between landlord and tenant and the possession of land as provided in Chapters 33 through 41 of Title 27;

(11) in any action to recover the possession of personal property claimed, the value of which, as stated in the affidavit of the plaintiff, his agent, or attorney, does not exceed the sum of ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars;

(12) in all actions provided for in this section when a filed counterclaim involves a sum not to exceed ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars, except that this limitation does not apply to counterclaims filed in matters between landlord and tenant and the possession of land;

(13) in interpleader actions arising from real estate contracts for the recovery of earnest money, only if the sum claimed does not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars; and

(14) in actions for damages arising from a person's failure to return leased or rented personal property within seventy-two hours after the expiration of the lease or rental agreement, such damages to be based on the loss of revenue or replacement value of the property, whichever is less, if the damages claimed do not exceed ~~seven-twenty-five thousand five hundred~~ seven-twenty-five thousand dollars; however, the lease or rental agreement must set forth the manner in which the amount of the loss of revenue or replacement value of the item leased or rented is calculated.

SECTION 4. Section 22-3-550 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 22-3-550. (A) Magistrates have jurisdiction of all offenses which may be subject to the penalties of a fine or forfeiture not exceeding twenty-five hundred thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days one year, or both. In addition, a magistrate may order restitution in an amount not to exceed the civil jurisdictional amount provided in Section 22-3-10(2). In determining the amount of restitution, the judge shall determine and itemize the actual amount of damage or loss in the order. In addition, the judge may set an appropriate payment schedule.

A magistrate may hold a party in contempt for failure to pay the restitution ordered if the judge finds the party has the ability to pay. In addition, a magistrate may convert any unpaid restitution, fines, costs,

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

fees, surcharges, and assessments to a civil judgment as provided in Section 17-25-323(C).

~~—(B) However, a magistrate does not have the power to sentence a person to consecutive terms of imprisonment totaling more than ninety days except for convictions resulting from violations of Chapter 11, Title 34, pertaining to fraudulent checks, or violations of Section 16-13-110(B)(1), relating to shoplifting. Further, a magistrate must specify an amount of restitution in damages at the time of sentencing as an alternative to any imprisonment of more than ninety days which is lawfully imposed. The provisions of this subsection do not affect the transfer of criminal matters from the general sessions court made pursuant to Section 22-3-545.~~

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. JORDAN explained the amendment.

Rep. JORDAN spoke in favor of the amendment.

Rep. BAMBERG spoke upon the amendment.

Rep. RUTHERFORD spoke against the amendment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER granted Rep. HENEGAN a leave of absence for the remainder of the day.

Rep. RUTHERFORD continued speaking.

Rep. RUTHERFORD spoke against the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Reps. W. Newton and Jordan proposed the following Amendment No. 2 to S. 1046 (LC-1046.AHB0086H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 5 and inserting:

SECTION 5. This act takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. JORDAN explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Rep. King proposed the following Amendment No. 3 to S. 1046 (LC-1046.AHB0083H), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 2-19-5(A)(3)(a) and (b) and inserting:

_____ (a) one must be a retired judge from the statewide judicial system who shall serve as chairman; one must be a nonmember of the South Carolina Bar; and

_____ (b) the remaining appointees must be members in good standing of the South Carolina Bar with at least ten years' experience in the practice of law.

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. KING explained the amendment.

Rep. JORDAN spoke against the amendment and moved to table the amendment.

Rep. KING demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 92; Nays 22

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Beach	Bernstein
Blackwell	Brewer	Brittain
Burns	Bustos	Calhoon
Carter	Caskey	Chapman
Chumley	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Elliott	Erickson
Felder	Forrest	Gagnon
Gatch	Gibson	Gilliam
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hyde
J. E. Johnson	S. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	Landing	Lawson
Leber	Ligon	Long

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Lowe	Magnuson	May
McCabe	McCrary	McGinnis
Mitchell	T. Moore	A. M. Morgan
T. A. Morgan	Moss	Murphy
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Nutt	O'Neal	Oremus
Pace	Pedalino	Pope
Robbins	Rose	Rutherford
Sandifer	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Stavrinakis
Taylor	Trantham	Vaughan
West	Wetmore	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Willis
Wooten	Yow	

Total--92

Those who voted in the negative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Bauer
Cobb-Hunter	Dillard	Garvin
Gilliard	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Hosey	Jefferson	J. L. Johnson
W. Jones	King	Kirby
McDaniel	J. Moore	Ott
Rivers	Spann-Wilder	Weeks
Williams		

Total--22

So, the amendment was tabled.

Rep. A. M. Morgan proposed the following Amendment No. 5 to S. 1046 (LC-1046.AHB0087H), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. Chapter 1, Title 2 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 2-1-105. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, after July 1, 2024, a person may not be elected or appointed to a judicial office that is filled by election or appointment of the General Assembly if that person is an immediate family member of a:

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(1) sitting member of the General Assembly; or

(2) former member of the General Assembly whose most recent term of legislative service ended less than one year prior to the General Assembly's election or appointment of the office in question.

(B) The provisions of this section do not apply to an immediate family member of a sitting member of the General Assembly serving in a judicial office described in subsection (A) on the effective date of this section.

(C) For purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" is as defined in Section 2-17-10(7).

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. A. M. MORGAN explained the amendment.

Rep. A. M. MORGAN moved to table the amendment, which was agreed to.

Rep. Bamberg proposed the following Amendment No. 6 to S. 1046 (LC-1046.AHB0089H), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. No later than July 1, 2025, the House of Representatives and Senate shall create Joint Rules for the sole purpose of the conduction of Joint Assemblies for judicial elections pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 19, Title 2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each appoint four members from their bodies to develop appropriate Joint Rules pursuant this SECTION for review and adoption by each body.

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. BAMBERG explained the amendment.

Rep. BAMBERG moved to table the amendment, which was agreed to.

Rep. CASKEY spoke in favor of the Bill.

Rep. SPANN-WILDER spoke against the Bill.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 112; Nays 6

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bernstein	Blackwell	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Clyburn
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Felder	Forrest
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
Kirby	Landing	Lawson
Leber	Ligon	Long
Lowe	Magnuson	May
McCabe	McCrary	McGinnis
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Ott	Pace
Pedalino	Pendarvis	Pope
Robbins	Rose	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Stavrinakis	Taylor
Thigpen	Trantham	Vaughan
Weeks	West	Wetmore
Wheeler	White	Whitmire

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Williams
Yow

Willis

Wooten

Total--112

Those who voted in the negative are:

Hosey
Rivers

King
Rutherford

McDaniel
Spann-Wilder

Total--6

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

RECURRENCE TO THE MORNING HOUR

Rep. W. NEWTON moved that the House recur to the morning hour, which was agreed to.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5520 -- Rep. King: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF OGDEN ROAD IN YORK COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH HECKLE BOULEVARD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH HARRISON STREET "DAISY ROGERS MCDUFFIE ROAD" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS ROAD CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. BANNISTER, from the Greenville Delegation, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5388 -- Reps. Bannister, Elliott, Willis, W. Jones, Dillard, Vaughan and Haddon: A BILL TO AMEND ACT 919 OF 1928, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GREENVILLE AIRPORT COMMISSION, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS TO TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5534 -- Reps. Chapman, Thayer, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO THANK JOHN WILLIAM TUCKER, JR., AND RUTH SADLER HANEY FOR THEIR FAMILY'S GENEROUS DONATION OF A HISTORIC TRADITIONAL SOUTHERN LADDERBACK CHAIR TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5535 -- Reps. Bernstein, Bauer, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Beach, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones,

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HAMMOND SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2024 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5536 -- Reps. Rutherford, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF FOSTEEN "TINA" WARD HARRIFORD OF RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5537 -- Reps. Anderson, Alexander, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE REVEREND JUDY M. RICHARDSON FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE AS PRESIDING ELDER IN THE AME CHURCH AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5538 -- Rep. McCravy: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR KIM RODGERS, A MULTILINGUAL LANGUAGE SPECIALIST AT PINECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 50, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE DISTRICT'S 2024-2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5539 -- Rep. McCravy: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SARAH FUNKHOUSER, A FIRST GRADE TEACHER AT WOODFIELDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 50, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE DISTRICT'S 2024-2025 FIRST-YEAR TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5540 -- Reps. Bauer, Bernstein, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Beach, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE WALLIS BOND, A MATH INTERVENTIONIST AT BROCKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOR BEING SELECTED AS A 2024 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING STATE FINALIST.

The Resolution was adopted.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5541 -- Reps. Bustos, Bauer, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE ROSALEE COAXUM OF CHARLESTON COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER 91ST BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5542 -- Rep. King: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO HONOR MRS. DAISY ROGERS MCDUFFIE FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHE HAS MADE TO HER COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDRED SECOND BIRTHDAY.

The Resolution was adopted.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1315 -- Senators Campsen and Alexander: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO TAKE ALL PRACTICAL STEPS TO INCREASE THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL IN THE STATE, REGIONALLY, AND NATIONALLY.

The Concurrent Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were introduced, read the first time, and referred to appropriate committees:

H. 5543 -- Reps. Gilliard, Henegan and Rivers: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1-11-775 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE HEALTH PLAN MUST PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR LACTATION CARE AND SERVICES BEGINNING WITH THE 2025 PLAN YEAR, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SCOPE OF COVERAGE, TO PROHIBIT THE APPLICATION OF COST-SHARING PROVISIONS TO COVERED LACTATION CARE AND SERVICES, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS.

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

H. 5544 -- Reps. J. Moore and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE "SOUTH CAROLINA-COLOMBIA TRADE COMMISSION", TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5545 -- Reps. J. Moore and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE "SOUTH CAROLINA-TAIWAN TRADE COMMISSION", TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5546 -- Reps. J. Moore and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE "SOUTH CAROLINA-CARIBBEAN ISLANDS TRADE COMMISSION", TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 557--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

S. 557 -- Senators M. Johnson, Peeler, Kimbrell, Adams, Rice, Rankin, Reichenbach, Young, Loftis, Climer, Garrett, Alexander, Campsen and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-3477, RELATING TO THE APPRENTICE INCOME TAX CREDIT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT AND THE NUMBER OF YEARS IN WHICH IT MAY BE CLAIMED.

Rep. BANNISTER moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

H. 5101--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Joint Resolution were taken up for consideration:

H. 5101 -- Ways and Means Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, AND TO ALLOW UNEXPENDED FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS AND EXPENDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSES.

Rep. BANNISTER moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5023--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

H. 5023 -- Reps. Brewer, Gilliam, Lawson, Sessions, Schuessler, Hager, Hartnett, Gatch, Mitchell, Hewitt, Robbins, J. Moore, Wooten, Guffey, O'Neal, J. L. Johnson, Pedalino and B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 56-1-219 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE WORK ZONE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-15, RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINATIONS, SO AS TO REQUIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE WORK ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM COURSE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-130, RELATING TO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS AND BASIC AND CLASSIFIED LICENSES, SO AS TO REQUIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE WORK ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM COURSE.

Rep. ERICKSON moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

H. 5100--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate Amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration:

H. 5100 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Rep. BANNISTER moved to adjourn debate on the Senate Amendments, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5314--SENATE AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN

The Senate Amendments to the following Concurrent Resolution were taken up for consideration:

H. 5314 -- Reps. Haddon and Burns: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 25 (WHITE HORSE ROAD) AND SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 183 (SALUDA DAM ROAD) IN THE GREENVILLE COUNTY TOWN OF BEREA "HAROLD M. BATSON, JR. MEMORIAL INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Rep. HADDON explained the Senate Amendments.

The Senate Amendments were concurred in and a message was ordered sent to the Senate accordingly.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER granted Rep. MAGNUSON a leave of absence for the remainder of the day.

H. 4947--AMENDED AND ADOPTED

The following House Resolution was taken up:

H. 4947 -- Reps. Pace, A. M. Morgan, May, Trantham, Oremus, Magnuson, Kilmartin, Cromer, S. Jones, O'Neal, White, T. A. Morgan, Harris, McCabe and Beach: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CONCERNS RAISED BY GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT REGARDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS AND PROTECT THE STATES AND CONDEMN PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO FAITHFULLY EXECUTE IMMIGRATION LAWS ENACTED BY CONGRESS.

Rep. Caskey proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to H. 4947 (LC-4947.AHB0002H), which was adopted:

Amend the resolution, as and if amended, after the first paragraph by adding:

Whereas, on May 31, 2023, Governor Henry McMaster deployed South Carolina National Guard troops to help secure the southern border

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

of Texas; and

Whereas, these forces included The Honorable Travis Moore who served as the Battalion Commander for these troops during their deployment; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly authorized the expenditure, through the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act, of over \$1.4 million to support the efforts of the South Carolina National Guard; and

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. CASKEY explained the amendment.

Rep. PACE spoke against the amendment.

Rep. PACE moved to continue the Resolution.

Rep. BRITTAIN demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 7; Nays 100

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Beach	Cromer	Harris
S. Jones	O'Neal	Pace
White		

Total--7

Those who voted in the negative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Bamberg	Bannister	Bauer
Bernstein	Blackwell	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Carter	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Clyburn
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
Crawford	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Felder	Forrest
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Hager	Hardee	Hartnett
Hayes	Henderson-Myers	Herbkersman
Hewitt	Hiott	Hixon
Hosey	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson	W. Jones
Jordan	Kilmartin	King
Kirby	Landing	Lawson
Leber	Ligon	Long
Lowe	McCravy	McDaniel
McGinnis	Mitchell	J. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	Oremus
Ott	Pedalino	Pendarvis
Pope	Rivers	Robbins
Rose	Rutherford	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder	Taylor
Trantham	Vaughan	Weeks
West	Wheeler	Whitmire
Williams	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--100

So, the House refused to continue the Resolution.

Rep. BAMBERG spoke upon the amendment.

Rep. OTT spoke upon the amendment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER granted Rep. FORREST a leave of absence for the remainder of the day.

Rep. OTT continued speaking.

ACTING SPEAKER HIOTT IN CHAIR

Rep. OTT continued speaking.

The question then recurred to the adoption of the amendment.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Rep. CASKEY demanded the yeas and nays which were taken,
resulting as follows:

Yeas 98; Nays 12

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bannister	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Clyburn	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Elliott	Erickson
Felder	Gagnon	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Guest
Guffey	Haddon	Hager
Hardee	Harris	Hartnett
Hayes	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hosey
Hyde	Jefferson	J. E. Johnson
S. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
Kirby	Landing	Lawson
Leber	Ligon	Long
Lowe	May	McCabe
McCravy	McDaniel	McGinnis
Mitchell	A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan
Moss	Murphy	Neese
B. Newton	W. Newton	Nutt
O'Neal	Oremus	Ott
Pace	Pedalino	Pope
Robbins	Rose	Rutherford
Sandifer	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Taylor
Trantham	Vaughan	Weeks
West	Wetmore	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Willis
Wooten	Yow	

Total--98

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the negative are:

Dillard	Garvin	Henderson-Myers
J. L. Johnson	W. Jones	King
J. Moore	Pendarvis	Rivers
Spann-Wilder	Thigpen	Williams

Total--12

So, the amendment was adopted.

Rep. Caskey proposed the following Amendment No. 2 to H. 4947 (LC-4947.AHB0003H), which was adopted:

Amend the resolution, as and if amended, after the first paragraph by adding:

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly has previously enacted Act 280 of 2008, The South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act; and

Whereas, Act 280 of 2008 required the use of the E-Verify system for all business in South Carolina; and

Whereas, subsequent to the enactment of Act 280 of 2008, the South Carolina General Assembly has supported and funded the deployment and enforcement of the E-Verify system through the South Carolina Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation; and

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. CASKEY explained the amendment.

SPEAKER IN CHAIR

Rep. CASKEY continued speaking.

Rep. CASKEY spoke in favor of the amendment.

The question then recurred to the adoption of the amendment.

Rep. CASKEY demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 108; Nays 0

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bannister	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Collins	Connell	B. L. Cox
Crawford	Cromer	Davis
Dillard	Elliott	Erickson
Felder	Gagnon	Garvin
Gatch	Gibson	Gilliam
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Hayes	Herbkersman
Hewitt	Hiott	Hixon
Hosey	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Lowe	May
McCabe	McCrary	McDaniel
McGinnis	Mitchell	J. Moore
T. Moore	A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan
Moss	Murphy	Neese
B. Newton	W. Newton	Nutt
O'Neal	Oremus	Ott
Pace	Pedalino	Pendarvis
Pope	Rivers	Robbins
Rose	Rutherford	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder	Taylor
Thigpen	Trantham	Vaughan
Weeks	West	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Williams
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total--108

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the amendment was adopted.

Rep. Caskey proposed the following Amendment No. 3 to H. 4947 (LC-4947.AHB0004H), which was adopted:

Amend the resolution, as and if amended, after the first paragraph by adding:

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly has enacted Act 109 of 2024 permanently establishing The Immigration Enforcement Unit of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; and

Whereas, the General Appropriations Act of 2024-2025 will authorize funds to support the mission of The Immigration Enforcement Unit of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; and

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. CASKEY explained the amendment.

Rep. SANDIFER demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 101; Nays 2

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bannister	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Collins
Connell	B. L. Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Guest
Guffey	Haddon	Hager
Hardee	Harris	Hartnett
Hayes	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Hosey

[HJ]

178

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Hyde	Jefferson	J. E. Johnson
S. Jones	W. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Lowe	May
McCabe	McCrary	McGinnis
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Ott	Pace
Pedalino	Pendarvis	Pope
Robbins	Rose	Rutherford
Sandifer	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Taylor
Trantham	Vaughan	Weeks
West	Wheeler	White
Whitmire	Williams	Willis
Wooten	Yow	

Total—101

Those who voted in the negative are:

King	McDaniel
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Total--2

So, the amendment was adopted.

Rep. PACE spoke in favor of the Resolution.

The question then recurred to the adoption of the Resolution.

Rep. HIOTT demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 86; Nays 28

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Atkinson	Bailey	Ballentine
Bannister	Beach	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns

[HJ]

179

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Collins	Connell	B. L. Cox
Crawford	Cromer	Davis
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Gagnon	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hartnett	Hayes
Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Hyde	J. E. Johnson
S. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
Landing	Lawson	Leber
Ligon	Long	Lowe
May	McCabe	McCrary
McGinnis	Mitchell	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Pace	Pedalino
Pope	Robbins	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Taylor	Thigpen
Trantham	Vaughan	West
White	Whitmire	Willis
Wooten	Yow	

Total--86

Those who voted in the negative are:

Anderson	Bamberg	Bauer
Clyburn	Cobb-Hunter	Dillard
Garvin	Gilliard	Henderson-Myers
Hosey	Jefferson	J. L. Johnson
W. Jones	King	Kirby
McDaniel	J. Moore	Ott
Pendarvis	Rivers	Rose
Rutherford	Spann-Wilder	Stavrinakis

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Weeks	Wetmore	Wheeler
Williams		

Total--28

So, the House Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

RECORD FOR VOTING

I inadvertently voted in favor of H. 4947. I intended to vote against the adoption of the House Resolution.

Rep. Ivory Thigpen

S. 1267--ADOPTED AND RETURNED TO SENATE WITH CONCURRENCE

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1267 -- Senator Hembree: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY 17 FROM 8TH AVENUE NORTH TO STARWATCH DRIVE IN HORRY COUNTY "GEORGE RAYFORD VEREEN HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

The Concurrent Resolution was adopted and returned to the Senate with concurrence.

S. 1268--ADOPTED AND RETURNED TO SENATE WITH CONCURRENCE

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1268 -- Senator Matthews: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 315 IN JASPER COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 170 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 17 "BISHOP DELORIS M. YOUNG HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

The Concurrent Resolution was adopted and returned to the Senate with concurrence.

S. 1304--ADOPTED AND RETURNED TO SENATE WITH CONCURRENCE

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1304 -- Senator Jackson: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF BLUFF ROAD IN RICHLAND COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH WINDY DRIVE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH PINEVIEW DRIVE "DEPUTY SHERIFF JACOB ERIC SALRIN MEMORIAL WAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

The Concurrent Resolution was adopted and returned to the Senate with concurrence.

S. 1297--ADOPTED AND RETURNED TO SENATE WITH CONCURRENCE

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1297 -- Senator Cromer: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF BOUNDARY STREET AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 34 BYPASS (BOB LAKE BOULEVARD) IN NEWBERRY COUNTY "HENRY S. REEDER INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

The Concurrent Resolution was adopted and returned to the Senate with concurrence.

S. 1302--ADOPTED AND RETURNED TO SENATE WITH CONCURRENCE

The following Concurrent Resolution was taken up:

S. 1302 -- Senator Malloy: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 15 AND

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

BROWNTOWN ROAD IN LEE COUNTY "WALLACE A. 'BULL' BERRY INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

The Concurrent Resolution was adopted and returned to the Senate with concurrence.

H. 4116--CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

The General Assembly, Columbia, S.C., May 02, 2024

The COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE, to whom was referred:

H. 4116 -- Reps. Sandifer, M.M. Smith and King: TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 40-19-295 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE DIVIDING OF FEES OR OTHER COMPENSATION CHARGED OR RECEIVED BY LICENSEES OF THE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES WITH ANOTHER PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR LEGAL ENTITY FOR THE DELIVERY OR PERFORMANCE OF FUNERAL SERVICES; BY AMENDING SECTION 32-7-100, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS REGULATING PRENEED FUNERAL CONTRACTS, SO AS TO INCREASE FINE RANGES AND PERMANENTLY BAR PERSONS CONVICTED OF A FELONY FROM CONDUCTING PRENEED CONTRACT SALES; BY AMENDING SECTION 32-7-110, RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST UNLICENSED PRENEED CONTRACT SALES PROVIDERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE COMPLAINTS TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESPOND MAY BE WRITTEN OR ORAL; BY AMENDING SECTION 32-8-305, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS IN THE SAFE CREMATION ACT, SO AS TO REVISE A DEFINITION; BY AMENDING SECTION 32-8-360, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SAFE CREMATION ACT, SO AS TO INCREASE MONETARY FINES AND REQUIRE IMMEDIATE REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS TO THE BOARD; BY AMENDING SECTION 32-8-385, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS THAT CREMATORIES EMPLOY CERTAIN TRAINED STAFF TO PERFORM CREMATIONS, SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL CREMATIONS BE PERFORMED BY THESE TRAINED STAFF MEMBERS; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-20, RELATING TO

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

DEFINITIONS CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS, SO AS TO REVISE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-30, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT OF LICENSURE TO PRACTICE FUNERAL SERVICES, SO AS TO PROVIDE CONDUCT CONSTITUTING THE PRACTICE OF FUNERAL SERVICES INCLUDES PARTIES WHO EXERCISE ANY CONTROL OR AUTHORITY OVER A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO PROHIBIT CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, OR INDIVIDUALS IN WHOSE NAME APPEARS THE NAME OF A PERSON WITH A REVOKED OR LAPSED LICENSE FROM HAVING A LICENSE TO OPERATE A FUNERAL HOME; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-70, RELATING TO POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD, SO AS TO PROVIDE BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEES, OR EMPLOYEES MAY NOT BE LIABLE FOR ACTS PERFORMED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES IN THE ABSENCE OF MALICE SHOWN AND PROVEN IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-80, RELATING TO INSPECTORS EMPLOYED BY THE BOARD, SO AS TO INSTEAD REQUIRE THE BOARD TO EMPLOY AT LEAST TWO INVESTIGATORS WHO MAY BE LICENSED EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS WITH CERTAIN EXPERIENCE BUT WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DISCIPLINED; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-110, RELATING TO CONDUCT CONSTITUTING UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY A LICENSEE OF THE BOARD, SO AS TO MAKE GRAMMATICAL CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-115, RELATING TO JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD, SO AS TO INCLUDE UNLICENSED PERSONS WITH THIS JURISDICTION; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-200, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF FUNERAL SERVICES WITHOUT A LICENSE OR USING FALSE INFORMATION TO OBTAIN SUCH LICENSURE, SO AS TO INCREASE MONETARY FINES, AND TO SUBJECT PERSONS WHO AID AND ABET UNLICENSED PERSONS OR ENTITIES IN ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF FUNERAL SERVICE WITHOUT LICENSURE TO THESE PENALTIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-230, RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AS AN EMBALMER OR A FUNERAL DIRECTOR, SO AS TO REVISE

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-250, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN COURSEWORK IN ETHICS, TO REQUIRE FOUR HOURS OF TOTAL ANNUAL COURSEWORK, TO REQUIRE A CERTAIN PORTION OF THIS COURSEWORK TO BE IN ETHICS, AND TO REQUIRE A CERTAIN PORTION OF THIS COURSEWORK BE COMPLETED IN PERSON; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-265, RELATING TO FUNERAL HOME, BRANCH FUNERAL HOME, AND CREMATORY PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO REVISE MANAGER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-290, RELATING TO THE FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PAYMENTS RECEIVED FOR FUNERAL MERCHANDISE BEING PURCHASED, SO AS TO PROVIDE THESE PAYMENTS MUST BE KEPT IN A TRUST ACCOUNT UNTIL THE MERCHANDISE IS DELIVERED FOR ITS INTENDED USE OR IS DELIVERED INTO THE PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF THE PURCHASER; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40-19-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF EMBALMERS, FUNERAL DIRECTORS, AND RELATED FACILITIES, SO AS TO REVISE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.

Beg leave to report that they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend:

That the same do pass with the following amendments:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 40 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 40-19-295. No licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked, or who has applied for a license but whose application has been denied, may participate in any manner in a business licensed by the board until that person has obtained a license or the person's license has been restored. No business licensed by the board may permit or allow a person whose license has been suspended or revoked, or any person who has applied for a license but whose application has been denied, to participate in any manner in the business licensed by the board.

SECTION 2. Section 32-7-100(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(A) A person wilfully violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a:

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(1) misdemeanor, if the value of money obtained or sought to be obtained is ~~two~~ ten thousand dollars or less and, upon conviction ~~or plea~~, the person ~~must~~ may be fined ~~not less than one five up to twenty-five thousand dollars~~, or imprisoned for not more than ~~thirty days~~ six months, or both;

~~(2) felony, if the value of money obtained or sought to be obtained is more than two thousand dollars but less than ten thousand dollars, and, upon conviction, the person must be fined in the discretion of the court, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both;~~

~~(3) felony, if the value of money obtained or sought to be obtained is more than ten thousand dollars or more, and, upon conviction or plea, the person must be fined in the discretion of the court in an amount not less than twenty-five thousand dollars, or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both;~~

~~(4)(3) in addition, a person convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony pursuant to this section may be prohibited from entering into further preneed funeral contracts, if the department, in its discretion, finds that the offense is sufficiently grievous. A person convicted of a felony pursuant to this chapter is subject to the following additional penalties when the value of the money obtained or sought to be obtained is:~~

~~(a) twenty-five thousand dollars or less, upon conviction or plea, the person is subject to a two year suspension from conducting preneed funeral contract sales, and restitution as may be ordered by the court;~~

~~(b) greater than twenty-five thousand dollars, but less than one hundred thousand dollars, upon conviction or plea, the person is subject to a five year suspension from conducting preneed funeral contract sales, and restitution as may be ordered by the court;~~

~~(c) greater than one hundred thousand dollars, upon conviction or plea, the person is subject to a ten year suspension from conducting preneed funeral contract sales, and restitution as may be ordered by the court.~~

SECTION 3. Section 32-7-110(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(B)(1) Upon its own initiative or upon receipt of a written complaint, the department shall investigate a funeral home, funeral director, individual, or business the department has reason to believe is acting as a provider without a license. In order to conduct its investigation, the department shall review the books, records, and accounts of:

~~(1)(a)~~ a funeral home or funeral director licensed by the State Board of Funeral Service even if the funeral home or funeral director is not licensed to sell preneed funeral contracts; ~~2~~ or

~~(2)(b)~~ an individual or business the department has reason to

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

believe is acting as a provider without a license. If the department discovers that a violation of this chapter has occurred by a funeral home, funeral director, individual, or business that is not licensed to sell preneed funeral contracts, the department may initiate an action for a violation of this chapter in the Administrative Law Court for a cease and desist order or assess an administrative fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars, or both.

(2) A person aggrieved by an order of the department may request a contested case hearing before the Administrative Law Court.

SECTION 4. Section 32-8-305(9) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(9) "Cremation" means the technical process using either alkaline hydrolysis or heat and flame that reduces human remains to components of either liquid and bone, or bone fragments, and which may include the pulverization of the bone fragments.

SECTION 5. Section 32-8-360(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(B) A person who violates a provision of this chapter is subject to a civil fine ~~not to exceed five~~ of up to twenty-five thousand dollars. A licensed funeral director or embalmer who violates a provision of this chapter must be reported to the State Board of Funeral Service for immediate investigation and disciplinary proceedings.

SECTION 6. Section 32-8-385 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 32-8-385. ~~(A)~~ A crematory is required to have in its employ at least one individual who has been trained in performing cremations by the licensed crematory authority who is his employer, and also by the manufacturer of the equipment to be used to perform cremations, or by some other appropriate method as provided by regulation of the board. Upon meeting the ~~above~~ requirements of this section, this individual is considered to be sufficiently trained for the purposes of this chapter. All cremations must be performed by a trained individual who has registered with the board.

(B) To be registered with the board, the individual must:

(1) complete an application in the format prescribed by the board;

(2) successfully complete a crematory operator training course approved by the board of not less than eight hours instructional time;

(3) have not been convicted of or pled guilty to a crime that directly relates to the duties, responsibilities, or fitness of the occupation or profession; and

(4) pay a fee as established in regulation not to exceed fifty dollars.

(C) Registrations under this section must be renewed every two years by submitting a renewal application and paying a renewal fee established in regulation not to exceed fifty dollars.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(D) Registered trained individuals are subject to applicable provisions of Sections 40-1-110, Chapter 19 of Title 40, Chapter 8 of Title 32, and board regulations.

SECTION 7. Section 40-19-20(11) and (21) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(11) “Funeral director” means a person licensed by the board to engage for hire, for direct or indirect compensation, or for profit in or benefit and in exchange for or related to the profession of arranging, directing, or supervising funerals.

(21) “Owner” means a sole proprietor, partnership, limited partnership, corporation, limited liability corporation, or any business entity possessing authority ~~and~~ or control over a funeral establishment or its employees, agents, or representatives.

SECTION 8. Section 40-19-30 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-30. (A) It is unlawful for a person to engage in the practice of funeral service unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter. A person who engages or participates actively in directing or in the management of a funeral establishment is considered to be in the practice of funeral service.

(B) No permit to operate a funeral home may be issued to a corporation, partnership, or individual when the name of either an unlicensed person or a person whose license has been revoked or is suspended appears in the name of the corporation, partnership, or individually owned business. This prohibition does not apply to established funeral homes existing prior to July 1, 1969.

SECTION 9. Section 40-19-70 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-70. In addition to the powers and duties provided for in this chapter, the board also has those powers and duties set forth in Section 40-1-70. A member of the board, or its committees or employees, may not be liable for acts performed in the course of their official duties, except when gross negligence is shown and proven in a court of competent jurisdiction in this State.

SECTION 10. Section 40-19-80 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-80. The board shall employ ~~an inspector~~ at least two inspectors who must be ~~a licensed embalmer-embalmers and funeral director~~ funeral directors with ~~not no~~ not no fewer than five consecutive years’ experience as a licensee under this chapter but who have not been disciplined during the time of their past or current licensure under this chapter.

SECTION 11. Section 40-19-110(9) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(9) refusing to properly release a dead human body to the custody of the person or entity ~~who~~ that has the legal right to ~~effect~~ affect a release. The release must include payment for the actual services provided by the initial funeral home as transferor of the dead human body over to the receiving transferee. The receiving transferee funeral home is responsible for the payment to the transferring funeral home at the time of the transfer of the dead human body;

SECTION 12. Section 40-19-115 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-115. The board has jurisdiction over the actions of licensees, unlicensed persons, and former licensees as provided for in Section 40-1-115.

SECTION 13. Section 40-19-200 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-200. A person who practices or offers to practice funeral service or who aids and abets any unlicensed person or unlicensed entity to engage in the practice of funeral service in this State in violation of this chapter or who knowingly submits false information for the purpose of obtaining a license is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, ~~must~~may be fined ~~not less than five hundred ten thousand dollars or more than twenty-five hundred twenty-five thousand up to twenty-five thousand~~ up to twenty-five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

SECTION 14. Section 40-19-230(A) and (B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-230. (A) A person may be issued a license as an embalmer if the person:

(1) is at least eighteen years of age;

(2) has not been convicted of ~~a violent crime or found guilty of a felony or crime of moral turpitude~~ or pled guilty to a crime that directly relates to the duties, responsibilities, or fitness of the occupation or profession;

(3) has a high school education or the equivalent of a high school education, the equivalence to be determined by the board;

(4) has completed successfully a regular course in an embalming college accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and approved by the board;

(5) has completed a minimum of twenty-four months of service pursuant to Section 40-19-240 as an ~~apprentice~~ under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer actively engaged in the practice of embalming in this State;

(6) has passed an examination prescribed by the board.

(B) A person may be issued a license as a funeral director if the person:

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(1) is at least eighteen years of age;

(2) has not been convicted of a ~~violent crime or found guilty of a felony or crime of moral turpitude~~ or pled guilty to a crime that directly relates to the duties, responsibilities, or fitness of the occupation or profession;

(3) has a high school education or the equivalent of a high school education and has a minimum of two years of successful attendance at an accredited academic college or successful completion of a regular course of not less than one year, twelve scholastic months, in an accredited mortuary college;

(4) has completed a minimum of twenty-four months of service pursuant to Section 40-19-240 as an ~~apprentice~~ funeral director under the direct supervision of a licensed funeral director actively engaged in the practice of funeral directing in this State;

(5) has passed an examination prescribed by the board.

SECTION 15. Section 40-19-250 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-250. The board shall develop in regulation a continuing education program and each licensee must attend a minimum of ~~three~~ four credit hours annually, of which one credit hour must be an ethics in funeral service course. This continuing education program must be offered, at a minimum, four times a year at locations easily accessible to participants, ~~and three~~ Three of the four required hours must be available through correspondence courses, with at least two of the four hours requiring the physical attendance of the licensee. This continuing education requirement does not apply to a person who is not the manager of record of a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary if the person has been licensed for thirty or more years ~~or~~ and is sixty years old or older.

SECTION 16. Section 40-19-265 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 40-19-265. (A) A permit for a funeral home may be issued if the applicant:

(1) submits an application on a form approved by the board;

(2) submits to and successfully passes an inspection approved by the board;

(3) submits the applicable nonrefundable fee;

(4) designates a manager who meets the requirements of Section 40-19-20(16) and is current and in good standing with the board and lives within a radius of ~~twenty-five~~ seventy-five miles of the establishment;

(5) possesses the necessary equipment or merchandise, or both, required by regulation;

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

(6) is in full compliance with Section 40-19-290.

(B) A permit for a branch funeral home may be issued if the applicant:

(1) submits an application on a form approved by the board;

(2) submits to and successfully passes an inspection approved by the board;

(3) submits the applicable nonrefundable fee;

(4) designates a manager who meets the requirements of Section 40-19-20(16) and is current and in good standing with the board and lives within a radius of ~~twenty-five~~seventy-five miles of the establishment;

(5) possesses the necessary equipment or merchandise, or both, required by regulation;

(6) is in full compliance with Section 40-19-290;

(7) provides the name of the parent funeral home.

(C) A permit for a retail sales outlet may be issued if the applicant:

(1) submits an application on a form approved by the board;

(2) submits to and successfully passes an inspection approved by the board;

(3) submits the applicable nonrefundable fee;

(4) is in full compliance with Section 40-19-290.

(D) A permit for a crematory may be issued if the applicant:

(1) submits an application on a form approved by the board;

(2) submits to and successfully passes an inspection approved by the board;

(3) submits the applicable nonrefundable fee;

(4) designates a manager who meets the requirements of Section 40-19-20(16) and is current and in good standing with the board and lives within a radius of ~~twenty-five~~seventy-five miles of the establishment;

(5) possesses the necessary equipment or merchandise, or both, required by regulation;

(6) is in full compliance with Section 40-19-290;

(7) provides evidence of employment of a factory trained operator.

(E) An application for a permit issued pursuant to this section must identify every person having the ability to direct the management or policies, or both, of the funeral establishment including, but not limited to, corporate officers employed, shareholders, partners, and other representatives of the corporation or business.

SECTION 17. Section 40-19-20(6) and (7) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(6) "Cremation" means ~~the reduction of the dead body by intense heat~~

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

~~to residue~~the technical process using either alkaline hydrolysis or heat and flame that reduces human remains to components of either liquid and bone, or bone fragments, and which may include the pulverization of the bone fragments.

(7) "Crematory" means an establishment in which ~~the dead body is reduced to residue by intense heat~~cremation occurs.

SECTION 18. Section 40-19-290(E) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(E) Other than payments received for at-need funeral merchandise and funeral services, all payments received by any establishment licensed under this chapter for funeral merchandise being purchased must be placed in a trust account in a federally insured institution until the merchandise is delivered for its intended funeral services use as provided in the contract and in accordance with the sales agreement ~~or in the physical possession of the purchaser~~. Upon its own initiative or upon receipt of a complaint, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs shall undertake investigations; review the books, records, and accounts of any establishment licensed under this chapter; subpoena witnesses; require audits and reports; and conduct hearings to determine if payments are being received in violation of the provisions of Chapter 7, Title 32.

SECTION 19. Section 40-19-20(12)(c) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(c) ~~a room containing a displayed stock of at least six adult~~ means of showing photographs or other representations of available caskets and other necessary funeral supplies;

SECTION 20. This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

Amend title to conform.

/s/Sen. Allen

/s/Senator Climer

/s/Senator Goldfinch

On part of the Senate.

/s/Rep. Sandifer

/s/Rep. M.M. Smith

/s/Rep. King

On part of the House.

Rep. SANDIFER explained the Conference Report.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 108; Nays 0

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bamberg	Bannister
Bauer	Beach	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Chapman	Cobb-Hunter	Collins
Connell	B. L. Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Hartnett
Hayes	Henderson-Myers	Herbkersman
Hewitt	Hiott	Hixon
Hosey	Hyde	Jefferson
J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Lowe	May
McCravy	McDaniel	McGinnis
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Ott	Pedalino
Pendarvis	Pope	Rivers
Robbins	Rose	Rutherford
Sandifer	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder
Stavrinakis	Taylor	Thigpen
Trantham	Vaughan	Weeks
West	Wetmore	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Williams
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total--108

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

The Conference Report was adopted and a message was ordered sent to the Senate accordingly.

MOTION PERIOD

The motion period was dispensed with on motion of Rep. HIOTT.

S. 915--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 915 -- Senators Peeler, Alexander, Setzler, Verdin, Davis, Hutto, Kimbrell, Young, Senn, Fanning and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO CREATE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND POLICY AND PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AGENCY; BY AMENDING SECTION 1-30-10, RELATING TO DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO DISSOLVE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS AND CREATE THE STATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLICY; BY AMENDING SECTION 8-17-370, RELATING TO THE MEDIATION OF GRIEVANCES BY THE STATE HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR SO AS TO ADD THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND POLICY, THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPONENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND POLICY, AND ALL DIRECT REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO DIRECTORS OF THE COMPONENT DEPARTMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 43-21-70, RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND POLICY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING; AND TO REPEAL TITLE 44, CHAPTER 9 RELATING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

Rep. HIOTT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 5438--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Joint Resolution was taken up:

H. 5438 -- Reps. Hiott, McCravy and Magnuson: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, RELATING TO SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM LIBRARY MATERIALS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5269, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

Rep. HIOTT moved to adjourn debate on the Joint Resolution, which was agreed to.

S. 1017--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1017 -- Senators M. Johnson, Peeler, Climer, Setzler and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-37-220, RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OF A NONPROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION ONLY APPLIES TO THE PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY THAT EQUALS THE CORPORATION'S OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CERTIFICATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 12-37-160 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY ASSESSED AS AGRICULTURAL OR RELATED THERETO MAY NOT BE ANNEXED BY A MUNICIPALITY.

The Committee on Ways and Means proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 1017 (LC-1017.DG0005H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1.A., by striking Section 12-37-220(B)(11)(e)(ii)(B) and inserting:

(B) notwithstanding the unit mix prescribed by the safe harbor provisions of Revenue Procedure 96-32, all of the units in the property are devoted to providing housing to residents who qualify as low income under Revenue Procedure 96-32, then the exemption allowed by this subitem equals one hundred percent, unless, as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

property is located within a zip code in a metropolitan area which uses the Small Area Fair Market Rents, and such metropolitan area includes any municipality located in the State of North Carolina with a population of five hundred thousand or more residents in which case the phrase “residents who qualify as low income” shall be replaced with “residents who do not exceed 130% of the very-low income limit”;

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. HEWITT explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Rep. Ballentine proposed the following Amendment No. 2 to S. 1017 (LC-1017.SA0006H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. Section 12-37-220(B)(53) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(53) a renewable energy resource property ~~having a nameplate capacity of and operating at no greater than twenty kilowatts, as measured in alternating current for a customer-generator.~~ For purposes of this item, “renewable energy resource” and “customer-generator” means property as defined in Section 58-40-10 includes solar energy equipment, facilities, or devices that support, collect, generate, transfer, monitor, or store thermal or electric energy. ~~This definition includes including,~~ but ~~is~~ not limited to, all components that enhance the operational characteristics of the generating equipment, such as an advanced inverter or battery storage device, and equipment required to meet all applicable safety, performance, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the commission, the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Underwriters Laboratories, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and any local governing authorities.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. BALLENTINE explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Rep. Ott proposed the following Amendment No. 3 to S. 1017 (LC-1017.DG0007H), which was adopted:

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 2, by striking Section 12-37-160 and inserting:

Section 12-37-160. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any real property upon which farm buildings or agricultural structures exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 12-37-220(B)(14) are situated or any real property that is assessed pursuant to Section 12-43-220(d), or any real property under direct or indirect common ownership that is adjacent to the exempt property, may not be annexed by a municipality without the express written agreement of the owner of the real property to be annexed.

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. OTT explained the amendment.
The amendment was then adopted.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:
Yeas 110; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bannister	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Cobb-Hunter	Collins	Connell
B. L. Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Elliott
Erickson	Gagnon	Garvin
Gatch	Gibson	Gilliam
Gilliard	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hartnett	Hayes
Henderson-Myers	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Hosey	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	S. Jones
W. Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Lowe	May
McCabe	McCrary	McDaniel
McGinnis	Mitchell	J. Moore
T. Moore	A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan
Moss	Murphy	Neese
B. Newton	W. Newton	Nutt
O'Neal	Oremus	Ott
Pace	Pedalino	Pendarvis
Pope	Rivers	Robbins
Rose	Rutherford	Sandifer
Schuessler	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Spann-Wilder	Stavrinakis
Taylor	Thigpen	Trantham
Vaughan	Weeks	West
Wetmore	Wheeler	White
Whitmire	Williams	Willis
Wooten	Yow	

Total--110

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

S. 1--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1 -- Senators Alexander, Turner, Senn, Young, Gustafson, Peeler, Setzler, Rankin, Adams, Bennett, Climer, Campsen and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 16-3-80 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF DRUG-INDUCED HOMICIDE, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION, AND TO PROHIBIT AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-1-10, RELATING TO A LIST OF EXCEPTIONS FOR FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS, SO AS TO ADD DRUG-INDUCED HOMICIDE; AND BY AMENDING

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

SECTION 44-53-190, RELATING TO SCHEDULE I DRUGS, SO AS TO ADD FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Rep. HIOTT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

S. 1021--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 1021 -- Senators Davis, Matthews and Campsen: A BILL TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ABANDONED BUILDINGS REVITALIZATION ACT TO 2035; AND TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-67-140, RELATING TO THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS TAX CREDIT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE MAXIMUM TAX CREDIT THAT MAY BE EARNED.

Rep. HIOTT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

S. 577--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 577 -- Senator Alexander: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-8-530, SECTION 12-8-540, SECTION 12-8-570, SECTION 12-8-580, AND SECTION 12-8-595, ALL RELATING TO THE WITHHOLDING OF INCOME TAXES, SO AS TO UPDATE A REFERENCE TO THE TOP MARGINAL INCOME TAX RATE.

Rep. HIOTT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

S. 862--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 862 -- Senators Shealy and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 63-13-30, RELATING TO CAREGIVER REQUIREMENTS, SO AS

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

TO PROVIDE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PRE-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

The Committee on Education and Public Works proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to S. 862 (LC-862.VR0004H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 63-13-30(A) and inserting:

(A) A caregiver ~~who begins employment~~ in a licensed or approved childcare center in South Carolina ~~after June 30, 1994~~, must have at least a high school diploma ~~or General Educational Development (GED), a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a South Carolina High School Employability Credential~~ and at least six months' experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved childcare facility. ~~If a caregiver does not meet the experience requirements, the caregiver must be directly supervised for six months by a staff person with at least one year experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved childcare facility. Within six three months thirty days of being employed, a caregiver must have six clock hours of training in child growth and development and early childhood education or shall continue to be under the direct supervision of a caregiver who has at least one year of experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved childcare facility complete fifteen hours of health and safety service provider training. The caregiver shall be directly supervised for a period of at least thirty days by a staff person with at least one year of experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved childcare facility and until such time as the caregiver has completed the required health and safety service provider training, provided the caregiver is also in compliance with Section 63-13-40 relating to required background checks.~~

Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, by striking Section 63-13-30(B) and inserting:

(B) A caregiver who has ~~two years'~~ a high school diploma, a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State Board of Education, Certificate of Completion, or a South Carolina High School Employability Credential and at least six months' experience as a caregiver in a licensed or approved facility ~~and is employed as of July 1, 1994, in a licensed or approved childcare center in South Carolina~~ is exempt from the ~~high school diploma and General Educational Development (GED)~~ requirements of subsection (A).

Amend the bill further, by adding appropriately numbered

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

SECTIONS to read:

SECTION X. Section 63-13-20 (7), (22), (23), and (26) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(7) “Complaint” means a written statement ~~reporting as defined in 45 CFR 98.33(a)(4) that reports~~ unsatisfactory conditions in a childcare facility but does not include a self-reported incident made by an agent or representative of the facility.

(22) “Regular approval” means a written notice issued by the department for a ~~two-year~~ three-year period to a department, agency, or institution of the State, or a county, city, or other political subdivision, approving the operation of a public childcare center or group childcare home in accordance with the provisions of the notice, this chapter, and the regulations of the department. The department shall begin issuing the written notices for regular approval beginning with the calendar year 2025.

(23) “Regular license” means a license issued by the department for ~~two~~ three years to an operator of a private childcare center or group childcare home or a family childcare home which elects to be licensed showing that the licensee is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and the regulations of the department at the time of issuance and authorizing the licensee to operate in accordance with the license, this chapter, and the regulations of the department. The department shall begin issuing the written notices for regular approval beginning with the calendar year 2025.

(26) “Renewal” means in regard to childcare centers and group childcare homes, to grant an extension of a regular license or regular approval for another ~~two-year~~ three-year period provided an investigation of such facilities verifies that they are in compliance with the applicable regulations, in regard to family childcare homes, to place the name of the operator on the registration list for another year provided procedures indicated in this chapter have been completed. The department shall begin issuing the written notices for regular approval beginning with the calendar year 2025.

SECTION X. Article 1, Chapter 13, Title 63 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 63-13-125. (A) An operator of a private childcare facility and any person employed by or who contracts with an operator of a private childcare facility to provide direct childcare, annually shall complete and provide documentation to the Department of Social Services of a minimum of fifteen hours of training approved by the department. Individuals who have operated, or been employed by, a

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

private childcare facility for more five years are required to receive a minimum of ten hours of training per year. Individuals who have operated, or been employed by, a private childcare facility for more than twenty years are exempt from this requirement except for required health and safety training.

(B) The Office of First Steps to School Readiness, the South Carolina Department of Education, and the Department of Social Services may offer up to five hours of the ten hours virtually each year.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. ERICKSON explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE IN CHAIR

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 108; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Anderson	Atkinson	Bailey
Ballentine	Bannister	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Blackwell
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Carter
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley
Cobb-Hunter	B. L. Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Elliott	Erickson	Felder
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Hosey	Hyde
Jefferson	J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson
S. Jones	W. Jones	Jordan
Kilmartin	Kirby	Landing

[HJ]

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Lawson	Leber	Ligon
Long	Lowe	May
McCabe	McDaniel	McGinnis
Mitchell	J. Moore	T. Moore
A. M. Morgan	T. A. Morgan	Moss
Murphy	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Nutt	O'Neal
Oremus	Ott	Pace
Pedalino	Pendarvis	Pope
Rivers	Robbins	Rose
Rutherford	Sandifer	Schuessler
Sessions	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Spann-Wilder	Stavrinakis	Taylor
Trantham	Vaughan	Weeks
West	Wetmore	Wheeler
White	Whitmire	Williams
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total--108

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

Rep. B. NEWTON moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:04 p.m. the House, in accordance with the motion of Rep. WHITE, adjourned in memory of Robert Wayne Kneece, to meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

H. 4116	183	H. 5546	170
H. 4947 ..	137, 172, 176, 178	S. 1	198
H. 4947	181	S. 1	198
H. 5023	136, 171	S. 112	127
H. 5100	137, 171	S. 125	131
H. 5101	136, 170	S. 134	115
H. 5170	14	S. 207	130
H. 5314	137, 172	S. 241	109
H. 5388	163	S. 434	132
H. 5438	14, 140, 195	S. 445	110
H. 5511	1	S. 455	110
H. 5512	2	S. 557	135, 170
H. 5513	3	S. 558	111
H. 5514	4	S. 577	104, 199
H. 5515	4	S. 700	133
H. 5516	5	S. 728	16
H. 5517	6	S. 841	126
H. 5518	6	S. 858	111
H. 5519	7	S. 862	109, 199
H. 5520	8, 163	S. 881	132
H. 5521	9	S. 903	116
H. 5522	119	S. 915	140, 194
H. 5523	120	S. 946	109
H. 5524	121	S. 947	128
H. 5525	121	S. 954	127
H. 5526	122	S. 955	116
H. 5527	123	S. 968	131
H. 5528	123	S. 969	104
H. 5529	124	S. 974	131
H. 5530	124	S. 1001	117, 119
H. 5531	124	S. 1017	141, 195, 196
H. 5532	125	S. 1021	103, 199
H. 5533	126	S. 1046 ..	141, 142, 158, 159
H. 5534	164	S. 1046	160, 161
H. 5535	164	S. 1051	115
H. 5536	165	S. 1074	114
H. 5537	166	S. 1099	133
H. 5538	166	S. 1166	128
H. 5539	167	S. 1188	115
H. 5540	167	S. 1234	119
H. 5541	168	S. 1267	138, 181
H. 5542	168	S. 1268	138, 181
H. 5543	169	S. 1292	14, 15
H. 5544	169	S. 1297	139, 182
H. 5545	169		

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

S. 1302.....	139, 182
S. 1304.....	138, 182
S. 1315.....	169
S. 1319.....	8
S. 1322.....	8