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**HOUSE WEEK IN REVIEW**

The House of Representatives postponed most of the week’s legislative work due to the inclement weather experienced in portions of the state.

The Senate took up the Governor’s vetoes on **H.3720**, the General Appropriation Bill for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 **STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGET**, that the House of Representatives previously voted to override. In addressing vetoes, legislators had to contend with a revenue shortfall that has left the state with approximately $34 million less in non-recurring spending than the estimates from the Board of Economic Advisers that were used in approving the budget. The Senate voted to sustain some of the Governor’s vetoes and voted to override vetoes on other items, including Education Lottery Funds devoted to leasing and purchasing new school buses in the amounts of $17.5 million from the Lottery Expenditure Account and $3 million in unclaimed prize money along with whatever balance may remain in the unclaimed prize fund. The overriding of a budget veto by both the House and Senate allows for the funds to be appropriated.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION**

**EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The full committee gave a favorable (as amended) report to **H.3068**, the "**UNIFORM ATHLETE AGENTS ACT OF 2017**". This bill updates protection of student athletes and makes extensive changes to the elements of the athlete - agent relationship. The substantial changes include the definitions of athlete agent and student agent, definitions of licensure and representation, clarifications regarding signing, requires more information regarding registering with the Department of Consumer Affairs (including social media accounts - noting the expanded impact of social media on the solicitation and recruitment of student athletes by athlete agents) and also includes information regarding previous convictions and bankruptcies. The provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act apply. More direct powers are given to the Department for the suspension or revocations of registrations. The bill also requires clear notices associated with the signing of athletes to athletic directors. Educational institutions or student athletes may bring actions if the athlete is adversely impacted by actions or omissions of the agent. There are also provisions regarding reciprocal registration between states and adds new requirements to signing agent contracts. The committee deleted the Interstate Registration of Athlete Agents Compact as that compact is not active yet.

The full committee gave a favorable (as amended) report to **H.3920**, **REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE,** which provides that beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, all public schools, including charter schools, shall post at least five signs that provide telephone numbers and related information for reporting incidents of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In addition, the category of “exploitation” is added to the mandate that the Department of Social Services maintain a toll-free number available throughout the State for the referral of family-related problems.

**JUDICIARY**

The full committee gave a favorable report to **S.105 AUTOMATIC ORDER STAYS IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT.** Under it,any party affected by an Administrative Law Court [ALC] automatic stay could petition for relief from it 90 days after the ALC contested action has been commenced. The hearing on any petition for relief from a stay would have to be held within 30 days after it is requested. These ALC cases must be resolved within twelve (12) months after their commencement; however, with written consent between the parties, it could take longer. Nothing in this legislation applies to lifting stays on permits or licenses involving hazardous waste operations. Frivolous filings could be sanctioned under the South Carolina Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanctions Act.

They gave a favorable recommendation, with amendments to **H.3699** **SHARING CHILDREN’S HEALTH INFORMATION WITH CAREGIVERS** that would remove prohibitions from sharing with foster parents, or other caregivers, the medical, mental health, and other known, or reasonably obtainable, information about children necessary to provide them with adequate care. This disclosure requirement applies to abuse and neglect cases, placements, or adoptions. Adds additional immunity protections for anyone who reports suspected child abuse or neglect.

They also gave a favorable recommendation, with amendments to **H.3701** **KINSHIP FOSTER PARENTS**, which would requirethe South Carolina Department of Social Services [SCDSS] to inform relatives of children, who are placed with them, about opportunities to become licensed foster parents. Potential kinship foster parents would be required to undergo background checks that include checking the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect cases. Sets forth the responsibilities of kinship foster parents. This kinship care would be monitored by SCDSS. The agency would also have to maintain specified kinship foster care data. Adds to the definitions of ‘child abuse or neglect’ and ‘harm’ all children victimized by human trafficking, including sex trafficking.

**BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE**

**HOUSE THIS WEEK**

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

 **H.4627** ***SOUTH CAROLINA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM* Rep. Pitts**

Among many things, the legislation revises the number of permits to grow industrial hemp that may be issued per year and the number of acres that may be cultivated. It provides for annual renewal of registration by a permit holder. The legislation also establishes the South Carolina Hemp Advisory Committee to assist the Department of Agriculture in developing the industrial hemp industry, including, but not limited to, identifying solutions for applications, applicants, growing industrial hemp, processing industrial hemp, economic development, and for new market opportunities.

**EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

 **H.4618 *DEALER PLATES* Rep. Willis**

This bill reduces the minimum number of motor vehicle sales a dealer must make before he may be issued a dealer plate (and the number of motor vehicles he must sell before he may be issued additional dealer plates). The bill also reduces the number of motor vehicles that must be sold by a dealer participating in a manufacturer program to obtain additional plates.

**JUDICIARY**

 **H.4629 *EXECUTION TEAM AND EXECUTION DRUGS CONFIDENTIALITY***

**Rep.Tallon**

Under this legislation, the definition of ‘executive team’ would be expanded to include the identification of a people or entities participating in planning, or administering, a death sentence. Their information would be considered strictly confidential. No one could disclose either the identifying information or any details about the procurement of materials for, or the administration of, a death sentence. The term ‘identifying information’ would have to be broadly construed to cover a host of information. No court-ordered release of this information could be made. Acquiring the drugs or medical supplies necessary to execute a death sentence would no longer be under the state procurement code. In the event these drugs or medical supplies would have to be obtained from an out-of-state supplier, then there would no longer be any required licensing by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, or any other state entity, before doing so.

**LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

 **H.4628 *TELEMARKETERS PROHIBITED FROM MAKING FALSE USE OF***

 ***SOUTH CAROLINA AREA CODES* Rep. Martin**

This bill establishes prohibitions against the practice of falsifying caller identification system information known as spoofing, by disallowing a telemarketer or telephone solicitor from making a consumer telephone call with a telephone number that displays a South Carolina area code on the recipient’s caller identification system unless the telemarketer or telephone solicitor maintains a physical presence in the state. The legislation establishes remedies for violations.

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