**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**(Statewide Session)**

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Indicates New Matter

 The Senate assembled at 11:00 A.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

 A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

Proverbs 19:4

 In the Book of Proverbs we are told that: “Wealth brings many friends, but the poor are left friendless.”

 Join me as we bow in prayer: O loving Lord, we fully realize the blessings that are ours. Compared to those in many other places around the globe, we are a richly blessed people; we know that. For Your gifts to us are humbling; they touch our lives in so very many meaningful ways. Yet even as we affirm this in our prayer today, we know that not every South Carolinian shares in the blessings a good number of us take for granted. Sadly, far too many of our fellow citizens have very little. So that is why today, Lord, we ask You to embrace in Your care the needy around us: the poor, the forgotten, the disadvantaged. May this Senate, Lord -- may each of us -- care for all of our sisters and brothers in ways that are genuinely meaningful and loving, doing so in Your wondrous name. Amen.

 The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

**Call of the Senate**

 Senator SETZLER moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Alexander Bennett Campsen

Climer Corbin Cromer

Davis Gambrell Garrett

Goldfinch Gustafson Harpootlian

Hembree Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

*Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell Malloy

Martin Massey Matthews

McElveen Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Sabb Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Talley Turner Verdin

Williams Young

 A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to go into Executive Session.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following appointments were transmitted by the Honorable Henry Dargan McMaster:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, with the term to commence May 19, 2022, and to expire May 10, 2026

6th Congressional District:

Mathias G. Chaplin, 7740 Exeter Lane, Columbia, SC 29223-2518 *VICE* Peter Smith

Referred to the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services.

Initial Appointment, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, with the term to commence May 19, 2022, and to expire May 19, 2026

4th Congressional District:

Erica James, 901 Jenkins Street, Greenville, SC 29601-3920 *VICE* Mary S. Sonksen

Referred to the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services.

**Doctor of the Day**

 Senator MARTIN introduced Dr. Helen Stockinger of Spartanburg, S.C., Doctor of the Day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator FANNING, at 1:47 P.M., Senator McLEOD was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, at 1:49 P.M., Senators JACKSON and WILLIAMS were granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator YOUNG, at 1:49 P.M., Senators GAMBRELL and TALLEY were granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator DAVIS, at 2:57 P.M., Senator MARTIN was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator MATTHEWS, at 2:57 P.M., Senator KIMPSON was granted a leave of absence for today.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator KIMBRELL, at 2:58 P.M., Senator FANNING was granted a leave of absence for today.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator DAVIS rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator DAVIS**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Thank you, members. It’s the first time this session I’ve risen on a Point of Personal Interest. This is going to be the first time this session that you’ve heard me talk about the Compassionate Care Act. The empowerment of doctors on a very limited circumstance to authorize patient use of cannabis -- subject to continual physician oversight, subject to being dispensed by pharmacists, limited to conditions, for only which there is empirical evidence that there is medicinal benefit that cannabis can provide to a patient who is suffering. I am going to speak about it today because we are approaching the crossover deadline. I had honestly thought, based on my discussion with my colleagues in this Senate, that we were going to get this Bill over to the House this year -- where it was last year -- after passing twenty-eight to sixteen and then being ruled on the last day or week of session as being out of order because it had a revenue raising component to it -- because it had a sales tax imposed to help cover the cost of the program -- first time ever they have ever done that. The Clerk, Ken Moffitt, Sara Parrish, and everybody had reviewed the Bill with me and said this is not a revenue raising Bill. This raises revenue ancillary to a primary purpose of the Bill that is other than revenue raising. Don’t worry about it! But it got ruled out of order. It got punked by the House over there and got our wings clipped. Back then, everyone was so angry, that we were going to try to take it up and put it on another Bill, but it got ruled out of order of not being germane. So that couldn’t happen. That’s okay. We’re going to have it this year.

 I’m going to give you the state of where we are right now with this Bill. The federal government has given, if possible, even more of a green light regarding letting states do this. The IRS has issued regs. Congress every year puts in the budget saying -- medical marijuana states are not to be challenged. The Treasury Department has issued regs to banks allowing them to take proceeds from medical cannabis sales. The Attorney General has told the U.S. attorneys to stand down and not enforce federal laws against any state that has authorized medical use of cannabis. The federal courts consistently, time and time again, have said this is an appropriate space for states to act. Yet, we still have those that say the supremacy clause and the oath they take to the U.S. Constitution prevents them from voting for this Bill. That is ridiculous, wrong and false.

 The second thing I will say is this -- in addition to all those green lights that the federal government is now giving us, other states are now adopting this. North Carolina is about to become the 39th state -- their Senate passed it. Our Bill, this Bill, we debated for three weeks last year after eight years’ worth of subcommittee testimony -- is more restrictive. What do I mean by that? It’s restrictive, Senator HUTTO, regarding the conditions that can be treated by it. It’s not wide open. It is very narrowly circumscribed where there is empirical data saying there is a medical relationship between taking it and a benefit. It’s not anecdotal. It doesn’t allow smoking. It requires a doctor on the front end to have an incredible amount of due diligence to say they have explored every other alternative before they have authorized cannabis for one of these limited purposes. We worked on the floor to have pharmacists involved in the process. We are one of the few states that has pharmacists involved. So, we have medical professionals at the front end and the back end.

 This is the most conservative Bill and yet, we can’t take it up for debate. Some of the reasons that I have heard recently as to why we can’t take it up for debate is that this work product, Senator VERDIN, is not worthy of this Senate because it has not been vetted -- eight years of hearings! Over a dozen subcommittee hearings of testimony, three weeks of Senate debate with amendments adopted and this Bill isn’t ready for this Senate to debate? Because it hasn’t been vetted -- that is embarrassing. I’m sorry I didn’t stand up for you, Chairman of Medical Affairs, when you were criticized for polling it out of committee. A Bill we have already approved out of committee and subjected you to the criticism from some of our colleagues that you did this Senate a disservice by sending up a work product that wasn’t worthy of the Senate. Okay? There are people suffering! I sent to you -- a lot of you -- a text from someone you all know and love about what she is going through right now with her mother who is dying of pancreatic cancer -- who was in so much pain from chemotherapy, she had to be taken to the emergency room last night. She had to be put on opioids which knocked her out completely. When we know that cannabis can be a therapeutic substitute for that and increases the quality of life. This is embarrassing that we can’t do this! It’s embarrassing to me! It really is.

 Now, I can go through all the aspects of this Bill that make it conservative, but I think after three weeks’ worth of debate -- robust debate, debate in which I took up every reasonable amendment that was offered and incorporated -- I don’t need to repeat that to you all. You know throughout this process there is a physician on the front end, a pharmacist on the back end, and there are regulations all throughout. You can’t smoke it. You can’t have it in certain forms. You can’t appeal to children. You must have independent labs. Every single state law that has passed this -- I have borrowed from the best provisions to make this a Bill we can be proud of. A Bill that, I would say, is beyond precedent for having been vetted and yet we have people in this Chamber that say it hasn’t been vetted! That is a lie! It’s a lie and it’s not compassionate! It’s wrong! I’ve got to listen to phone calls from people asking me what the hell has happened! I waited my turn. I haven’t talked about this. We took up CON repel. We took up school choice. We took up China and now we are going to take up Preemption. We took up other things. I waited my turn because it was understood that we were going to take this up because it passed twenty-eight to sixteen last year. A majority of the Republican Caucus passed it last year and the House clipped our wings on it and embarrassed our staff. I had to come back here, Senator HUTTO, and explain to Sarah Parrish and Ken Moffitt about how the advice they gave this Chamber had been overruled by Tommy Pope who was presiding over in the House. Okay? They were embarrassed. They gave good advice and this Senate -- if you recall, this Senate was ready to take action and try to put it on another Bill. We were going to do it until somebody objected to it for not being germane -- which the PRESIDENT gave the right ruling -- no complaint about that.

 So, I apologize to the Chairman of Medical Affairs for the criticism that you got on this. I really am. I should have stood up for you. The reason it didn’t get taken up in material part is because misrepresentations were being made to members regarding what the House would do with this Bill if it got sent over there. Information was relayed to members in the Senate that it doesn’t matter if we take it up this year. The House isn’t going to take it up so why do the heavy lifting? The House IS going to take it up! I’ve been working with Speaker Smith for the last year on getting this taken up. If any of those Senators wanted that as a reason, not to set this up for Special Order, they could have come to me and looked me in the face and said this is what we are hearing, and I would have set things straight. Senator HUTTO, they didn’t bother to do that. They embarrassed me on the floor of this Senate when the Majority Leader stood up during the Motion Period and made a motion for Special Order. The opponents of this Bill screamed, “No”, so it got to a roll call. Then when it went to roll call seven or eight individuals, who I had worked with last year, adopted their amendments last year, answered their questions last year -- they voted for this Bill last year, they went ahead and flipped and voted it down.

 In the fifteen years I have been in this Senate, I have never experienced that, never -- never have! And it is not something I would ever do to another member. I would never do that! In fact, what I do is on subcommittees that I chair and I’m the floor leader, even if I don’t like that Bill, I take it on as something I’m going to get passed. I’m going to get it passed, even if I had reservations. Genetic counseling -- I’ve got reservations regarding whether it needs to be licensed. But I respect the will of my colleagues. It’s in my subcommittee and I’m going to come to this well and get this thing passed because that is what an honorable member does. I have not been treated honorably. The people of South Carolina have not been treated honorably. We are behaving in a way that is driven by fear, misimpressions and misinformation. We’re going to be the 50th state to authorize this and in the meantime, we have people who are taking opioids for things they could have relieved by using medical cannabis. We have individuals with neurological disorders, people with Crohn’s Disease, people with real maladies for which there is empirical peer review science saying this can help and we are telling doctors, “No!” I don’t have an answer for all the people calling me saying, “Why couldn’t you get this done?” I failed -- I failed!

 You know what? I am tempted to just take my name off the Bill and let somebody else be the primary sponsor. Maybe somebody else can get it done when I can’t -- obviously after nine years. You know what the definition of insanity is? It’s doing the same thing over and over again with the same result. Maybe I’m not the person to lead this thing and someone else needs to lead this. I’m happy to yield because it is far more important that this get done and doctors be allowed to do what doctors think is in the patients’ best interests than me getting any credit for it. We had this debate regarding COVID and regarding Ivermectin, and in things doctors felt were in the patients’ best interest. A lot of people rose and said, “Who are we to second guess these doctors?” If these doctors think this is in the patient’s best interest, politicians do not belong there. When it served their political interest to say that they did or when it is in something like this, they don’t. That is just wrong! Now I realize that this Bill is probably dead for another year. Thank y’all, thank y’all -- probably dead for another year. I weighed whether to say anything about it, just play an inside game, build up capital, and help people with Bills, be a good faith broker or subcommittee chairmanship -- do the job. That is not working for me anymore. It is not working anymore so I’m going to try a different approach.

 On motion of Senator GARRETT, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator DAVIS were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator VERDIN rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator VERDIN**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT and members of the Senate. Senator DAVIS, as I spent my time here, you're not replaceable. The service that you bring to us in our little point in time is immeasurable. As it relates to the Medical Affairs Committee, your service is incalculable. We all come here with certain abilities and certain skill sets and yours are -- I can't think of superlatives to describe your service to us -- your service to South Carolina. And as it relates to all these hard issues that we are dealing with in Medical Affairs -- the reason I come to you so much is because I don't have others in the committee coming and begging for this work. And I’m sure there are other committees that have the same regard for your work product. I do want to just acknowledge the fact that we have polled Bills. We have polled a lot of hard Bills -- we polled a lot of nine to eight votes out of this committee. And as it's been represented to the members of the committee on the poll, those substantive changes, a lot of language changes, but I’m going to confess there were only two members of the committee that actually saw the work and analysis of the staff -- others that may have looked at it very briefly there on the floor as the poll sheet was going around. But for the work of the drafting and the work of coming to the conclusion that we needed the poll -- it was just you and Senator CASH. There may have been a member on the committee that asked for material relating to the Bill and it was provided to them on a side-by-side basis. That document is available to anyone now. We're all sensitive about what we put out here because our time is valuable. But it was that valuable time in trying to cooperate with the consensus on both sides of this aisle to try to put some work product together for the consideration of the Senate knowing there was much more hard work coming down the pike. And there still is. Probably all are aware that Gressette 105 was occupied by an incredibly painful debate this morning for a couple hours, painful regardless of your perspective -- pro or con -- for the Bills. For those of you working on that -- thank you, I appreciate you.

 But Senator, whether it is further committee work on that subject or it remains here, whatever the will of this Body is, I’m committed to you. I've done a lot of things differently here in the last year that I hope will be of service to you. As you well know, I’m like Senator MASSEY, Senator RICE and Senator GARRETT -- I like to sleep in my own bed at night, but I’ve only slept in my own bed twice this year on session days because I want to be of better service to you. So, whatever needs to be done in regard to the Senate's obligation, I’m committed to it. I just want to say -- I hope I’m not running out of time -- but I do want to take a minute or two to discuss this very subject of compassionate care. I don't think there are any of us -- and there's different membership now -- but I don't think there's anyone here when this subject was first introduced to us who was more diametrically opposed to the concept than I -- maybe someone, some equally and some that are still. Now my perspective might not have been driven by the same interest groups or stakeholders. I’ll say my ear was not as attuned to law enforcement as some others, but I certainly wasn't neglectful of it. My ear was attuned, primarily, to medicine. And I’m conservative by nature, and I’m not wanting to get ahead of medical science and research but the overarching issue of compassion, as related to the inculcation of our faith, started me down the path of reconsidering my position; and then giving heed and attention to discern as best I can the medical science. And that's how I’ve come to the position of following your leadership and trying to be of assistance. And I don't like to even contemplate the crass political environment -- who's interested in what seats. I love serving here. I'm more hopeful of my service here than I’ve been in a while. So, for me, on a subject like this, based on the votes we've taken, in God's providence, it may just be that I have more opportunities to demonstrate for my constituents, who are still coming to my understanding. But that process is taking place with our electorate just as it has for many of us in here. So, as I’ve hit a stage in life with children, grandchildren and business, it's more and more borne upon me that we are not weathervanes. The day and age we're living in -- if I can be proud of anything -- and I hate to even use the word “pride” but I tell you I’m not on a phone calling a political consultant every time a hard vote comes down through here. I've never done it. And I would encourage all of us to do it less. Thank you for the opportunity to come behind my colleague and hopefully bring some clarification and the opportunity to lay out before you my commitment to build consensus and build better quality of life for all of the people that we represent, our family, our friends and our neighbors.

 On motion of Senator SETZLER, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator VERDIN were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator HUTTO rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator MALLOY rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator MATTHEWS rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator MATTHEWS**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. I didn’t expect that I would come up to speak on this issue, so I am going to try to keep this as quick as possible. I was surprised the other day when this Senate took up the issue of whether or not we would place the Compassionate Care Act in its appropriate spot so we could deliberate and consider it. Senator DAVIS is correct -- every other special order or rules position vote has gone along the lines of placing what the majority has requested into that spot. So, I was surprised that a number -- even my own colleagues -- mistook that vote. Not a vote for it being placed in its proper place -- the question was not, “Do you agree with the Bill?” because no one had looked at the Bill. The question was whether or not the Senate should have given it its proper place. The question is not whether or not you agree with the Compassionate Care Act. The question was whether or not this Senator, who had worked nine hard years on this issue, deserved to have it brought before this Body. Should he have been given his opportunity just as you would have wanted if this had been your issue? I don’t understand how so many of us didn’t understand. The question isn’t do you agree with him. The question is, do we owe our comrades in this Body the right to deliberate on their Bill?

 When one of the Senators said something about meritocracy, I looked it up. It is defined as a government governed by the merits of what your particular skills are. There is no one more meritorious to argue this issue because of all the work Senator DAVIS has done on this Compassionate Care Act. When I got here in 2015, he was here with the pictures. He was here with the families. We were allowed to talk to people, to find out what was important. He was doing this outside of committee meetings. One of the first committees I was assigned to be on was the subcommittee for the Compassionate Care Act. I’m going to tell you something, I’ve been on a lot of subcommittees, but this subcommittee was one of substance. It was not a subcommittee where you sit in a room and listen and then go on about your business. Senator DAVIS had a subcommittee where he gave us assignments. I have never been on a subcommittee that required so much work. He gave us an assignment and respected us enough to carry it out. He expected at the next committee meeting that we would have a response. He knew that I -- and this is where we get to the meritocracy issue -- did a lot of criminal defense and civil defense work. So, what did he do? He placed me in charge of the subcommittee dealing with SLED. Now, I have a lot of experience and respect for SLED as well as my police departments and sheriff’s departments. I met with the Sheriff’s Association. I met with the city police officers. During the summer when everybody else was going about their business I had not one, not two, but three meetings in my conference room with the stakeholders. What did I hear? We went through all of the elements. We went through all of the different chapters of this Bill, and I asked them how can we make this better for you? How can we make this better so that we take into consideration your concerns. The number one concern that I always heard was this is a gateway drug. Well, it doesn’t say it in here. How do we fix that? When Senator KIMPSON was dealing with doctors and medical staff -- that was his assignment -- they took care of the gateway drug issue. When it related to police officers being allowed to use medical marijuana, we took care of that issue. I don’t know what else we could have done to not give everybody their due. In other words, deliberate.

 I am surprised that this Senate has taken it up in special order, since I’ve been here, we started out with certificate of need, we went to two different school voucher Bills, then we went to the six-week ban. We say we have compassionate care about the unborn. Well, this was a Compassionate Care Act that cares about children that are alive, those that are here. If you really have compassion, we should be taking up this Bill. You can vote against it. We should take up this Bill. We shouldn’t be dealing with Chinese land blocking. We should be dealing with issues that really deserve to be placed in the special order slot. We should respect the work that our fellow Senator has given to this Bill. This Body is supposed to be a deliberative Body. We need to start deliberating with compassion.

 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator MATTHEWS were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator K. JOHNSON rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator K. JOHNSON**

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Members, I'm going to flip the script a little bit. I don't necessarily want to talk about medical marijuana, but I will say this. I listened to Senator DAVIS, and if anybody said that the Bill has not been vetted, I know differently. I know the Bill has been vetted. To the point that Senator MATTHEWS made, there was a time when I was on that subcommittee and until this day, I spent more time on that subcommittee Bill than I did any other Bill since I have been here. Albeit I was on the other side of the issue, I think Senator DAVIS will concur that we have disagreed on this Bill, but that it has been a respectful disagreement. I've always commended him on constructing this Bill much better than the previous one. The Bill that we are debating is far better than the Bill that we first created years ago when I sat on the subcommittee, but I didn't want to talk about the medical marijuana issue.

 I felt like since we were talking about Bills that deal with health care, I want to just remind the Body that for the last several years, I have filed a Bill to expand Medicaid. Senator DAVIS, I know you're frustrated because your Bill hasn't passed but your Bill has been getting hearings, moved to committees, and it's being voted on in both bodies; however, my Bill to expand Medicaid has never even received a committee hearing. We're talking about whether we want to agree or disagree that medical marijuana saves lives and if it has medicinal value -- I'm not quite there yet. I do know that if Medicaid expansion is passed that will save lives in South Carolina. We have two to three hundred thousand South Carolinians who fall between that gap. We can fix this and help deserving people to qualify and get affordable quality health care. As I said, for some reason, that Bill can't even get a committee hearing. I'll just end by saying that if we really want to provide compassionate care in South Carolina, there should be no debate about Medicaid expansion because it will provide just that.

 On motion of Senator McLEOD, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator K. JOHNSON were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator McLEOD rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator McLEOD**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. I didn't think I’d be up here today but, I just wanted to take a quick minute to say thank you to Senator DAVIS. This has been his fight for longer than I’ve served in this Chamber, and it's been my fight for as long as I’ve served in this Chamber, but it was also my fight when I served in the South Carolina House.

 To see the amount of time, energy, effort and resources that have been expended just to try and pass a Bill that would help so many people across South Carolina. A Bill that would help me. As I look around, I see every day that I’m still the only one in this Chamber who lives with a chronic health condition and wears my mask faithfully even when it's hot -- even when I’m tired -- even when I don't feel like it.

 When I was elected in 2016 to this Body, I often talked about having to relearn so many of the things that I had to -- I’m sorry, to unlearn so many of the things I had to learn when I was in the House for six years. But what I appreciated most about serving in this Body seemed to be when I got here not just the consideration for each other but the deliberation that Senator MATTHEWS mentioned. It was the fact that I got to leave the chaos of the House. Some of it I missed, a lot of it I didn't. When I got here, everybody seemed intentional about the work that we're supposed to do. They seemed to be considerate and respectful of each other's opinions, perspectives and politics.

 So, to now witness what I did when this Bill was brought up for Special Order -- knowing that I have voted against many Bills that have been set for Special Order over my objection -- even after putting my name on a Bill or Bills in opposition to those Bills. I still sat. I still stood respectfully and did the work and asked the questions and voted against it if I was opposed to it. But to have an issue like this that not only impacts me personally but a lot of us in here who suffer with chronic health conditions -- or to have family members and constituents who suffer from chronic health conditions. In fact, I believe next week I’ll be meeting with a family that I met with a few weeks ago right in the room next door. A mom who cried and talked about losing her son to an opioid overdose. Those are the discussions -- those are the voices that need to be represented in this debate.

 It can't just be about politics. It can't just be about whether we would use marijuana or whether we would have a family member who needs medical marijuana. It has to be bigger than that. Aren't we bigger than that?

 To see and hear the passion, frustration, and anger in Senator DAVIS’ voice earlier -- it took me back. It took me back to when I stood here, and I have co-sponsored that Bill and worked with him every year, every time he's introduced it and I did the same thing in the House. I served on 3M in the House and tried to get it through. I served on Medical Affairs here in the Senate and worked with all of you to try and just think outside of yourself. Think about those who suffer with cancer. Think about those who suffer from PTSD, epilepsy, lupus, sickle cell -- all the chronic health conditions that we either have or we know somebody who has and who suffers daily. And because this is an option, why would we stand in the way of getting people the help and the support they need? I’m not going to, I know I’m probably at my five minutes. I just want you to think about that, and to think about doing things differently for the right reasons for all of us. Thank you.

 On motion of Senator FANNING, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator McLEOD were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator FANNING rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks by Senator FANNING**

 There was a train; the train was loaded down, Senator SABB, with all kinds of things that they were taking to the next town. This train was a fairly new train but had been trying for years to start its work as a courier of goods and services across the mountain to the next town that had been isolated for years.

 The train is loaded down with stuff. It starts moving up the hill, chug, chug, chug, chug, chug. Eventually, about halfway up the hill, the train gave out. It got stuck halfway up the hill. You may remember this story. It was stuck. It couldn't go back down. If you'd release, you'd go back down to the town. It couldn't make it over the hill, so it was stuck there on the tracks. And the folks in the next town couldn't get the goods and services they'd been waiting on forever, and ever, and ever, and ever -- real needs that they had. But the answers to their needs were sitting on this train that was stuck on the tracks. And they couldn't go down because they couldn't do anything about it; they didn't have the strength to go up the tracks. So finally, Senator MATTHEWS, another train came by. This was a big locomotive -- it came up there booking it! Chug, chug, chug, chug, all the way up to the train, and they waived them down and said, “Stop! Save us! Save us!”

 And so the train stopped and said, “What do you need?” And they said, “We need help getting over this hill. Will you help us get over the hill?”

And it said, “I'm too busy. I can't do that. I have a lot of other things I need to do.” So it went on by.

 The train tried again -- couldn't do it again. Another train came by. This one was a passenger train. And said, “No, we've got other priorities. We can't really help you.” They asked for help. Then finally, you'll remember this, a little blue engine came putting up the tracks. Little blue engine -- shiny, new little, tiny little train comes up next to him -- and the people waved him down saying, “Look, we're loading up with things we know children need. We're loading up with things that we know that the doctors have told us will help our kids in the community in the next town and help them with what they need, but we're stuck here on the tracks and nobody will help us. We've done the work to get over the hill, but nobody is going to help us.” But the blue engine said, “I'll try. I've never been up the track myself at all before, but at least I'll try.”

 And so that little engine started -- it connected with the train -- and started going putter, putter, putter, putter, putter, putter. It started inching up over the hill. And the little blue engine started pulling it. And as he did, you know what the little engine was saying, do you not? “I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I think I can.” Everybody on the train behind him is saying, “I think I can. I think I can.” Because this has been going on forever and ever and ever, no one thought it could be done. But there was one little blue engine that said you know what, I think I can do it.

 And he worked his way up the hill pulling the train behind him – “I think I can, I think I can.” He crested over the top, and all of a sudden, the people in the town said, “Yay. We're finally going to get the help that our doctors have said we need! We're finally going to get the medicine we've been needing for years!” And as soon as he crested, the little blue engine went down the hill and said, “I knew I could. I knew I could. I knew I could. I knew I could.”

 I share that story with you to share that there have been children and elderly people waiting on an answer to their medical conditions. Kids with epilepsy, old folks that are suffering from all kinds of debilitating diseases that other states, with their trains, have been able to get the help to the citizens that need it, but not in South Carolina. We let it get stuck, and then all of a sudden, hauling from Beaufort, South Carolina, Senator TOM DAVIS was the little blue engine that could. He went up and took that thing that was stuck there forever. And for eight years -- putter, putter, putter, putter -- started hauling this over the top. And when I say hauling this over the top, when you have a problem with the Bill, he said, "How" can he change the Bill to get you onboard? If you don't think my analogy is working, if you don't like the Bill, what can we do to get you onboard?

 He was willing to make changes to this Bill that, I'm guessing, Senator DAVIS, you didn't want to make; but you were willing to make the changes to get everyone onboard. And finally, in this story, we get over the hill. The little engine that could -- Senator DAVIS -- was able to get everyone onboard, and we passed this Bill with a vote of twenty-eight to sixteen. We took it down the mountain, and we got down the mountain, and the House said, "Go back." And now the Senate is going to make us spend another eight years with the little engine that could pulling it up.

 Senator DAVIS, we thank you for the work that you've done for eight years on this Bill. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. But more importantly, we don't just owe Senator DAVIS the right to take up his Bill -- that we told him he was going to have -- we owe the citizens we represent to take up this Bill. The vote was not twenty-three to twenty-two -- the vote was twenty-eight to sixteen -- which proves that the little engine from Beaufort County took the Bill over the hill. We recognized that and we said, “Since the House screwed you on the other side of the hill, we'll give you a shot to do it again.” This Bill is not what started the legislative session last year. This Bill, if I'm correct, Senator DAVIS, was what we finished with last year.

 So for every one of you that didn't want to get onboard -- but Senator DAVIS changed his Bill to get you onboard -- that's the same Bill we're having now. It's the same Bill we sent over to the House. I don't know what y'all are doing. I am not asking you to pass the Bill at all. I respect your stance on the Bill. I'm asking you to debate the freaking Bill. Do the citizens of South Carolina not at least deserve the right to have us debate a Bill that meets their needs? A Bill that's already crossed over the hill. Why would we not debate a Bill that's exactly like the one we passed last year by an overwhelming twenty-eight to sixteen margin? And if anyone objects, couldn't we at least debate it and allow you to object again in the end. Don't our citizens deserve that.

 Picture the citizens in the next town that have been waiting eight years! Children waiting for their medicine. Old folks waiting for their medicine. We have a Senator that has now made this Bill so conservative -- there's one way to get marijuana. If this passes, there would be two. One way is to drive to Five Points, roll down your window, and get marijuana. The other way is call your doctor, make an appointment, go see the doctor, have the doctor document that he tried everything else -- the only thing left after he tried everything else was to get medical cannabis. He still can't give it to you. You have to wait and go some place to get it and use it.

 Now, which way do you think people are going to abuse it? Rolling down the window at Five Points or following this? He listened to you -- the little engine that could -- to try to get everybody onboard to get over the hill -- he listened to each and every one of us. We passed this twenty-eight to sixteen. And I'm not saying personally I feel like I owe you, Senator DAVIS, but I think more importantly, we owe the citizens we represent to at least have a debate on the Bill.

 Is preemption any more or less important than this? Banning aliens from owning property? Is it any more or less important than this? Is passing one but not two voucher Bills when the Body has already spoken on this any more or less important?

 When we make decisions, we are defining our relationship with the House, and so I hope we think about the decisions we have made this year of us getting our Bill over the hill to them. When we sent it over to them last year, they flipped their finger at us and sent us back on the other side of the mountain. Whether we act or don't act is sending a message. So, if we don't send it back to them, we are saying, you are more powerful than we are. Is that the message that we want to send?

 So, if we're not tackling this eight-year issue, what's our plan? If we're not going to do this, let's say we persuade the little engine that could, Senator DAVIS, to keep his name sponsoring the Bill. What's the plan? What do we tell him? Try again next year? Try again next year? If this is not the plan, what are we going to do to keep that engine from going over the hill -- what is it that we're going to do? We've got two ways to tackle this. We've already missed the boat on one. I hope we don't miss the other. Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

 On motion of Senator MATTHEWS, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator FANNING were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator GUSTAFSON rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED**

The following co-sponsors were added to the respective Bills:

S. 30 Sen. K. Johnson

S. 150 Sen. Grooms

S. 161 Sen. Grooms

S. 252 Sen. Garrett

S. 298 Sen. Kimbrell

S. 521 Sen. Talley

S. 588 Sen. Kimbrell

**RECALLED**

 H. 3816 -- Rep. Leber: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE BRIDGE THAT CROSSES RUSSELL CREEK ALONG SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 174 IN CHARLESTON COUNTY “DAVID L. LYBRAND MEMORIAL BRIDGE” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

 Senator GROOMS asked unanimous consent to make a motion to recall the Concurrent Resolution from the Committee on Transportation.

 The Concurrent Resolution was recalled from the Committee on Transportation and ordered placed on the Calendar for consideration tomorrow.

**RECALLED**

 S. 659 -- Senators Matthews and Senn: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE BRIDGE LOCATED AT U.S. 17 OVER THE ASHEPOO RIVER IN COLLETON COUNTY “COUNCILMAN W. GENE WHETSELL BRIDGE” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

 Senator GROOMS asked unanimous consent to make a motion to recall the Concurrent Resolution from the Committee on Transportation.

 The Concurrent Resolution was recalled from the Committee on Transportation and ordered placed on the Calendar for consideration tomorrow.

**RECALLED**

 S. 648 -- Senator Grooms: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NAME THE HERITAGE PRESERVE ON CAPERS ISLAND THE “GEORGE E. CAMPSEN, JR. CAPERS ISLAND HERITAGE PRESERVE” AND ERECT MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THIS DESIGNATION.

 Senator GROOMS asked unanimous consent to make a motion to recall the Concurrent Resolution from the Committee on Transportation.

 The Concurrent Resolution was recalled from the Committee on Transportation and ordered placed on the Calendar for consideration tomorrow.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator CLIMER, with unanimous consent, Senators RICE, McELVEEN and CLIMER were granted leave to attend a subcommittee meeting and were granted leave to vote from the balcony.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

 The following were introduced:

 S. 663 -- Senator Turner: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR GE GAS POWER, PART OF GENERAL

ELECTRIC VERNOVA.

sr-0347km-hw23.docx : 5b4ace51-e3e8-492f-8da2-0c4655046290

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 664 -- Senator K. Johnson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC. SOUTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURING.

sr-0349km-hw23.docx : fb35e7ac-980c-4911-86f0-429f86fd1d57

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 665 -- Senator Allen: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LOCKHEED MARTIN.

sr-0348km-vc23.docx : e2d0bf32-ed71-4775-b47f-de83ac9504f4

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 666 -- Senator Gambrell: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS, INC.

sr-0346km-vc23.docx : 2872cccb-2dbd-4b3d-80c1-67e33086f5f7

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 667 -- Senator Fanning: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND MICHELE WELTON, A MUSIC TEACHER IN YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT 1, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AS AN EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER LASTING SUCCESS AND PLEASURE IN ALL HER FUTURE UNDERTAKINGS.

lc-0192hdb-gm23.docx : d0eed5b1-941b-4abc-a671-c7f4e6586ac1

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 668 -- Senator Gustafson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE ALFRED MAE DRAKEFORD, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

sr-0350km-hw23.docx : b49554d4-01c5-46c5-808c-9525a1d10ce6

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 669 -- Senator K. Johnson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE REVEREND GEORGE P. WINDLEY, SR., PASTOR OF EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MANNING, FOR HIS FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AT EBENEZER, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM THE LORD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

lc-0225vr-rm23.docx : 6c3e6711-7e2d-4885-9b8e-6537cc930a05

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 670 -- Senator M. Johnson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50-21-870, RELATING TO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND BOATING SAFETY, SO AS TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN TO WEAR A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE ON ANY SIZE VESSEL UNLESS THE PERSON IS IN THE CABIN OR BELOW DECK OF THE VESSEL.

lc-0206ph23.docx : da61bd6e-52c3-4023-b2d1-8f1f24363eb3

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Fish, Game and Forestry.

 S. 671 -- Senator Talley: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "LANGUAGE EQUALITY AND ACQUISITION FOR DEAF KIDS (LEAD-K) ACT"; BY AMENDING CHAPTER 36, TITLE 59, RELATING TO PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 3, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL JOINTLY SELECT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES AS RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING CHILDREN TO USE TO MONITOR AND TRACK CERTAIN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES TOWARD THE ENGLISH LITERACY OF THOSE CHILDREN, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM EXPERTS ON SELECTING CERTAIN LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES FOR DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING CHILDREN, TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND OTHER DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO IMPOSE RELATED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IMPLEMENTATION IS CONTINGENT ON FUNDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS; TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 36, TITLE 1, AS "ARTICLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS"; AND TO PROVIDE A TIMELINE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES.

sr-0079jg23.docx : d5d083fa-00e3-446d-aef6-655aa9a97305

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Education.

 S. 672 -- Senator Rice: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "HELP FIND THE MISSING ACT"; AND BY ADDING SECTION 23-1-260 SO AS TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, PROVIDE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN CORONERS OR MEDICAL EXAMINERS MUST REFER DECEDENTS' BODIES FOR EXAMINATION TO SLED'S FORENSIC SERVICES LABORATORY WHICH MUST RETAIN AND FURNISH CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSONS TO THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM, TO REQUIRE THE COLLECTION OF DENTAL RECORDS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF PERSONS WHO ARE SUBJECTS OF MISSING PERSONS REPORTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPORTING OF MISSING PERSONS IN CERTAIN DATABASES, TO REQUIRE SLED TO ADOPT RULES RELATING TO THE DISSEMINATION OF MISSING PERSONS' RECORDS, TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MAY NOT ESTABLISH OR MAINTAIN POLICIES WHICH REQUIRE A WAITING PERIOD BEFORE ACCEPTING AND INVESTIGATING MISSING CHILD REPORTS AND MUST ENTER THE REPORTS INTO THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER, TO PROVIDE WHEN MISSING PERSONS ARE FOUND, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MUST INFORM SLED AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE THAT THE PERSONS HAVE BEEN FOUND, TO PROVIDE THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT CERTAIN AGENCIES AND PERSONS FROM MAINTAINING CASE FILES RELATED TO MISSING CITIZENS OR UNIDENTIFIED BODIES, AND TO PROVIDE SLED SHALL PERFORM ANNUALLY A COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION.

lc-0274cm23.docx : 8f843812-cce9-494b-8829-3f1fe87200ec

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 S. 673 -- Senators Goldfinch, Cromer, Bennett, Climer, Gambrell, Peeler, Turner, Hembree, Verdin, Shealy, Young, Corbin, Rankin and Davis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-500 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE PALMETTO LEGISLATIVE MILITARY APPOINTMENT AND DEFINE RELEVANT TERMS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-510 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE PALM APPOINTMENT SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO COVER ALL COSTS FOR AN APPOINTEE TO ATTEND THE CITADEL FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR YEARS, TO PROVIDE FORTY-SIX APPOINTMENT NOMINATIONS PER SCHOOL YEAR, AND TO ESTABLISH THAT INDIVIDUALS SELECTED FOR NOMINATION WILL BE SELECTED BY A MEMBER OF THEIR COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-520 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-530 SO AS TO PROVIDE APPOINTMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR APPOINTEES; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-540 SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND DETERMINATION OF EACH NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-550 SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTEES WHO FAIL TO FULFILL APPOINTMENT OBLIGATIONS AND THE REPAYMENT OF APPOINTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-121-560 SO AS TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE WHATEVER AMOUNT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE TO ALL ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS THE PALM APPOINTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

sr-0055jg23.docx : d019bfe3-afdb-45f7-b2c5-9cbb0c7e304a

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 S. 674 -- Senators Hutto and Stephens: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "INTERSTATE 95 BRIDGE TOLL ACT"; AND BY ADDING SECTION 57-3-619 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND INSTALL TOLL-COLLECTING BOOTHS AT FOUR BRIDGES ALONG INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 95, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF TOLL REVENUES, TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESENT A PROJECT PLAN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE RELIEF FROM TOLLS TO QUALIFIED RESIDENTS AND COMMERCIAL CARRIERS OF THIS STATE.

lc-0279cm23.docx : f2c109e6-9d16-4a93-a079-9299dfebea32

 Senator HUTTO spoke on the Bill.

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

 S. 675 -- Senators Malloy and Martin: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BELIEVES THAT NASCAR RACING IS AN INTEGRAL AND VITAL PART OF THE STATE AND THE ECONOMY, TO CONGRATULATE THE DARLINGTON RACEWAY FOR ANNOUNCING THE CONTINUATION OF A SECOND RACE TO ITS SCHEDULE, DOUBLING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE STATE, TO CELEBRATE NASCAR'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, TO IDENTIFY SOUTH CAROLINA'S RICH NASCAR HISTORY, AND TO NAME THE WEEKS AROUND BOTH RACES, MAY 8-MAY 15, 2023, AND AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, AS "DARLINGTON RACEWAY WEEK", TWO WEEKS TOO TOUGH TO TAME.

lc-0243ph-jn23.docx : 1ec91746-d269-4cdd-b446-5b16cea44d69

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

 S. 676 -- Senator McLeod: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE THETA GAMMA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE STELLAR CONTRIBUTIONS ITS MEMBERS HAVE MADE TO THEIR COMMUNITY, TO CONGRATULATE THEM UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR CHAPTER'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO DECLARE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023, "THETA GAMMA DAY" IN THE PALMETTO STATE.

lc-0235ph-rm23.docx : 58d75a1e-bc42-4fc5-93c3-04db93f2c3d7

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 677 -- Senators Gustafson and McElveen: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CONGREGATION AND PASTOR OF ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN KERSHAW COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM UPON THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTRY AND TO THE KERSHAW COMMUNITY.

lc-0281sa-gm23.docx : 6ee4e49e-ffbd-4994-bd59-595d68d14c02

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 678 -- Senators McElveen and K. Johnson: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ALICE DRIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM STUDENTS AND STEM LEAD TEACHER, DR. MARINA MOSNEAGUTA, FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW STEM COMPETITION.

lc-0244ph-gm23.docx : b7113b90-cb70-438d-945e-9ec8969570d4

 The Concurrent Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

**Appointments Reported**

 Senator DAVIS from the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, Jobs Economic Development Authority, with the term to commence July 27, 2020, and to expire July 27, 2023

4th Congressional District:

Michelle B. Seaver, 102 Aldridge Dr., Greenville, SC 29607 *VICE* Stephen Mudge

Received as information.

Reappointment, Jobs Economic Development Authority, with the term to commence July 27, 2023, and to expire July 27, 2026

Michelle B. Seaver, 102 Aldridge Dr., Greenville, SC 29607

Received as information.

**MOTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF THE DAY FAILED**

 Senator MARTIN moved under Rule 32 to vary the order of the day to proceed to S. 576 in Special Order status on the statewide calendar.

The motion failed.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO A CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED LOCAL AND STATEWIDE CALENDAR.**

**SECOND READING BILLS**

S. 377 -- Senator Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND ACT 844 OF 1952, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION, RESIDENCY, AND TERMS OF THE SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CHARLESTON COUNTY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE MOULTRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS, AT LEAST THREE OF WHOM MUST BE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT.

 On motion of Senator CAMPSEN.

 S. 654 -- Senator Hutto: A BILL TO CONSOLIDATE BARNWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT 45, BARNWELL COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 80 INTO ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS THE BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO ABOLISH BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 45, BARNWELL COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 80 ON JULY 1, 2024; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MUST BE GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSISTING OF FIVE MEMBERS, WHICH INITIALLY MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE BARNWELL COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, AND BEGINNING WITH THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION, EACH OF THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MUST BE ELECTED FROM SINGLE‑MEMBER ELECTION DISTRICTS AS DELINEATED ON A DESIGNATED MAP NUMBER ON FILE WITH THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MUST BE ELECTED IN NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS CONDUCTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION AND EVERY FOUR YEARS THEREAFTER, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT TO STAGGER THE MEMBERS’ TERMS; TO PROVIDE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR THE NEWLY DRAWN ELECTION DISTRICTS; TO ESTABLISH THE BOARD’S POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IS THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT AND IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE BOARD FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF ALL AFFAIRS OF THE DISTRICT AND SUBJECT TO ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING TO HIS DUTIES; TO INCLUDE INTERIM MILLAGE PROVISIONS FOR YEARS 2024 AND 2025; AND TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING IN 2026, THE BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL HAVE TOTAL FISCAL AUTONOMY.

 On motion of Senator HUTTO.

 S. 657 -- Senator Fanning: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 3 OF ACT 802 OF 1954, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE CHESTER COUNTY NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY, SO AS TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF APPOINTMENT; AND TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF ACT 802 OF 1954, RELATING TO REVENUES, SO AS TO ALLOW THE BOARD TO UTILIZE NET REVENUES.

 On motion of Senator FANNING.

**READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

The following Bill was read the third time and ordered sent to the House:

 S. 36 -- Senators Hutto, Young, Campsen and Grooms: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING various SECTIONs within chapter 1, title 56, to restructure the ignition interlock devices program. (abbreviated title)

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 The question then being third reading of the Bill, as amended.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 37; Nays 1**

**AYES**

Alexander Allen Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Davis

Fanning Garrett Goldfinch

Grooms Gustafson Harpootlian

Hutto *Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Martin

Massey Matthews McElveen

Peeler Rankin Reichenbach

Rice Sabb Scott

Senn Setzler Shealy

Stephens Turner Verdin

Young

**Total--37**

**NAYS**

Hembree

**Total--1**

 The Bill was read the third time, passed and ordered sent to the House.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 330 -- Senators Rankin, Alexander, Verdin and Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16‑11‑740, RELATING TO MALICIOUS INJURY TO TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, OR ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM, SO AS TO ADD TIERED PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE TO A UTILITY SYSTEM.

 On motion of Senator MARTIN, the Bill was carried over.

**HOUSE BILL RETURNED**

 The following Resolution was read the third time and ordered returned to the House with amendments.

 H. 3312 -- Reps. Haddon, Hixon, Forrest, Trantham, Chumley, Cobb-Hunter and Williams: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE “CHILD FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE” TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSFERRING ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL CHILD FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN THIS STATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE, TO REQUIRE THE STUDY COMMITTEE PREPARE A REPORT WITH FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE.

**READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

The following Bill was read the third time and ordered sent to the House:

 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, 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.

**OBJECTION**

 H. 3605 -- Reps. G.M. Smith, Sandifer, Carter, Kirby, Oremus, Magnuson, Pace, Long, Elliott, Burns, May, Beach, Forrest, Blackwell, B. Newton, Caskey and Ligon: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑80, RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS OF LICENSEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO SEND INFORMATION REGARDING AN INVESTIGATION TO THE LICENSEE; BY ADDING SECTION 40‑1‑85 SO AS TO ESTABLISH INFORMAL CONFERENCES; BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑90, RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEEDINGS, SO AS TO ALLOW A LICENSEE TO REQUEST CERTIFICATION OF AN INVESTIGATION FROM THE DIRECTOR; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑140, RELATING TO EFFECT OF PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OF APPLICANTS, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE DENIAL OF A LICENSE BASED SOLELY OR IN PART ON A PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

 Senator MATTHEWS objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 H. 3518 -- Reps. Felder and Williams: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 56‑1‑395, RELATING TO THE DRIVER’S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FEE PAYMENT PROGRAM, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE DRIVERS’ LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS PROGRAM ARE VALID FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS, TO REVISE THE AMOUNT OF REINSTATEMENT FEES OWED BY PERSONS TO BECOME ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN THESE DRIVERS’ LICENSES, TO REVISE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES COLLECTED, TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES MAY PROVIDE PERSONS IN THE PROGRAM A FEE SCHEDULE OF THE AMOUNTS OWED AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE ONLINE PAYMENTS, TO REVISE THE TYPES OF DRIVERS’ LICENSE SUSPENSIONS THAT ARE COVERED BY THIS SECTION, AND TO REVISE THE FREQUENCY THAT PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND THE CONDITIONS FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 56‑1‑396, RELATING TO THE DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSION AMNESTY PERIOD, SO AS TO LIMIT THE TYPES OF QUALIFYING SUSPENSIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 56‑10‑240, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT UPON LOSS OF INSURANCE, NEW INSURANCE MUST BE OBTAINED OR PERSONS MUST SURRENDER THEIR REGISTRATION AND PLATES, WRITTEN NOTICE BY INSURERS, APPEAL OF SUSPENSIONS, ENFORCEMENT, AND PENALTIES, SO AS TO REVISE THE PERIOD OF TIME VEHICLE OWNERS MUST SURRENDER MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES AND REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FOR CERTAIN UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLES, TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT GIVES THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES DISCRETION TO AUTHORIZE INSURERS TO UTILIZE ALTERNATE METHODS OF PROVIDING CERTAIN NOTICES TO THE DEPARTMENT, TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT ALLOWS CERTAIN PERSONS TO APPEAL CERTAIN SUSPENSIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FOR FAILURE TO MEET THE STATE’S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN ERROR, AND TO ALLOW THESE PERSONS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO SHOW THE SUSPENSION WAS ISSUED IN ERROR; BY AMENDING SECTION 56‑10‑245, RELATING TO PER DIEM FINES FOR LAPSE IN REQUIRED COVERAGE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE FINES CONTAINED IN THE SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER VEHICLE FOR A FIRST OFFENSE; BY AMENDING ARTICLE 5 OF CHAPTER 10, TITLE 56, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNINSURED MOTORIST FUND, SO AS TO REVISE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLES, TO DELETE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COLLECTION OF UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE FEES, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES, TO REVISE THE AMOUNT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REINSTATEMENT FEE AND PROVIDE IT SHALL BE INCREASED ANNUALLY, TO PROVIDE SUSPENDED LICENSES, REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES, LICENSE PLATES, AND DECALS MAY BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES BY ELECTRONIC MEANS OR IN PERSON, AND TO DELETE THE PROVISIONS THAT REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO COLLECT STATISTICS REGARDING VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, INSURANCE, AND UNINSURED MOTORIST FUND ISSUES.

 Senator MATTHEWS objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 252 -- Senators M. Johnson, Adams, Kimbrell, Reichenbach, Senn and Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, TITLE 30 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT, BY ADDING ARTICLE 5 TO PROVIDE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY FORMALLY REQUEST THAT HIS PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION HELD OR MAINTAINED BY A STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL AFTER WHICH THE INFORMATION MUST NOT BE DISCLOSED EXCEPT TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, UNDER SUBPOENA, BY ORDER OF THE COURT, OR UPON WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE OFFICER.

 Senator MATTHEWS objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 483 -- Senators Alexander, Peeler, Grooms, Williams, Massey, K. Johnson, Shealy, Turner, Gambrell, Climer, Talley, Kimbrell, Young, Goldfinch, Reichenbach, Verdin, Davis, Rice, M. Johnson, Hutto, Loftis, Corbin, Senn, Adams, Fanning, Martin, McElveen, Setzler, Gustafson, Campsen and Bennett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 37-1-102, RELATING TO THE PURPOSES OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION CODE, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION FOR CONSUMERS, BEST PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES, AND TO MEDIATE COMPLAINTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 37-6-106, RELATING TO INVESTIGATORY POWERS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE PRESENTATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE BEFORE BEGINNING AN INVESTIGATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 37-6-108, RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT ORDERS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INFORMATION BE PROVIDED BEFORE A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER IS ISSUED TO A BUSINESS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 37-2-307, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SALES CONTRACT CLOSING FEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE CLOSING FEE TO BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED WITH THE ADVERTISED PRICE.

 Senator CLIMER objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 603 -- Senator Climer: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 46‑41‑230, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA GRAIN AND COTTON PRODUCERS GUARANTY FUND’S AMOUNT AND CLAIMS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT, IF THERE IS AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO COVER ALL CLAIMS, THEN PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE ON A PRO RATA BASIS, AND THE PRO RATA DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED UPON THE PRODUCER’S TOTAL LOSS AMOUNT AS WELL AS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS GRANTED TO THE PRODUCER; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 46‑41‑250, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA GRAIN AND COTTON PRODUCERS GUARANTY FUND, SO AS TO INCLUDE COTTON.

 Senator CLIMER objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 640 -- Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO WATER CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5119, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

 Senator CLIMER objected to consideration of the Resolution.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 641 -- Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION - BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS; PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR LICENSED VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND UNLICENSED VETERINARY AIDES; LICENSURE AND EXAMINATIONS FOR VETERINARIANS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5121, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

 Senator CLIMER objected to consideration of the Resolution.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 260 -- Senators Rankin, Hutto and Stephens: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE “RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL SERVER TRAINING ACT”; BY AMENDING TITLE 61, RELATING TO ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BY ADDING CHAPTER 3, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF A MANDATORY ALCOHOL SERVER TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM, TO REQUIRE SERVERS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON‑PREMISES CONSUMPTION IN LICENSED OR PERMITTED BUSINESSES TO OBTAIN ALCOHOL SERVER CERTIFICATES, TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE CURRICULA OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROVAL OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALCOHOL SERVER CERTIFICATES, TO REQUIRE FEES FROM PROVIDERS OF TRAINING PROGRAMS AND FROM APPLICANTS FOR ALCOHOL SERVER CERTIFICATES TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE MANDATORY TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT, TO REQUIRE COORDINATION AMONG THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THESE PROVISIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR FINES AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THESE PROVISIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 61‑2‑60, RELATING TO THE PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS, TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, EDUCATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL SERVER TRAINING PROVISIONS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 61‑2‑145, SECTION 61‑4‑50, SECTION 61‑4‑90(A), SECTION 61‑4‑580, SECTION 61‑6‑2220, SECTION 61‑6‑4070(A), AND SECTION 61‑6‑4080, ALL RELATING TO THE UNLAWFUL SALE OF ALCOHOL, TO PROVIDE FOR FINES AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

 Senator MARTIN objected to consideration of the Bill.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 108 -- Senators Davis and Scott: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 9-1-1770, RELATING TO PRERETIREMENT DEATH BENEFIT PROGRAMS UNDER THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A DEATH BENEFIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE BENEFIT, TO PROVIDE WHO SHALL RECEIVE THE DEATH BENEFIT PAYMENT, AND TO PROVIDE THE SOURCE OF THE REVENUE FOR THE PAYMENT; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 9-11-120, RELATING TO A PRERETIREMENT DEATH BENEFIT PROGRAM UNDER THE POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A DEATH BENEFIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE BENEFIT, TO PROVIDE WHO SHALL RECEIVE THE DEATH BENEFIT PAYMENT, AND TO PROVIDE THE SOURCE OF THE REVENUE FOR THE PAYMENT.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 284 -- Senators Davis, Turner, Jackson and Scott: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 6‑1‑530, RELATING TO USE OF REVENUE FROM LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAXES MAY BE USED; BY AMENDING SECTION 6‑1‑730, RELATING TO USE OF REVENUE FROM LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAXES MAY BE USED; BY AMENDING SECTION 6‑4‑10, RELATING TO A SPECIAL FUND FOR TOURISM, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF SPECIAL FUND, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE SPECIAL FUND MAY BE USED; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 6‑4‑15, RELATING TO USE OF REVENUES TO FINANCE BONDS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH BONDS MAY BE ISSUED.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 298 -- Senators Bennett, Turner and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-2320, RELATING TO ALTERNATE METHODS FOR THE ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF INCOME FOR STATE INCOME TAX PURPOSES, SO AS TO SET FORTH A PROCESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXPAYERS TO ACCURATELY DETERMINE NET INCOME.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 557 -- Senators M. Johnson, Peeler, Kimbrell, Adams, Rice, Rankin, Reichenbach, Young, Loftis and Climer: 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.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 581 -- Senators Hembree, Campsen, McElveen, Goldfinch and Senn: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1‑1‑661 SO AS TO NAME THE VENUS FLYTRAP THE OFFICIAL CARNIVOROUS PLANT OF THE STATE.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 602 -- Senators Shealy, Alexander, Peeler, Garrett, Reichenbach, Rice, Hembree, Bennett, Cromer, Campsen, Massey, Cash, M. Johnson, Climer, Turner, Grooms, Talley, Gustafson, Davis, Setzler, Senn and Hutto: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 1‑30‑35, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE; BY AMENDING TITLE 44 BY REMOVING CHAPTER 20 AND INSERTING IT INTO TITLE 43; TO AMEND CHAPTER 20 TO ELIMINATE THE COMMISSION AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE DEPARTMENT; TO REENACT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD IS A DIRECTOR APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE; TO TRANSFER THE POWERS AND DUTIES VESTED IN THE COMMISSION TO THE DIRECTOR; TO TRANSFER FROM THE COMMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT THE AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS; TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS; AND BY REPEALING CHAPTER 20, TITLE 44.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

S. 612 -- Senators Shealy and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 63‑7‑10, RELATING TO THE PURPOSE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN’S CODE, SO AS TO PROVIDE CHILD WELFARE SERVICE PRINCIPLES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 63‑7‑920, RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS AND CASE DETERMINATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING IN THE CASE OF A REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

**Point of Order**

 Senator MARTIN raised a Point of Order under Rule 39 that the Bill had not been on the desks of the members at least one day prior to second reading.

 The PRESIDENT sustained the Point of Order.

**ADOPTED**

S. 205 -- Senator Fanning: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE BRIDGE ALONG WATEREE ROAD IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY WHERE IT CROSSES THE WATEREE CREEK “JERRY NEALY BRIDGE” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

 The Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

S. 437 -- Senator Rice: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW MILITARY BASE THAT WOULD ASSIST VETERANS IN THEIR TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

 The Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

S. 491 -- Senator Fanning: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 34 IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY FROM THE NEWBERRY/FAIRFIELD COUNTY LINE TO STATE ROAD S-20-99 “JOHNNY PEOPLES MEMORIAL HIGHWAY” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

 The Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

**THE CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED CALENDAR HAVING BEEN COMPLETED, THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO THE MOTION PERIOD.**

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 At 1:55 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to dispense with the balance of the Motion Period.

**Motion to Adjourn Failed**

 At 1:56 P.M., Senator SCOTT moved that the Senate stand adjourn.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 7; Nays 28**

**AYES**

Fanning *Johnson, Kevin* Malloy

Matthews Sabb Scott

Stephens

**Total--7**

**NAYS**

Alexander Bennett Campsen

Cash Climer Corbin

Cromer Davis Garrett

Goldfinch Grooms Gustafson

Harpootlian Hembree *Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Martin Massey

Peeler Rankin Reichenbach

Rice Senn Setzler

Shealy Turner Verdin

Young

**Total--28**

 The Senate refused to adjourn.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO THE SPECIAL ORDERS.**

**AMENDED, READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

 S. 576 -- Senators Massey, Garrett, Peeler, Climer, Cash, Bennett, Turner, Gustafson, Rice, Verdin, Kimbrell, Corbin, Cromer, McElveen and Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 27-13-30, RELATING TO LIMITATION ON ALIEN LAND OWNERSHIP, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CORPORATIONS CONTROLLED BY A FOREIGN ADVERSARY CANNOT ACQUIRE AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THIS STATE; TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS; AND TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF REAL PROPERTY THAT AN ALIEN OR CORPORATION MAY ACQUIRE AN INTEREST IN FROM FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRES TO ONE THOUSAND ACRES.

 The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Bill, the question being the third reading of the Bill.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator HUTTO, with unanimous consent, Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were withdrawn.

**Amendment No. 9**

 Senator REICHENBACH proposed the following amendment (SJ-576.PB0051S), which was carried over and subsequently withdrawn:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(C) and inserting:

 (C) A citizen of a foreign adversary or a corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may not acquire any interest in real property within the limits of this State. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to businesses and industries operating within the limits of the State on December 31, 2022, if the land or real property is acquired for expansion purposes and the expansion is approved by the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor. The provisions of this subsection also do not apply to businesses that on or before the effective date of this subsection have received commitments or proposals from the Department of Commerce related to discretionary state incentives, and such businesses shall be eligible to acquire land or real property to establish operations or later expand in the State with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator REICHENBACH explained the amendment.

 On motion of Senator REICHENBACH, the amendment was carried over.

**Amendment No. 10**

 Senator MASSEY proposed the following amendment (SJ-576.PB0052S), which was adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(D)(2)(a) and (b) and inserting:

 (a) has been granted lawful permanent resident status by the United States government, and

 (b) acquires no more than five acres for residential use.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator MASSEY explained the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

**Amendment No. 11A**

 Senator McELVEEN proposed the following amendment (SMIN-576.MW0054S), which was carried over and subsequently withdrawn:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(C) and inserting:

 (C) No corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may acquire any interest in real property within one mile of the property line of a military base, military installation, military airport, or within one mile of the property line of other critical infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the State that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on state security, state economic security, state public health or safety or any combination of those matters.

 Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, Section 27-13-30, by adding a subsection to read:

 (E) Subject to the provisions contained in subsection (B), nothing in this section is intended to restrict the operation or expansion of operations of legal entities controlled by aliens currently operating in this State.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator McELVEEN explained the amendment.

 On motion of Senator McELVEEN, the amendment was carried over.

**Amendment No. 12**

 Senator McELVEEN proposed the following amendment (SMIN-576.AA0049S), which was carried over and subsequently withdrawn:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(C) and inserting:

 (C) No corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may acquire any interest in real property within three miles of a military base, military installation, military airport, or within three miles of other critical infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the State that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on state security, state economic security, state public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

 Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, Section 27-13-30, by adding a subsection to read:

 (E) Subject to the provisions contained in subsection (B), nothing in this section is intended to restrict the operation or expansion of operations of legal entities controlled by aliens currently operating in this State.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator McELVEEN explained the amendment.

 On motion of Senator McELVEEN, the amendment was carried over.

**Amendment No. 7**

 Senator MARTIN proposed the following amendment (SR-576.JG0041S), which was not adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(D) and inserting:

 ~~(D) The provisions of subsection (C) do not apply to a citizen of a foreign adversary who:~~

 ~~(1) also is a citizen of the United States; or~~

 ~~(2) resides in the United States, and~~

 ~~(a) possesses a valid green card as a lawful permanent resident, and~~

 ~~(b) acquires no more than:~~

 ~~(i) five acres for residential or recreational use, or~~

 ~~(ii) five tax parcel properties that do not exceed in the cumulative twenty-five acres for commercial use as a landlord or property manager.~~

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator MARTIN explained the amendment.

 Senator MASSEY spoke against the amendment.

 The amendment failed.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator HUTTO, with unanimous consent, Amendment No. 8 was withdrawn.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator REICHENBACH, with unanimous consent, Amendment No. 9 was withdrawn.

 **Amendment No. 13**

 Senator REICHENBACH proposed the following amendment (SJ-576.PB0055S), which was adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(C) and inserting:

 (C) A citizen of a foreign adversary or a corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may not acquire any interest in real property within the limits of this State. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to businesses and industries operating within the limits of the State on December 31, 2022, if the land or real property is acquired for expansion purposes and the expansion is approved by the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor. The provisions of this subsection also do not apply to businesses that on or before March 23, 2023, have received commitments or proposals from the Department of Commerce related to discretionary state incentives, and such businesses shall be eligible to acquire land or real property to establish operations or later expand in the State with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator REICHENBACH explained the amendment.

 Senator MALLOY spoke on the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

**Amendment No. 14**

 Senator McELVEEN proposed the following amendment (SMIN-576.AA0056S), which was not adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 27-13-30(C) and inserting:

 (C) No corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may acquire any interest in real property within twenty miles of the property line of a military base, military installation, military airport, or within twenty miles of the property line of other critical infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the State that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on state security, state economic security, state public health or safety or any combination of those matters.

 Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, Section 27-13-30, by adding a subsection to read:

 (E) Subject to the provisions contained in subsection (B), nothing in this section is intended to restrict the operation or expansion of operations of legal entities controlled by aliens currently operating in this State.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator McELVEEN explained the amendment.

 The amendment failed.

 On motion of Senator McELVEEN, with unanimous consent, Amendment Nos. 11A and 12 were withdrawn.

 Senator SCOTT spoke on the Bill.

 The question then was third reading of the Bill.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 31; Nays 5**

**AYES**

Alexander Bennett Campsen

Cash Climer Corbin

Cromer Davis Garrett

Goldfinch Grooms Gustafson

Hembree *Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Malloy

Massey Matthews McElveen

Peeler Rankin Reichenbach

Rice Senn Setzler

Shealy Turner Verdin

Young

**Total--31**

**NAYS**

Allen Harpootlian Sabb

Scott Stephens

**Total--5**

 There being no further amendments, the Bill was read the third time, passed and ordered sent to the House of Representatives with amendments.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 At 3:14 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M. under the provisions of Rule 1 for the purpose of taking up local matters and uncontested matters which have previously received unanimous consent to be taken up.

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