

AMENDMENT: 1

Senators Peeler, Alexander, and Cromer

117.tm. (GP: Tuition Mitigation) Of the funds appropriated to the Executive Budget Office, as part of the annual solicitation of agency budget requests, the office shall require all institutions of higher education to provide detailed analysis for any requests for tuition mitigation. The office shall also require all institutions to provide detailed information on cost savings and efficiency initiatives that have been implemented, as well as any that could further be proposed to offset the need for tuition increases or that could lead to a reduction in tuition. The office shall develop guidance, forms, and any other requirements in coordination with the Governor's Office, Senate Finance Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee to collect this information.

AMENDMENT: 2

Senator Corbin

49.sr. (PRT: State Road S-46) The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall not expend funds to establish additional public access to Paris Mountain State Park from Altamont Road known as state road S-46.

AMENDMENT: 3

Senator Martin

117.cpvci. (GP: COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Restriction - Institutions) For the current fiscal year, state-supported institutions of higher learning that receive funds appropriated or authorized through the General Appropriations Act shall be restricted from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, the wearing of a facemask, or a COVID-19 diagnostic test result, for any student as a condition of enrollment, attendance at on campus instruction, use of facilities, or residence on campus. The COVID-19 diagnostic test result shall also extend to a COVID-19 antibody test. In instances of off-campus learning events for which third party program providers require proof of vaccination, the third-party requirements shall apply.

AMENDMENT: 4

Senator Martin

57.epar. (JUD: Equal Parenting and Alimony Reform Study Committee) (A) There is created the Equal Parenting and Alimony Reform Study Committee. This committee is charged with studying and making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the concept of the presumption of equally shared parenting time in custody orders, and regarding reforms to the alimony system with a focus on permanent alimony to ensure fair and equitable economic allocations. Membership of the study committee shall be comprised of five members as follows:

(1) Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or his designee, who shall serve as Co-Chair;

(2) Chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, or his designee, who shall serve as Co-Chair;

(3) one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or his designee;

(4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee; and

(5) one member appointed by the Governor.

(B) The study committee shall provide findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly by March 1, 2025, at which time the study committee shall dissolve. Members of the study committee shall receive mileage, per diem, and subsistence from the Judicial Department as provided by law. Staff support for the study committee shall be provided by the relevant standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

AMENDMENT: 6

Senator Shealy

117.daa. (GP: Distribution of Approved Antidotes)
An organization, either public or private, which provides substance use disorder assistance and services may distribute naloxone hydrochloride opioid antidotes which have been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter sale or distribution. If the distributing organization's distribution is consistent with the existing standard of care and any applicable guidelines, rules, regulations, or other directives imposed by the Food and Drug Administration, then the distributing organization is not subject to criminal or civil liability for acts or omissions related to the distribution.

AMENDMENT: 7

Senator Shealy

1.cnp. (SDE: Child Nutrition Programs) For the current fiscal year and subject to the appropriation of funds, child nutrition programs that serve school breakfast and/or school lunch shall not charge a qualifying student a reduced-price copayment. The traditional \$0.30 copayment for breakfast and \$0.40 copayment for lunch may not be collected from the student. This restriction on payment collection does not change the requirements for processing meal applications. School districts shall continue to process meal applications and assign meal status based on income eligibility guidelines. Districts shall continue to claim meals based on assigned eligibility status. Meals counted by students that have a reduced meal status must be claimed for reimbursement as reduced meals. Reimbursements to school districts for reduced meals shall be reduced proportionately if sufficient funds are not appropriated to cover the full cost.

AMENDMENT: 8

Senator Shealy

20.sap. (USC: Substance Abuse Prevention) Of the funds appropriated to the University of South Carolina for the current fiscal year, the University's Division of Student Health and Well-Being, Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education is encouraged to apply for applicable local, state, and/or federal grant funding intended to support the creation and ongoing maintenance of a pilot program across the eight-campus University system that is designed to increase the availability of, and provide more ready access to, over-the-counter opioid reversal medications, such as naloxone, through non-traditional distribution mechanisms including, but not limited to, harm reduction vending machines. In implementing the pilot program, the University shall examine best practices deployed by other states including, but not limited to, Georgia, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. In addition, implementation shall be in accordance with applicable local, state, and/or federal laws and regulations and access to the opioid reversal medications distributed as a direct result of

this provision shall be at no cost to the end user/consumer. The University annually shall report metrics related to the utilization and effectiveness of this provision, including associated costs and funding sources to support the pilot program, to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, and the Senate Medical Affairs Committee on or before May thirty-first of each year. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. Notwithstanding the requirements of this provision, nothing herein shall create an unfunded mandate on the University, and the creation and ongoing maintenance of this pilot program is dependent on the successful awarding of local, state and/or federal grant funding in an amount sufficient to support the program. Unexpended funds shall be reinvested in this program for the following fiscal year.

AMENDMENT: 9

Senator Jackson

117.sm. (GP: IT System Modernization) Of the funds appropriated in this act for IT System Modernization, the Department of Motor Vehicles is directed to work with the Department of Administration's Office of Technology and Information Services for the purposes of procurement and implementation of any new technology.

AMENDMENT: 10

Senator Alexander

38.24. (DSS: Tuition Reimbursement/Student Loan Repayment) (A) The Department of Social Services is allowed to spend state, federal, and other sources of revenue to provide tuition assistance, tuition reimbursement and/or student loan repayment to aid in retaining caseworkers and critical needs department jobs based on objective guidelines established by the State Director of the Department of Social Services. The department may pay tuition expenses directly to a college or university or to the employee.

(B) The department may also provide paid educational leave for any employees in an FTE position to attend class while enrolled in programs that are related to the agency's mission. All such leave is at the agency head's discretion.

(C) The department may enter into an agreement with staff employed in critical need departments to repay them for their outstanding student loans and/or reimburse tuition expenses. The employee must be employed in a critical needs area, which would be

identified at the agency head's discretion, be in a covered FTE, and not have any significant or performance-based disciplinary actions. Payments cannot exceed the balance of the student loan or the cost of tuition and required books.

AMENDMENT: 11

Senator Alexander

117.82.(GP: Civil Conspiracy Defense Costs) For the current fiscal year, for any claim that has not reached a judgment, if a state or local government employee or former state or local government employee (“government employee”) is personally sued for civil conspiracy ~~based in part upon a personnel or employment action or decision regarding an employee,~~ the employee must be provided legal counsel by the Insurance Reserve Fund upon the submission of an affidavit executed by the agency head or his designee that the employee was acting within the scope of employment or in good faith. ~~Prior to trial,~~ the court must, ~~prior to trial,~~ make a final determination whether the action or decision giving rise to the suit was made by the government employee within the scope of their official duty. If the court finds that the government employee was acting outside the scope of the employee’s official duties, the government shall not thereafter expend any funds to pay or defend the claim. If the court finds the government employee was acting within the

scope of their official duties, the employee is immune from suit, liability, and damages with respect to the civil conspiracy claim. The government may only expend funds to defend the claim if the determination is that the employee was acting within the scope of their official duties. Nothing in this proviso prevents an insurance provider from defending and paying, respectively, any claims that the provider has contractually agreed to defend and pay.

AMENDMENT: 12

Senator Alexander

117.mpd. (GP: Medicaid Permit Days) The Department of Public Health shall not issue any Medicaid permit days in excess of the number of days authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the appropriations act. For the current fiscal year, the Department of Health and Human Services may grant additional permit days to facilities licensed and operating with a Medicaid permit who are deemed to be under the Medicaid permit days necessary to serve the residents of the county. This may include facilities with a restricted Certificate of Need and facilities operating under a previous waiver. Waivers shall not be granted for a nursing home that exceeds the number of patient days by more than five percent stated in its permit.

AMENDMENT: 13

Senator Martin

73.rcc. (ORS: Rural Community Centers) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall allocate up to \$250,000 of any fund balances, if available, to support rural community centers that provide broadband, Wi-Fi, and telehealth services for underserved residents in rural communities. Support shall be provided by a local chamber of commerce to assist in having these services throughout the state so no underserved resident would have to travel more than twenty miles to reach a full-equipped community center.

AMENDMENT: 14

Senator Bennett

1.75. (SDE: ESSER Funds) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Education, the department shall ensure that school districts are made aware of all the permissible uses of ESSER funds that are at their disposal. Before August 1, 2024, the department shall distribute a list of cooperative purchasing agreements, as defined by Section 11-35-4810(1), that school districts may join, participate, or use at their discretion in order to maximize the impact of district ESSR fund allocations. The department shall provide training and technical support to district personnel throughout the process.

AMENDMENT: 15

Senator Davis

88.8. (~~SPA: Transfer of Interest in Joint Venture Analysis~~ *Funds for Due Diligence on Port-Related Facility*) Of the funds previously appropriated to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) in the Jasper Ocean Terminal Facility Permitting and Infrastructure Fund, SCSPA is directed to distribute, in installments and subject to the approvals as hereinafter provided, up to ~~\$1,500,000~~ \$2,000,000 to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) for SCRDA's service as an intermediary and service provider on behalf of a coalition of its interested member counties with economic interests in Jasper County's ocean terminal-related improvements to procure legal, financial, engineering, and other professional services necessary to analyze, and to the extent appropriate, engage in negotiations with the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) regarding a ~~potential assignment of SCSPA's one-half interest in the Jasper Ocean Terminal Joint Venture Agreement to either SCRDA or an entity comprised of its interested~~

member counties supporting infrastructure for port-related development of the Jasper Ocean Terminal site and supporting property owned by the joint venture and/or nearby property currently owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Services should include, without limitation, the following: field geotechnical work of the dredge area to provide guidance for developing the site; conducting an environmental site assessment to determine if any environmental conditions warrant further review, including potentially entering into a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with the Department of Environmental Services; conducting an ALTA boundary survey and subdivision plat; initial archaeological field work and reports necessary to coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office for the necessary scope of a final Cultural Resource Information System study; and coordinating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for technical documents and plans necessary to secure the release of an existing spoil easement. Prior to receiving funds from SCSPA, SCRDA shall submit a written request to the Department of Commerce for the review and written approval of a distribution from SCSPA to SCRDA, which approval shall not be unreasonably

withheld, with a copy of the written request by SCRDA and the written approval from the Department of Commerce to be provided to SCSPA prior to the distribution of funds. On or before January 31, ~~2024~~ 2025, SCRDA shall submit a written report to the President of the South Carolina Senate, the Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, and the Governor of South Carolina, summarizing the substance of its negotiations and communications with GPA and recommending a course of action for consideration.

AMENDMENT: 16

Senator Bennett

1A.56. (SDE-EIA: Grants Committee) (A)Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Education for Innovation Grants, the grants committee shall accept applications per the established process for new grantees not to exceed the amount appropriated by the General Assembly.

(B) The process shall include the application procedure, and selection process, ~~and matching grant formula if applicable.~~ The grants committee must be comprised of seven members, three members selected from the education community and four members selected from the business community. The suggested criteria for awarding the grants to schools or school districts or directly purchasing services must include, but are not limited to:

~~(1) a demonstrated ability to meet the match throughout the granting period;~~

~~(2) a demonstrated ability to implement the initiative or model as set forth in the application;~~

~~(3) identification of key measurable benchmarks in the education continuum that must be improved to raise student achievement and ensure all students graduate college, career and civic ready;~~

~~(4) a demonstrated ability to be both replicable and scalable with priority given to those projects that focus on applied learning opportunities and experiences, especially in the STEM or STEAM fields;~~

~~(5) blended and personalized learning focused on content mastery and experiential learning; and~~

~~(6) innovative strategies to close student achievement gaps, with a focus on below average and unsatisfactory schools.~~

(1) identification of key measurable benchmarks to raise student achievement and ensure all students are prepared to graduate college, career and civic ready;

(2) innovative strategies to close student achievement gaps in reading and mathematics, with a focus on schools with an academic achievement rating of below average and unsatisfactory;

(3) a demonstrated ability to implement the initiative or model as outlined in the application; and

(4) a demonstrated ability to be both replicable and scalable with priority given to projects grounded in evidence-based practices that have significantly impacted student achievement outcomes.

(C) Notice of grant opportunities and applications shall be posted on the department's website by May 30th. Applications for funding must be submitted to the department by June 30th. Notification of grant awards and final grant amounts shall be sent to applicants by July 31st.

(D) Applicants who commit to a match will be given priority in the selection process. The required match may be met by funds or by in-kind donations, such as technology, to be further defined by the grants committee. Public school districts and schools that have high poverty and low achievement will receive priority for grants when their applications are judged to meet the criteria established for the grant program. De-identified student level data shall be submitted, including a definition of program fidelity. The committee shall submit an annual report to the Governor, the Chairman of House Ways and Means and the Chairman of Senate Finance by June 30th.

(E) Grantees and service providers will be required to participate in an external evaluation by selecting an evaluator from a Department approved list as prescribed by the committee in the application and agreed upon in the application and award process. Funding for the evaluation shall be based on a percentage of the grantee's final award.

(F) Projects may receive funding for up to three consecutive grant cycles, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-25. After three consecutive grant cycles, funding through the innovative grants fund will be discontinued for these grantees. When funding is discontinued, the department may provide a recommendation to the Education Oversight Committee regarding future scalability through ELA funds based on evidence of measurable increases in student outcomes.

~~(G)~~ The grants committee must award at least one grant to an applicant providing an assessment tool that will provide each district with a local inventory dashboard of education software programs used by their students and teachers, and that includes an aggregate dashboard of program usage from across the state, for the department. Additionally, the system must provide a compilation of usage data by educator and student, be able to conduct rapid cycle evaluations to measure the effectiveness of education software programs based on student outcomes, and support evidence-based analysis of education software programs aligned to the required levels of evidence in the Every Student Succeeds Act. Any system procured must meet the state and agency minimum IT security standards as prescribed by the department. The department is authorized to carry forward and expend any balance for funds authorized in the prior fiscal year for Innovation Grants that provide an assessment tool as described herein in the current fiscal year.

AMENDMENT: 20

Senator Peeler

49.ccmc. (PRT: Cherokee County Midway Complex) The funds appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, Section 118.19, Item (86)(w) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for Cherokee County Former Broad River Electric Facility Renovation shall be redirected to Cherokee County for the Midway Complex.

AMENDMENT: 21

Senator Goldfinch

117.rfw. (GP: Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program) (A) For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Department of Natural Resources, and the Office of Resilience shall collaborate to create the Rice Fields and Wetlands pilot program. The purpose of this program is to evaluate the creation of permits for reconstructing defunct rice fields and managed wetlands for the purposes of conservation, wildlife management, and flood mitigation.

(B) The pilot program shall:

(1) create certain eligibility criteria that properties are required to fit to participate in the program;

(2) establish the fee of the permit;

(3) allow up to one hundred properties that fit the specified criteria to participate; and

(4) utilize the revenue derived from the fee of the experimental permit for the cost of the pilot program.

(C) A progress report on the viability of the permit program shall be submitted to the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2025.

AMENDMENT: 19

Senator Johnson

1.fkt. (SDE: 4K Teachers) Of the funds appropriated through the Department of Education for school districts, the department shall work with school districts to encourage, where practical, to include 4K teachers in the unencumbered time requirements in Section 59-5-63.

AMENDMENT: 22

Senator Davis

1.105. (SDE: Charter School Transfer) Of the funds appropriated or authorized herein, a charter school that is authorized or chartered by an institution of higher education, or entity owned by or affiliated with an institution of higher education, may transfer its charter to a different authorizer provided that its current authorizer is operating under a warning of noncompliance with any core requirements or significant noncompliance of other standards or is on probation by its accrediting body for degree-granting higher education institutions. Furthermore, a charter school may apply to transfer its charter to a different authorizer if its current authorizer ceases operations. An authorizer under warning, on probation, or ceasing operation shall not demand or withhold any unspent appropriated funds held by or owed to a charter school. Furthermore, the authorizer may not charge any fees associated with the school moving to another authorizer. Prior to accepting a transfer application, the receiving authorizer shall consider any existing allegations by

the prior authorizer that the transferring school is in noncompliance with its charter contract and determine whether any corrective action should be taken by the school, and the transfer shall not be allowed unless and until the corrective action has been taken. The receiving authorizer may deny a transfer application made under this section, and the decision of the receiving authorizer to accept or deny a transfer application is final and may not be appealed. The receiving authorizer may require a transferring school to execute a new charter school contract or amend its charter for the time remaining on them or execute new ten-year charter and contract. The receiving authorizer is not bound by the terms or conditions of a transferring school's charter contract or charter. If a charter school ceases to operate for any reason as a result of this provision, then its assets become the property of the State Department of Education immediately upon closure and the State Department of Education shall be responsible for adopting and implementing a closure protocol to ensure an orderly closure in this situation.

AMENDMENT: 26

Senator Young

93.srs. (DOA: Savannah River Site Funds Redirect)
Of the funds appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section
118.19, Item (72)(c) to Aiken County – Improvements
to Sage Mill Industrial Park, \$1,300,000 shall be
redirected to be used by the county for the Eastern
Aiken County Industrial Park Project.

AMENDMENT: 27

Senator Goldfinch

117.169. (GP: Abandoned Textile Mills) For any project involving an abandoned textile mill of between either: (1) 50,000 and 55,000 square feet, the rehabilitation of which began on or prior to June 30, 2022; or (2) 130,000 and 135,000 square feet and estimated rehabilitation expenses of between either: (1) \$3,000,000 and \$3,500,000; or (2) \$5,500,000 and \$6,500,000, a Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate filed pursuant to the South Carolina Textile Communities Revitalization Act on or before June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025, shall be effective as of the effective date designated by the taxpayer in the Notice to Intent to Rehabilitate for purposes of Section 12-65-30(C)(2), which effective date may be earlier than the date of the Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate, and any rehabilitation expenses incurred on or after the effective date designated by the taxpayer shall be eligible for credits under Section 12-65-30(A)(2), provided all other applicable statutory requirements are satisfied.

AMENDMENT: 29

Senators Peeler, Alexander, Bennett, Cromer, Davis, Grooms, Jackson, Martin, Setzler, Verdin, Allen, Corbin, Fanning, Gambrell, Goldfinch, Hembree, Johnson, Matthews, McElveen, Shealy, Turner, Williams, Young

118.itr. (SR: Income Tax Reduction) For the 2024 income tax year, the top marginal rate imposed on the South Carolina taxable income of individuals, estates, trusts, and any other entity except those taxed or exempted from taxation under Sections 12-6-530 through 12-6-550 of the S.C. Code, equals 6.2%. The bracket to which the 6.2% applies must be the same as the bracket for which the top marginal rate would have otherwise applied.

AMENDMENT: 30

Senators Peeler, Alexander, Bennett, Cromer, Davis, Grooms, Jackson, Martin, Setzler, Verdin, Allen, Corbin, Fanning, Gambrell, Goldfinch, Hembree, Johnson, Matthews, McElveen, Shealy, Turner, Williams, Young

118.hex. (SR: Homestead Exemption Fund) (A) The source of revenue appropriated in subsection (B) is nonrecurring revenue generated from the following source:

\$600 million from the Homestead Exemption Fund.

Any restrictions concerning specific utilization of these funds are suspended for the specified fiscal year. The above agency transfer shall occur no later than thirty days after the close of the books on Fiscal Year 2023-24 and shall be available for use in Fiscal Year 2024-25 after September 1, 2024, following the Comptroller General's close of the State's book on Fiscal Year 2023-24.

This transfer shall constitute partial repayment of the general revenues of the State, which have subsidized property tax relief in the amount of \$927.4 million dollars pursuant to Act 388 of 2006.

(B) The appropriations in this provision are listed in priority order. Item (1) must be funded first and each remaining item must be fully funded before any funds are allocated to the next item. Provided, however, that any individual item may be partially funded in the order in which it appears to the extent that revenues are available.

The State Treasurer shall disburse the following appropriations by September 30, 2024 for the purposes stated:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>(1) Part IA General Fund to Accelerate the Income Tax</u> | |
| <u>Reduction to 6.2%</u> | <u>\$99,599,000;</u> |
| <u>(2) U200 - County Transportation Funds</u> | |
| <u>CTC Acceleration Fund</u> | <u>\$200,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(3) U120 - Department of Transportation</u> | |
| <u>(a) Bridge Acceleration Fund</u> | <u>\$100,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Rural Road Safety Program</u> | <u>\$117,400,000;</u> |
| <u>(4) P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority</u> | |

(a) Rural Infrastructure Fund \$15,000,000;

(b) Statewide Water and Sewer Fund \$15,000,000;

(5) H270 – University of South Carolina

Health Sciences Campus Bond Avoidance \$53,000,000

Funding included in item 3 above shall be utilized to enhance both programs and shall not supplant any funds currently designated for these purposes. Allocations of funding contained in items 2, 3, and 4 above shall take into account the availability of matching federal funds.

(C) Unexpended funds appropriated pursuant to this provision may be carried forward to succeeding fiscal years and expended for the same purposes.

AMENDMENT: 31

Senator Setzler

117.air (GP: Commercial Air Travel) When booking out of state air travel for official state business, preference shall be given to the closest in-state Class I Airport as defined by 14 CFR Part 139.

AMENDMENT: 32

Senator Bennett

99.uls. (RSIC: Unfunded Liability Study) The Retirement System Investment Commission will study and provide recommendations on viable alternative means of addressing the retirement system's unfunded liability that do not involve an increase in employer or employee contributions including, but not limited to, methods to refinance, restructure, securitize, or capitalize the system's obligations. RSIC shall submit a report to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee by December 31st that provides a summary of any alternative method including the risks, benefits, and impact to the retirement system and RSIC's investment program, as well as the extent to which the method has been employed in other states and the realized impact of the particular method. RSIC may employ any expert, consultant, actuary, or other resource reasonably necessary to assist with this study and other state agencies will provide RSIC with any reasonable assistance and

information needed to fulfill the requirements of this provision.

AMENDMENT: 33

Senators Martin and Allen

66.rts. (DPPP: Reentry Transition Services) For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall allocate up to \$500,000 of any fund balances, if available, for reentry transition services.

AMENDMENT: 34

Senator Goldfinch

55.ec. (DES: Erosion Control) The department shall review all enforcement actions related to violations of Section 48-39-290(B)(2) for erosion control devices erected in whole or in part after May 3, 2018. The review shall compare the outcome of the enforcement action to the likely outcome of the enforcement action based upon the new baseline and setback line established by Section 48-39-285. The department shall notify affected property owners of the results of the review. Upon request by an affected property owner, the department shall initiate a new enforcement action applying the new baseline and setback line established by Section 48-39-285. The results of the new enforcement action may be challenged and appealed by the property owner in the manner provided by law. If the affected property owner prevails in the new enforcement action then the department shall compensate the property owner for all costs incurred to defend the original and new enforcement actions, penalties levied, and costs

incurred by the property owner to remedy the original violation.