

**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
PROVISO CHANGES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FY 2025-26**

SECTION 43 - P120 - FORESTRY COMMISSION

43.rde **ADD** (FC: Response to Declared Emergencies) **SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct that if a declared emergency requires a response by the South Carolina Forestry Commission pursuant to Section 25-1-440, the State Treasurer and Comptroller General can use funds from the Emergency Reserve Fund to cover costs, if available. Directs that if the Emergency Reserve Fund is insufficient, the General Fund may be used, with a cap of \$3,000,000 transferred to the commission. Directs that notification be made to the Governor, Senate Finance Committee Chairman, and House Ways & Means Committee Chairman after any transfer and any reimbursed funds will be returned to the original fund, up to the amount initially provided.

43.rde. (FC: Response to Declared Emergencies) In the event of a declared emergency pursuant to Section 25-1-440 requiring the response of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General are hereby authorized and directed to pay from the Emergency Reserve Fund of the State such funds as necessary to cover the costs incurred, if available. In the event the Emergency Reserve Fund is exhausted or does not have a balance sufficient to cover the incurred costs, the General Fund of the State may be utilized. The total amount transferred to the South Carolina Forestry Commission shall not exceed \$3,000,000. Upon any transfer of funds, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General shall notify the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. Any funds reimbursed to the State shall be deposited in the respective fund from which it was transferred, up to the amount of funds advanced to the South Carolina Forestry Commission for these activities.

SECTION 44 - P160 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

44.2 **AMEND** (AGRI: Fruit/Vegetable Inspectors Subsistence) Authorizes up to a \$30 daily subsistence allowance to be paid to temporary fruits and vegetables inspectors instead of paying meals and lodging expense reimbursements.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the designated budget line item. Requested by the Department of Agriculture.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

44.2. (AGRI: Fruit/Vegetable Inspectors Subsistence) A daily subsistence allowance of up to \$30.00 may be allowed for temporarily employed fruits and vegetables inspectors from funds generated by fruits and vegetables inspection fees and budgeted under other funds in ~~Program III. Marketing Services, D. Inspection Services~~ Program II. Consumer Protection, B. Inspection Services, in lieu of reimbursements for meals and lodging expense.

44.12 **CONFORM TO FUNDING/ADD** (AGRI: Commodity Boards Interest Retention) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow Commodity Boards to retain and carry forward interest accrued from the Boards' accounts held by the State.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: CONFORM TO FUNDING/ADOPT new proviso.

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44.12. (AGRI: Commodity Boards Interest Retention) Commodity Boards shall be allowed to retain and carry forward any accrued interest generated from the Boards' accounts held by the State, including interest generated from assessments collected from producers, as defined in Section 46-17-40.

- 44.spc** **ADD** (AGRI: Seed and Plant Certification) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to allow for other laboratories qualified in seed certification to be used for seed testing. Precludes Clemson University from certifying seeds unless the seeds to be tested are accompanied by a report stipulating that the seeds comply with the agricultural laws of the state

44.spc. (AGRI: Seed and Plant Certification) For the current fiscal year certification of seeds and plants in regard to germination and mechanical purity of the seed depends upon the reports of the seed laboratory of the State Department of Agriculture or other laboratory providing a scope of testing satisfying the requirements dictated by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies and utilizing rules for testing as defined by the Association of Official Seed Analysts. Seeds may not be certified by Clemson University unless the germination and purity test reports of the seed laboratory of the department or other laboratory as defined above indicate that the seeds comply with the agricultural seed laws of this State.

SECTION 46 – P210 - SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- 46.ar** **ADD** (SCSU-PSA: Animal Research and Education) **SFC SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct SCSU PSA to coordinate and collaborate with the Clemson Veterinary School on the Animal Research and Education Center.

46.ar. (SCSU-PSA: Animal Research and Education) For the current fiscal year, South Carolina State Public Service Activities is directed to coordinate and collaborate with the Harvey S. Peeler Jr. College of Veterinary Medicine for the expenditure of funds appropriated for the Animal Research and Education Center. Any future appropriations for the Center shall require the same coordination and collaboration between the same agencies.

SECTION 47 - P240 - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 47.1** **RESTORE** (DNR: Publications Revenue) Allows the department to retain revenues generated from the sale of "South Carolina Wildlife" magazine and its by-products in order to become self-sustaining.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the allowance for general funds to be utilized for the South Carolina Wildlife magazine. Requested by the Department of Natural Resources.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RESTORE original proviso.

47.1. (DNR: Publications Revenue) For the current fiscal year all revenue generated from the sale of the "South Carolina Wildlife" magazine, its by-products and other publications, shall be retained by the department and used to support the production of same in order for the magazine to be self-sustaining. In addition, the department is authorized to sell advertising in the magazine and to increase the magazine's subscription rate, if necessary, to be self-sustaining. No

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general funds may be used for the operation and support of the “South Carolina Wildlife” magazine.

- 47.19 AMEND** (DNR: Deer Processing Pilot Program) Allows funds appropriated to the department to be utilized to create a pilot program awarding grants to deer processors who agree to process antlerless deer without a fee to the hunter, with the purpose of harvesting antlerless deer in areas where they impact the agriculture sector. States the processors must agree to donate the processed meat to non-profit organizations. Requires a report to be provided to the Chairmen of SFC and HWM on the implementation of the program and the grants awarded by June 30.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

47.19. (DNR: Deer Processing Pilot Program) Funds appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for the Pilot Deer Donation Program shall be used for the creation and implementation of a deer processing pilot program. This program shall be designated to incentivize the harvesting of antlerless deer in areas that are having impacts on the agriculture sector of the State’s economy. The grants to processors will allow hunters to deliver antlerless deer to the processors without a processing fee if the deer is to be donated as established by the department in the grant. The department is authorized to create a program and provide grants year-round to deer processors in this state. Grants shall only be provided to deer processors who agree to donate the processed meats to non-profit organizations. The department shall establish a fee structure to be paid to cooperating deer processors before awarding grants. The department may contract with vendors without competition. A report shall be provided by the department to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by June 30, 2025 2026, on the implementation of the pilot program and the grants awarded.

- 47.20 DELETE** (DNR: Barnwell County) Redirects funds appropriated for the Steel Creek Boat Landing Repair to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Natural Resources.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**47.20.** (DNR: Barnwell County) Funds remaining of the \$200,000 appropriated in Act 94 of 2021, Section 118.18(B)(77) to the Department of Natural Resources for the Steel Creek Boat Landing Repair shall be redirected to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.~~

SECTION 49 - P280 - DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM

- 49.19 DELETE** (PRT: Barnwell County) Redirects funds appropriated for the Barnwell County YMCA to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**49.19.** (PRT: Barnwell County) Funds remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Act 102 of 2023, Section 118.19(B)(86)(i) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for~~

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~~the Barnwell County YMCA shall be redirected to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.~~

- 49.21 DELETE** (PRT: Cherokee County Midway Complex) Redirects funds appropriated for Cherokee County Former Broad River Electric Facility Renovation to the Cherokee County for the Midway Complex.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**49.21.** (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.~~

- 49.23 DELETE** (PRT: Criterion Club of Dillon Funds) Redirects remaining funds appropriated for the Criterion Club of Dillon to the Dillon School District 4 Facility upgrades project.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**49.23.** (PRT: Criterion Club of Dillon Funds) Funds remaining of the \$125,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Proviso 118.19 (B)(93)(ffff) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the Criterion Club of Dillon shall be transferred and used for the Dillon School District 4 Facility upgrades.~~

- 49.24 AMEND NEW PROVISO** (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct the SC Film Commission to carry forward and expend funds to allow \$2 million for film project rebate opportunities to be available to local producers whose budgets are \$250,000 to \$999,999. Provides the requirements for qualification of the rebate program.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND new proviso to update the proviso title and the carry forward language.

49.24. (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward and Pilot Program) (A) ~~From the Any unexpended funds authorized or appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the South Carolina Film Commission, the commission may carry forward any unexpended funds~~ be carried forward. For Fiscal Year 2025-26, up to two million dollars of ~~the~~ these carried forward funds shall be used to create a pilot program whereby:

(B) An entity may apply to receive a state rebate with a project budget of a minimum of \$250,000 and maximum of \$999,999. Organizations certifying the satisfaction of the following requirements may receive a state rebate for 25% of all production costs, including wages and supplies, after a cumulative audit from the South Carolina Department of Revenue and the South Carolina Film Commission. The requirements are as follows:

(1) producer must be registered with both the South Carolina Secretary of State and the South Carolina Department of Revenue;

(2) producer must be a primary resident of South Carolina with a minimum of two years of residency in this state;

(3) all production activity must be physically in South Carolina;

(4) all producers' personal and corporate income taxes must be current;

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(5)(i) applicant must disclose the fiduciarily responsible parties with existing production;

(ii) the production funds must be in a separate account and be used exclusively for the production;

(6) production must have full funding prior to producing;

(7) production must include a five-second long static or animated official FilmSC logo in the end credits before the below-the-line crew crawl for the life of the project, and which includes a link to filmsc.com on the production's web page.

(C) Upon application approval, production-based activity must begin within 60 calendar days. Once an application is approved by the South Carolina Film Commission, the project must be completed and funds expended within three years of the approval date. The final rebate will be distributed to the production company on record.

49.25 AMEND (PRT: Town of McColl Repurpose) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow funds appropriated to the Town of McColl for Downtown Improvements to be redirected for the Main Street Methodist Church of Dillon's slate roof replacement project.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND further to direct the repurposed funds to be used for the City of Dillon for infrastructure improvements.

49.25. (PRT: Town of McColl Repurpose) The \$750,000 appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, by proviso 118.19(86)(wwwwww) to the Town of McColl for Downtown Improvements shall be redirected to be used for the ~~Main Street Methodist Church of Dillon's slate roof replacement project~~ City of Dillon for infrastructure improvements. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

49.cfm ADD (PRT: Calhoun Falls State Park Marina) **SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct appropriated or carried forward funds for Calhoun Falls State Park to be used to initiate construction of a marina.

49.cfm (PRT: Calhoun Falls State Park Marina) Of the funds appropriated or carried forward in prior fiscal years for Calhoun Falls State Park, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is directed to utilize these funds to initiate construction of the marina during the current fiscal year.

SECTION 50 - P320 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

50.26 DELETE (CMRC: Lexington County Repurpose) Redirects funds appropriated to the Town of Lexington for the conference center to be used for the Sunset Split project.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

50.26. (CMRC: Lexington County Repurpose) The \$10,000,000 appropriated in Act No. 84 of 2023, by proviso 118.19, Item (87)(o) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington Conference Center shall be redirected to be used for the Sunset Split project. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

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- 50.27 DELETE** (CMRC: Lexington County CC Repurpose) Redirects funds appropriated to the Town of Lexington for the convention center to be used for the Sunset Split project.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**50.27.** (CMRC: Lexington County CC Repurpose) The \$1,000,000 appropriated in Act No. 94 of 2021, by proviso 118.18(77) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington County Convention Center and the \$5,000,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, by proviso 118.19(93)(rrrrr) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington County Conference Center shall be redirected to be used for the Sunset Split project. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.~~

SECTION 78 - R200 - DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

- 78.4 DELETE** (INS: Coastal Insurance Markets) Directs the department to conduct a study on the coastal property insurance market. Provides for the composition and provisions of the study. Directs the study to be submitted to SFC, the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, WMC, and the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, and the Governor by October 1. Directs the department to immediately initiate efforts to recruit additional insurance providers in the market.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Insurance.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**78.4.** (INS: Coastal Insurance Markets) From the funds appropriated in this act, the Department of Insurance shall conduct a study on the status and market conditions of the South Carolina coastal property insurance market. The study shall include the number of property insurance companies participating in the coastal insurance market, coastal insurance premium pricing, coastal insurance market outlook for the future, possible strategies to stabilize our State's coastal insurance market, efforts the department may utilize to recruit additional insurance providers, and any other information deemed pertinent to the issue including suggested statutory changes. The study shall be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, and the Governor by October 1, 2024. The department is further directed to immediately initiate statutorily allowed efforts to recruit additional insurance providers in the coastal property insurance market.~~

- 78.5 DELETE** (INS: Review and Study Committee) Creates a review and study committee to conduct a thorough review of the State's civil justice and insurance laws and address coverage availability, premium rates, and deductibles. Provides for the composition of the committee. Directs the committee to submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor by January 31, 2025.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Insurance.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT deletion.

~~**78.5.** (INS: Review and Study Committee) (A) There is created a review and study committee to be comprised of nine members:~~

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~~(1) one Senator appointed by the President of the Senate, one Senator appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, and one Senator appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee;~~

~~(2) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and~~

~~(3) three members of the public at large appointed by the Governor.~~

~~(B) Of the members appointed by the Governor, one member must have substantial academic or professional experience in the insurance industry, one member must be a practicing attorney with extensive experience representing plaintiffs in insurance related litigation, and one member must be a practicing attorney with extensive insurance defense experience. The members of the committee must meet as soon as practicable after appointment and organize by electing one of the committee's members as chairman and other officers as the committee may consider necessary. Thereafter, the committee must meet as necessary to fulfill the duties required by this proviso at the call of the chairman or by a majority of the members. A quorum consists of five members who shall serve without compensation, and are ineligible for the usual mileage, subsistence, and per diem allowed by law for members of state boards, committees, and commissions. Staffs of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, and the House of Representatives Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee shall be available to assist the committee in its work. Any other expenses incurred by the committee shall be paid equally from each respective house's approved account subject to the approval of the Senate Operations and Management Committee and the Speaker of the House, and unless authorized by a further or subsequent enactment, shall conclude the committee's business by January 31, 2025, at which time the committee is dissolved. The General Assembly may extend the dates by which the committee shall submit reports required by this proviso.~~

~~(C) The committee shall conduct a thorough review of this State's civil justice and insurance laws from the standpoint of adequacy, equity, and efficiency with the goal of continuing to maintain and enhance South Carolina as an optimum competitor in its effort to both retain and attract new individuals and business to relocate, live, work, and invest in South Carolina. The committee shall address coverage availability, premium rates, and deductibles in the following five categories: (1) property and casualty for single family dwellings, multi-family units, and condominium complexes and commercial buildings; (2) automobiles and trucks; (3) commercial general liability; (4) business; and (5) restaurant /tavern/bar liability liquor liability. The committee shall review how other states' civil justice and insurance laws compare with South Carolina's laws regarding coverage availability, premium rates, and deductibles. No later than January 31, 2025, the committee shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the full General Assembly and the Governor and make the report available to the public on the General Assembly's website.~~

SECTION 81 - R360 - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

81.14 AMEND (LLR: Compensatory Payment) Allows exempt Office of State Fire Marshal employees, at the agency director's discretion and if funds are available, to be paid for actual hours worked in lieu of accruing comp time during a Governor declared State of Emergency or in a situation that requires the use of mutual assistance under Section 25-1-450, relating to duties of state, county, and municipal governments for mutual assistance in emergencies.

WMC: AMEND proviso to add the Fire Academy to the eligible employees for being paid in actual hours worked. Requested by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

81.14. (LLR: Compensatory Payment) In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or in the event of a situation requiring the use of mutual assistance under Section 25-1-450 of the 1976 Code, exempt employees of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of State Fire Marshal and Fire Academy may be paid for actual hours worked, in lieu of accruing compensatory time, at the discretion of the agency director, and providing funds are available.

SECTION 88 - Y140 - STATE PORTS AUTHORITY

88.1 **AMEND** (SPA: Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) Directs the State Ports Authority to pay the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank \$1,000,000 before June 30, 2025 to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references. Requested by the State Ports Authority.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

88.1. (SPA: Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) The State Ports Authority shall, from other general fund or operating fund surplus available and any funds appropriated to the authority in prior fiscal years and left unexpended as of July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, pay to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank one million dollars before June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

88.6 **AMEND** (SPA: Funds for Due Diligence on Port-Related Facility) Directs the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) to distribute up to \$2,000,000 of funds previously appropriated in the Jasper Ocean Terminal Facility Permitting and Infrastructure Fund to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) for service as an intermediary and professional service provider with counties with economic interests in Jasper County's ocean terminal-related improvements. Directs SCRDA to submit a written request to the Department of Commerce for review and approval of a distribution from SCSPA to SCRDA before the distribution of funds. Directs SCRDA to provide a report summarizing negotiations and communications with GPA to the President of Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Governor by 1/31/25.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND further to change the distributed installments to \$1,800,000. Deletes references for initial site preparation and environmental assessments, including supporting infrastructure for port related development and property ownership. Directs the SCSPA, GDOT, and Corps to construct a port logistics facility on a 1,400 acre site in Jasper County, near Highway 17 and the Talmadge Bridge to serve the Port of Savannah. Provides for the dredge, easement, and disposal of material information, and the requirements of the negotiations for the development. Deletes the requirement for the SCRDA to submit a written report on the negotiations and recommendations.

88.6. (SPA: Funds for ~~Due Diligence on Port-Related Facility~~ Logistics Site in Jasper County) 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

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~~\$2,000,000 \$1,800,000~~ 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) ~~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, the SCSPA, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the United States Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct a port logistics facility on an approximately 1,400-acre tract of land (Logistics Site) in Jasper County on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, adjacent to Highway 17, proximate to the Talmadge Bridge, and across the river from Hutchinson Island to serve warehousing and cold storage needs of the Port of Savannah. The Logistics Site is one of the seven Dredged Material Containment Areas ("DMCAs") designated in the Corps' Savannah Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan ("DMMP"), all of which are encumbered by a perpetual spoil easement (Spoil Easement) held by the Corps and used by the Corps for the disposal of materials dredged from the Savannah River, the Logistics Facility being shown on the DMMP as DMMP Tract 12A. The referenced negotiations by the SCRDA with the GPA, the GDOT, and the Corps shall include, without limitation, 1) the potential conveyance of fee simple title to DMMP Tract 14A and 14B, currently owned jointly by the SCSPA and the GPA, in exchange for the conveyance of fee simple title to DMMP Tract 12A, currently owned by the GDOT; and 2) the Corps' release of the Spoil Easement as an encumbrance on DMMP Tract 12A in order to allow said tract to be developed into a Logistics Site.~~ 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, 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.~~

SECTION 92D - D300 - OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

- 92D.1 AMEND** (SCOR: Catastrophic Weather Event) Directs that improvements to real or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, resulting from damage caused by the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, or Hurricane Florence of 2018, made after the event and before June 30, 2025, is not considered an improvement and may not be reassessed at a higher rate as a result of the improvement. Directs that for the current fiscal year, an eligible property's tax value shall remain the same unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs.

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WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references, add Hurricane Helene in reference to the catastrophic weather events, and add the Office of Resilience's Rapid Rebuild Program to the listed offices for funding improvements. Requested by the Office of Resilience.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

92D.1. (SCOR: Catastrophic Weather Event) (A) Any improvements made to real property or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, ~~or~~ Hurricane Florence of 2018, or Hurricane Helene of 2024, after the event and before June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, is not considered an improvement and may not be reassessed at a higher rate as a result of the assistance provided. This provision only applies if, as a result of the catastrophic weather event, the improvements made to the property were funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery program implemented by the Office of Resilience, or its predecessor, the Disaster Recovery Office, or the Office of Resilience's Rapid Rebuild Program funded by the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund. This provision also applies if, at the discretion of the county and using qualifications determined by the county, the improvements were made with the assistance of a volunteer organization active in disaster, or a similar volunteer organization.

(B) During the current fiscal year, the property tax value of an eligible property shall remain the same unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs. No refund is allowed on account of values adjusted as provided in this provision.

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

117.100 AMEND (GP: South Carolina Welcome Centers) Directs PRT and DOT maintain a MOU that provides that PRT control operations of all SC Welcome Centers and specifies control of certain responsibilities. Directs DOT to transfer the amount stated in the MOU, less any state funds appropriated by the General Assembly for Welcome Centers, to PRT. States these funds must be increased by the same as any statewide state employee salary increase or bonus. Directs that these funds be placed in a separate and distinct fund and authorizes these funds to be carried forward and used for the same purposes.

SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to direct that any additional state funds appropriated for the purpose of Welcome Centers to PRT shall be considered supplemental to the \$5,140,727 transferred amount.

117.100. (GP: South Carolina Welcome Centers) The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Department of Transportation shall maintain a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall control operations of all South Carolina Welcome Centers. The MOU shall include replacement, renovation, and maintenance of the facilities, daily operations, and grounds maintenance and upkeep and shall clearly define responsibility for additional portions of Welcome Centers to include paving and sidewalks. The Department of Transportation shall transfer to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism \$5,140,727, and less any additional state funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the same purpose shall be considered supplemental to this amount. These funds must be increased by an amount commensurate with any statewide state employee salary increases or statewide state employee bonuses, including employee fringes, provided by this General Appropriations Act. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism assumes responsibility for this amount and the timing of the transfer of these funds shall be defined as part

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of the MOU. The funds transferred to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall be placed in a separate and distinct fund, and these funds shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and be expended for the same purposes.

117.164 AMEND (GP: Land Acquisitions) Directs the Department of Natural Resources, PRT, Office of Resilience, and Forestry Commission to coordinate and collaborate with the SC Conservation Bank prior to entering any contracts to acquire interest in land for protection and preservation to maximize the most cost effective options with the greatest public benefit.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to require the Resource Agencies to sign a memorandum that describes the request for funds for land acquisition, provides the estimated details of the properties, provides the total amount of funds requested by all Resource Agencies for the projects, confirms that each Resource Agency agrees the requests are reasonable and mutually reinforcing, and shows the proposal conforms to the statutory mission of the requesting agency without overlapping with the mission of another agency. Directs each Resource Agency to submit their proposal and financial strategy to the Conservation Bank, and the Bank shall determine if the information proposed is reasonable. Directs the Bank to present the proposal to JBRC staff, and at certain requests, directs the Bank to review all due diligence material and information, including appraisals and environmental studies. Requires the Bank to submit an annual report on the projects, utilizing information provided by each agency, to the Chairman of SFC and WMC.

~~**117.164.** (GP: Land Acquisitions) Prior to entering into contracts to utilize funds appropriated or authorized by the General Assembly to acquire interests in land for natural resource protection and rural land preservation, including conservation easements, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Resilience, and Forestry Commission (Resource Agencies) shall coordinate and collaborate with the SC Conservation Bank to maximize the most cost effective options available for the acquisition with the greatest public benefit. The Conservation Bank shall coordinate with the Resource Agency to ensure that the funds are used for projects that support the agency's objectives, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the Bank and Resource Agency.~~

~~*In the current fiscal year, for the purposes of developing annual budget requests relating to land acquisitions:*~~

~~*(A) The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT), the Office of Resilience (SCOR), the Forestry Commission (Forestry), and the SC Conservation Bank (Bank) (collectively, the "Resource Agencies") shall submit a jointly signed memorandum to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that:*~~

~~*(1) with a reasonable degree of specificity, describes the scope, objectives, and justification for each Resource Agency's request for funds to acquire interests in land for natural or historic resource protection and rural land preservation, including conservation easements ("Land Protection Projects"), without the identification of specific properties or disclosure of confidential information related to pending real estate negotiations being specifically required, but with each Resource Agency setting forth an estimate for the number of transactions, the acreage protected, and conservation objectives each aims to undertake in the upcoming fiscal year, and to the extent possible, with the justification describing proposals that would involve more than one Resource Agency co-managing acquired lands or combining funds into the acquisition strategy;*~~

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(2) the total amount of funds requested by all Resource Agencies for combined Land Protection Projects; and

(3) confirmation that each Resource Agency agrees that the collective requests set forth therein are reasonable and mutually reinforcing.

(B) Prior to entering into contracts to utilize funds appropriated or authorized by the General Assembly for Land Protection Projects, each Resource Agency shall coordinate with the Bank to ensure that the proposal will yield the greatest public benefit to the citizens of South Carolina by satisfying the Resource Agency's own programmatic objectives and complementing the State's broader land protection goals, as set forth in the Bank's Conservation Priority Map or as otherwise agreed between the Resource Agency and the Bank. Additionally, the proposal shall conform to the statutory mission of the requesting Resource Agency and shall not substantially overlap with, or be more appropriately executed under, the statutory mission of another Resource Agency. This does not preclude one Resource Agency from using its leveraged funds to support another Resource Agency's proposal, provided the funding agency agrees to such use. Additionally, the Bank must ensure that the proposed funding strategy is reasonably cost-effective and demonstrates a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality. These assurances shall be memorialized in writing and signed by both the Resource Agency and the Bank. Further, the Bank shall present any such proposal and related financial strategy to the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) staff prior to the Resource Agency submitting it for Phase 2 approval. However, no proposal for land acquisition shall be exempt from any other provisions of the Code of Laws or from review and comment by JBRC.

(C) When requested by JBRC, SFAA, or the Department of Administration, and to ensure the soundness of the Land Protection Projects and verify consistency with the representations made to the same, the Bank shall review the appraisal, title, environmental survey, and other due diligence conducted by the Resource Agency in developing the acquisition proposal; the intended use and suitability of the property for acquisition by the Resource Agency; and the reasonableness of projected costs of acquisition and ownership, including ongoing costs of land management, risk mitigation, and due diligence.

(D) Within six months of the close of the fiscal year, the Bank must produce an Annual Report setting forth the location, acreage, use of allocated funds, and financial cost to the State, including the amount and nature of leveraged funds obtained and utilized, the appraised value of the real estate interest, and description of every Land Protection Project completed in South Carolina by the Resource Agencies during the previous fiscal year. Each Resource Agency shall be responsible for providing the Bank with the data necessary to complete the Annual Report in a timely manner. The Bank shall provide the Annual Report to the Chairman of House Ways & Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee upon completion. This combined Annual Report may satisfy any Resource Agency's independent obligation to create an annual report disclosing substantively the same information.

117.182 AMEND (GP: Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program) Directs the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, DNR, and the Office of Resilience to collaborate to create the Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program. Provides the requirements of the program and directs that a progress report be submitted to the General Assembly by 6/30/25.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference and the calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.182. (GP: Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program) (A) For Fiscal Year ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26, 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

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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~~ 2026.

117.eab. ADD (GP: Evaluation of Agribusiness & Agricultural Marketing Services) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the Department of Agriculture, Clemson University PSA, and South Carolina State PSA to evaluate their roles in using state funds for agribusiness and agricultural marketing initiatives. The review will cover fund usage for development, education, research, and technical support, analyze service areas and populations, and identify any overlaps. Directs that a report of the findings shall be provided to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by June 30, 2026.

117.eab. (GP: Evaluation of Agribusiness & Agricultural Marketing Services) The Department of Agriculture, Clemson University Public Service Activities, and South Carolina State Public Service Activities shall jointly undertake an evaluation of their respective roles in the administration and expenditure of state funds related to agribusiness and agricultural marketing programs and initiatives. This evaluation shall include, but not be limited to each agency's utilization of state-appropriated funds to support agribusiness development, agricultural marketing, agricultural education, research, technical assistance, and related services; an analysis of the geographic areas and populations served by each agency's programs, and the identification of any overlapping or duplicative efforts among the entities. The results of this evaluation shall be provided as a written report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee by June 30, 2026.

117.fim. ADD (GP: Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct DNR to collaborate with the Office of Resilience to statewide flood inundation mapping, ensuring efforts are not duplicated, resources are used efficiently, and mapping is consistent between both agencies.

117.fim. (GP: Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for Statewide Flood Inundation Map Modeling, the department shall collaborate with the Office of Resilience to coordinate and provide advisory support for the mapping of statewide flood inundation. This collaboration shall aim to prevent duplicative efforts, streamline resources, and ensure consistency in flood mapping initiatives across both agencies.

117.dme. ADD (GP: Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the Office of Resilience and the Department of Natural Resources to evaluate the disaster types each agency addresses and identify any overlapping efforts. Directs both agencies to create a coordinated

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strategy for spending disaster planning and mitigation funds and delivering services. Directs that a joint report of these findings shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by June 30, 2026.

117.dme. (GP: Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Office of Resilience and the Department of Natural Resources shall collaborate to evaluate and report on the spectrum of disaster types each agency plans and mitigates for statewide, as well as any overlap in these disaster type-specific efforts. Based on this evaluation, the agencies shall develop a coordinated approach to the expenditure of disaster planning and mitigation funds and service delivery, eliminating redundancies in addressing the same types of disasters. A joint report detailing the evaluation's findings, including identified disaster types and overlaps, and any resulting recommendations, shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee by June 30, 2026.

117.shp **ADD** (GP: Safe Home Program) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the Department of Insurance to collaborate with the Office of Resilience to evaluate the Safe Homes Program. Directs that a report with findings and recommendations, including potential statutory changes or funding needs, is shall be provided to the General Assembly by June 30, 2026.

117.shp. (GP: Safe Homes Program) (A) The Department of Insurance shall collaborate with the Office of Resilience to evaluate the operation of the Safe Homes Program and determine if all available funds are being fully accessed and made available for grants and used appropriately based on the current and projected needs of the State regarding home weatherization. The department shall submit a report to the General Assembly by June 30, 2026, detailing the evaluation's findings and providing recommendations to enhance the program's effectiveness. The recommendations may include, but are not limited to, proposed statutory changes and additional funding requirements as deemed necessary.

(B) For the current fiscal year, any funds appropriated for the Safe Homes Program shall be supplemental to the program's existing funding sources.

117.la **ADD** (GP: Land Acquisition Process) **SFC CHAIRMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the South Carolina Conservation Bank the Resource Agencies to jointly evaluate and decide how to spend land conservation funds by October 1, 2025, based on project importance and funding availability. Directs JBRC to make the decision if no agreement is reached. States that once land is purchased, it will be temporarily managed by the Department of Administration until JBRC assigns it to the appropriate agency.

117.la. (GP: Land Acquisition Process) (A) For the current fiscal year, of the funds appropriated to the South Carolina Conservation Bank (Bank) for Conservation Grant Funding to be used in connection with funding, in whole or in part, the appropriation requests by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Parks, Rec, and Tourism (PRT), the Office of Resilience (SCOR), and the Forestry Commission (Forestry), referred to herein collectively as "Resource Agencies," the Bank and the Resource Agencies shall assess the relative merits of the land protection projects advocated by the Resource Agencies and subsequently determine the manner in which the funds shall be spent on said projects, said determination to be memorialized in writing executed by the authorized officers of the Bank and the Resource Agencies and sent to the Chairman of Senate Finance and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee no later than October 1, 2025.

(B) This assessment shall include, without limitation, the following:

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(1) the land protection projects' relative degrees of importance in terms of natural or historic resource protection;

(2) the availability of other sources of funding to assist with the acquisitions; and

(3) the ability to acquire the projects for less than their appraised fair market value.

(C) In the event this determination is not made on or before October 1, 2025, the Bank shall immediately petition the Joint Bond Review Committee for a final determination of how the funds appropriated to the Bank shall be allocated to the land use protection projects.

(D) The Bank shall be responsible for all negotiations upon determination of the projects and in the event land becomes available for purchase. Once the land is acquired, it shall be temporarily held at the Department of Administration (DOA) for management until JBRC determines the most appropriate resource agency to oversee the acquired land project. After JBRC's determination, DOA shall transfer the acquired land to the designated Resource Agency to manage.