

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
FOR FY 2026-2027
AS PASSED BY HOUSE2**

NOTE: Proviso language unless amended in HOU2 is current Senate language. If amended in HOU2 the HOU2 version has been inserted into the document for that proviso.

SECTION 1 - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1.3 AMEND (SDE: State Aid Classrooms) States the General Assembly’s intent to fully implement the EFA via the State Aid to Classrooms allocation and provide for the allocation of those funds. Updates the average per pupil funding projections and the estimated teacher salary schedule. Provides for the distribution of funds to the SC Public Charter School District. Requires the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to document annually the expenditure of all funds by each district and to post each school district’s projections on their website and for each school district to also post their numbers. Requires the department and the EOC provide links to this information on their websites. Provides pupil classification weightings. Directs RFA to review the student weightings in the State Aid to Classrooms funding formula to improve its alignment with student enrollment and ensure more consistent funding distributions to districts and charter authorizers.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update pupil count, funding levels, and salary schedule. Creates additional state funding for charter school authorizers based on additional student weights. Directs that brick-and-mortar charter students are weighted at 1.25 and virtual charter students at 0.50, solely to calculate this additional charter funding and are not included in Aid to Classrooms and eligible 3- and 4-year-old students with disabilities in brick-and-mortar charters are included for this extra weight. Each district is guaranteed to receive no less than its FY 2025-26 funding, adjusted to remove a portion of the precareer and career technology weight. Directs the Public Charter School District and institution of higher education sponsoring a public charter school to publish on its website the methodology used to allocate these funds to each public charter school. Deletes the requirement that RFA shall review the student weightings and examine methods to improve the alignment of State Aid to Classrooms funding with student enrollment and ensure districts and charter authorizers receive consistent distributions.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND proviso to make technical changes to subitem (D).

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1.3. (SDE: State Aid to Classrooms) (A) For the current fiscal year, the total pupil count is projected to be ~~770,504~~ 771,758, which includes ~~712,097~~ 710,055 traditional school districts, ~~57,665~~ 60,967 charter school authorizers, and ~~742~~ 736 special school districts. The total appropriations for State Aid to Classrooms represent an average per pupil appropriation of \$5,884 \$6,023. The average total per pupil funding, excluding revenue and local bond issues, is projected to be ~~\$8,914~~ \$9,341 from state sources, ~~\$1,225~~ \$1,428 from federal sources, and ~~\$8,936~~ \$9,805 from local sources. This is an average total funding level of ~~\$19,075~~ \$20,574, excluding revenues of local bond issues.

(B) The State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule for the current fiscal year is as follows, and districts have flexibility to pay above these levels:

	CLASS 3	CLASS 1	CLASS 7	CLASS 8
	BACHELORS	MASTERS	MASTERS	DR
YRS	DEGREE	DEGREE	DEGREE	DEGREE
EXP	+30 HOURS			
0	\$48,500	\$52,500	\$54,000	\$56,500

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1	\$48,750	\$52,750	\$54,250	\$57,000
2	\$49,000	\$53,000	\$54,500	\$57,500
3	\$49,250	\$53,250	\$54,750	\$58,000
4	\$49,500	\$53,500	\$55,000	\$58,500
5	\$50,500	\$54,500	\$55,500	\$59,000
6	\$51,000	\$55,000	\$56,000	\$59,500
7	\$51,500	\$55,500	\$56,500	\$60,500
8	\$52,000	\$56,000	\$57,000	\$62,000
9	\$52,500	\$56,500	\$57,500	\$63,500
10	\$53,500	\$57,500	\$58,500	\$64,750
11	\$54,000	\$58,000	\$59,500	\$66,000
12	\$54,500	\$58,750	\$60,500	\$67,250
13	\$55,000	\$59,500	\$61,500	\$68,500
14	\$55,500	\$60,250	\$62,500	\$69,750
15	\$56,000	\$61,000	\$63,500	\$71,000
16	\$56,500	\$61,750	\$64,500	\$72,250
17	\$57,000	\$62,500	\$65,500	\$73,500
18	\$57,500	\$63,250	\$66,000	\$74,000
19	\$58,500	\$64,250	\$66,500	\$74,500
20	\$59,000	\$64,750	\$67,000	\$75,250
21	\$59,500	\$65,250	\$67,500	\$76,000
22	\$60,000	\$65,750	\$68,000	\$76,750
23	\$60,500	\$66,250	\$68,500	\$77,250
24	\$61,000	\$66,750	\$69,000	\$77,500
25	\$61,500	\$67,250	\$69,500	\$77,750
26	\$62,000	\$67,750	\$70,000	\$78,000
27	\$62,250	\$68,000	\$70,250	\$78,250
28+	\$62,500	\$68,250	\$70,500	\$78,500
	<i>CLASS 3</i>	<i>CLASS 1</i>	<i>CLASS 7</i>	<i>CLASS 8</i>
	<i>BACHELORS</i>	<i>MASTERS</i>	<i>MASTERS</i>	<i>DR</i>
<i>YRS</i>	<i>DEGREE</i>	<i>DEGREE</i>	<i>DEGREE</i>	<i>DEGREE</i>
<i>EXP</i>			<i>+30 HOURS</i>	
<i>0</i>	\$50,500	\$54,500	\$56,000	\$58,500
<i>1</i>	\$50,750	\$54,750	\$56,250	\$59,000
<i>2</i>	\$51,000	\$55,000	\$56,500	\$59,500
<i>3</i>	\$51,250	\$55,250	\$56,750	\$60,000
<i>4</i>	\$51,500	\$55,500	\$57,000	\$60,500
<i>5</i>	\$52,500	\$56,500	\$57,500	\$61,000
<i>6</i>	\$53,000	\$57,000	\$58,000	\$61,500
<i>7</i>	\$53,500	\$57,500	\$58,500	\$62,500
<i>8</i>	\$54,000	\$58,000	\$59,000	\$64,000
<i>9</i>	\$54,500	\$58,500	\$59,500	\$65,500
<i>10</i>	\$55,500	\$59,500	\$60,500	\$66,750
<i>11</i>	\$56,000	\$60,000	\$61,500	\$68,000
<i>12</i>	\$56,500	\$60,750	\$62,500	\$69,250
<i>13</i>	\$57,000	\$61,500	\$63,500	\$70,500
<i>14</i>	\$57,500	\$62,250	\$64,500	\$71,750
<i>15</i>	\$58,000	\$63,000	\$65,500	\$73,000
<i>16</i>	\$58,500	\$63,750	\$66,500	\$74,250
<i>17</i>	\$59,000	\$64,500	\$67,500	\$75,500

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<u>18</u>	<u>\$59,500</u>	<u>\$65,250</u>	<u>\$68,000</u>	<u>\$76,000</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>\$60,500</u>	<u>\$66,250</u>	<u>\$68,500</u>	<u>\$76,500</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>\$61,000</u>	<u>\$66,750</u>	<u>\$69,000</u>	<u>\$77,250</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>\$61,500</u>	<u>\$67,250</u>	<u>\$69,500</u>	<u>\$78,000</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>\$62,000</u>	<u>\$67,750</u>	<u>\$70,000</u>	<u>\$78,750</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>\$62,500</u>	<u>\$68,250</u>	<u>\$70,500</u>	<u>\$79,250</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>\$63,000</u>	<u>\$68,750</u>	<u>\$71,000</u>	<u>\$79,500</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>\$63,500</u>	<u>\$69,250</u>	<u>\$71,500</u>	<u>\$79,750</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>\$64,000</u>	<u>\$69,750</u>	<u>\$72,000</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>\$64,250</u>	<u>\$70,000</u>	<u>\$72,250</u>	<u>\$80,250</u>
<u>28+</u>	<u>\$64,500</u>	<u>\$70,250</u>	<u>\$72,500</u>	<u>\$80,500</u>

(C)(1) For the current fiscal year, the funds appropriated for State Aid to Classrooms represent the State’s contribution to the Aid to Classrooms program for direct instruction of students in kindergarten through grade twelve in our state, which is seventy-five percent of the total salary and employer contribution cost of funding one teacher for every 11.2 students. The salary used to determine the amount of funding required for the state effort is based on that of a teacher having a master’s degree and twelve years of experience, which equates to ~~\$58,750~~ \$60,750 on the statewide minimum salary schedule for the current fiscal year and including fringe benefits of ~~\$19,129~~ \$19,628, for a total of ~~\$77,879~~ \$80,378. The types of teachers used in the calculation of student-teacher ratio includes those teachers eligible pursuant to Section 59-20-50(4)(b). This includes classroom teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, occupational and physical therapists, school nurses, orientation/mobility instructors, and audiologists in the school districts of the State. School districts are required to meet the statewide minimum salary schedule in the current fiscal year and are required to provide the annual step increase pursuant to Section 59-20-50. No school district is required to increase teacher salaries above the amount necessary to meet the statewide minimum salary schedule as prescribed in this act. For the current fiscal year, the provisions of Section 59-20-50(3) of the 1976 Code, as amended, are suspended.

(D)(2) To allocate the funds, the department will calculate the total number of weighted pupil units (WPU) in each school district and in the State. The funds appropriated herein for State Aid to Classrooms represent the state share of the total Aid to Classrooms program, which is seventy-five percent. The local required effort is twenty-five percent of the total program. The total Aid to Classrooms funding for each district is calculated based on the district’s percentage of the total statewide weighted pupils multiplied by the total Aid to Classrooms program. The district’s local share is calculated by multiplying the total local share by the district’s imputed index of taxpaying ability, which is the district’s relative fiscal capacity compared to that of all other districts in the State. The State Aid to Classrooms amount allocated to each district will be determined by subtracting the calculation of the district’s local share from the calculation of the district’s total Aid to Classrooms projected funding. The Statewide Public Charter School District and any approved institution of higher education authorizing charter schools shall receive one hundred percent of the Aid to Classrooms funding from the State. For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, no local match is required for the State Aid to Classroom EIA distributions for the base funding rolled up from the previous fiscal year. The department will make any necessary adjustments to account for the state share for Charter and Special Districts.

(E) ~~Each district will receive either the amount determined by this new methodology or the actual state funding received in Fiscal Year 2021-22 from State Aid to Classrooms, Aid School Districts, Student Health and Fitness, Guidance/Career Specialists, Handicapped—Profoundly Mentally, EIA—Aid to Districts, EIA—Students at Risk of School Failure, Allocations EIA—Teacher Salaries, Allocations EIA—Employer Contributions, EIA—Student Health and Fitness Act—Nurses, and EIA—South Carolina Public Charter Schools.~~

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(D) The Statewide Public Charter School District and any approved institution of higher education (IHE) authorizing charter schools shall receive additional charter district funding to increase the district's amount received from one hundred percent of the Aid to Classrooms funding from the State by a percentage equal to the district's weighted pupils for students attending a brick and mortar or virtual school as determined in this subitem divided by the total charter district weighted pupils as determined by the pupil classification weightings in subitem (N). The weights for students attending brick and mortar and virtual schools are only used to determine the additional charter district funding and are not included in total weighted pupils used to calculate Aid to Classrooms funding under subitem (C). Three- and four-year-old students with a disability, who are eligible for services under IDEA and enrolled in brick and mortar charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or registered IHE, shall be included in student counts solely for the purposes of receiving the additional weighting for students attending a brick and mortar charter school.

(E) Additional charter district funding student weights:

(1) Enrolled in brick-and-mortar school 1.25

(2) Enrolled in virtual charter school 0.50

(F) Each district will receive either the amount determined by this new methodology including the additional charter district funding or the actual state funding received in Fiscal Year 2025-26 from State Aid to Classrooms less the amount received by the district due to 0.20 of the Precareer and Career Technology weight of 1.20 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

~~(F)~~(G) To provide flexibility, each district may expend the funds as determined by the local school board of trustees to meet the educational needs of students as defined in Section 59-1-50, Chapter 18, Title 59, and as delineated in a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Pursuant to Section 59-20-80, each school board of trustees must make available by September first of each fiscal year its annual budget that includes state, local, and federal investments in education. The budget must be available on the district's website. The department, in collaboration with local school districts, will provide a template that each district must use in reporting its budget.

~~(G)~~(H) To provide transparency, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs will document annually, through an online financial dashboard, the expenditure of all state, local, and federal funds by each district and by each charter school authorizer and other relevant data to include its fund balance and average fund balance for the reporting year. The districts shall report monthly, to the Department of Education, their monthly fund balance that will be used to calculate an average. To ensure that the public reporting meets the needs of educators, parents, citizens, and policymakers, the department, in conjunction with Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, will consult routinely with a group of educators, parents, citizens, and policymakers. District expenditures for the prior fiscal year must be published on the department's website for public disclosure by January 1.

~~(H)~~(I) If a traditional school district, charter school authorizer, or special school district fails to submit expenditure data needed for the online financial dashboard, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office will notify the Department of Education. Within thirty days of such notification, the Department of Education must then withhold ten percent of all state payments to the district or authorizer until the district or authorizer complies and all payments will then be made.

~~(I)~~(J) To ensure accountability, each district's annual audit that is submitted to the Department of Education pursuant to Section 59-17-100 must be conducted using an auditing firm from an approved list provided by the State Auditor. The State Auditor will develop standards and criteria for determining qualifying auditors. Each district's annual audit must be available on the district's website.

~~(J)~~(K) For the current fiscal year the South Carolina Public Charter School District and any institution of higher education sponsoring a public charter school shall receive and distribute state

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~~Aid to Classroom funds to the charter school. Students enrolled in charter schools authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or an institution of higher education will receive in addition to the base weight of 1.00 or in addition to the disability weight of 2.60 an additional weight based upon the type of charter school that they attend. These additional funds must support the provision of educational services for children served by a charter school that does not receive local revenues. These students are also eligible to receive additional weights for personalized instruction. The department will make any necessary adjustments to account for the state share for Charter and Special Districts. The South Carolina Public Charter School District and institution of higher education sponsoring a public charter school shall publish on its website the methodology used to allocate these funds to each public charter school.~~

~~(K) Three and four year old students with a disability, who are eligible for services under IDEA and enrolled in brick and mortar charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or registered IHE, shall be included in student counts solely for the purposes of receiving the additional weighting for students attending a brick and mortar charter school.~~

(L) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, special districts and alternative schools will receive the amount received in the prior fiscal year from these funds.

(M) The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, must post in a prominent place on their website for each school district projections, including the per pupil state, federal and local revenues, excluding revenues of local bond issues, for the current fiscal year. Also, as soon as practicable, upon determining the exact numbers regarding pupil count and funding, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, shall also post on their website the one hundred thirty-five-day average daily membership for each school district and per pupil state, federal and local revenues, excluding revenues of local bond issues, based on the most recent audited financial statement as reported annually pursuant to Section 59-17-100. The Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee shall provide in a prominent place on their internet websites a link to the information posted by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, including the projected numbers and the exact numbers.

(N) For the current fiscal year, the pupil classification weightings are as follows:

(1) K-12 pupils or base students including homebound students 1.00

Students served in licensed residential treatment facilities (RTFs) for children and adolescents as defined under Section 44-7-130 of the 1976 Code shall receive a weighting of 2.10.

(2) Weights for students with disabilities as documented by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) 2.60

(3) ~~Precareer and Career Technology~~ 1.20

(4) ~~Charter school students~~

~~(a) Enrolled in brick and mortar school~~ 1.25

~~(b) Enrolled in virtual charter school~~ 0.50

~~(5) Additional weights for personalized instruction:~~

~~(a) Gifted and Talented~~ 0.15

~~(b) Academic Assistance~~ 0.15

~~(c) Limited English Proficiency~~ 0.20

~~(d) Pupils in Poverty~~ 0.50

(O) The Department of Education will review the child count data for all of the districts and charter school authorizers in the State and identify any school district or charter school authorizer whose percentage of total enrolled students with IEPs is outside of the typical percentage range based on national and state data. The department will then conduct a focused review of the district's special education population and provide technical assistance, as needed, to ensure that students with disabilities are being appropriately identified and served.

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(P) Students in poverty are students who qualify for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or are homeless, transient, or in foster care.

(Q) Gifted and talented students are students who are classified as academically or artistically gifted and talented or who are enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Cambridge International courses in high school. Districts shall set-aside twelve percent of the funds for serving artistically gifted and talented students in grades three through twelve.

(R) Students in need of academic assistance are students who do not meet state standards in mathematics, English language arts, or both on state approved assessments in grades three through eight and high school assessments for grades nine through twelve. The additional weight generates funds needed to provide additional instructional services to these students.

(S) Students with limited English proficiency are students who require intensive English language instruction programs and whose families require specialized parental involvement intervention.

(T) Further, the Department of Education may use school district student counts for personalized instruction as collected in the same manner as the prior fiscal year, PowerSchool or other available existing data sources as determined by the department to calculate the school district add on weightings for the personalized instruction classifications and the determination of the school districts monetary entitlement. End of year adjustments shall be based on the one hundred thirty-five-day student average daily membership for all classifications. During the current fiscal year, the department will update PowerSchool calculations, reports, screen development, documentation, and training to incorporate the new pupil classification weightings and to make final district allocation adjustments by June 30. The department must provide districts with technical assistance with regard to student count changes in PowerSchool.

(U) Up to ten percent of any funds appropriated for State Aid to Classrooms at the end of the fiscal year may be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year and allocated to school districts, the South Carolina Public Charter School District, and an institution of higher education that authorizes charter schools pursuant to this provision. The additional funds must first support increases in student enrollment and any balance may be allocated proportionately utilizing weighted pupil units to districts. Any additional unexpended funds shall revert to the general fund or to the EIA Fund.

(V) With the funds that the Department of Education receives for health insurance for school districts *in the current fiscal year*, the department shall allocate the funds to school districts proportionately utilizing weighted pupil units. *Any funding received for health insurance for school districts in prior fiscal years is not required to be distributed proportionally.* The department shall allocate to districts funds received for retirement benefits through the State Aid to Classrooms formula.

(W) In the event of a mid-year across-the-board budget reduction, which reduces the total appropriation of general funds for State Aid to Classrooms, the Department of Education is directed to first reduce the amount of funds allocated to traditional school districts, charter school authorizers, and the special school districts for proportional funding under this provision.

~~(X) The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office shall review the student weightings used in the State Aid to Classrooms funding formula and examine methods to improve the alignment of State Aid to Classrooms funding with student enrollment while ensuring districts and charter authorizers receive more consistent distributions. The agency must consider input from policymakers and relevant stakeholders as determined by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Any recommendations for changes to the formula must be submitted to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Governor, and the Superintendent of Education by December 1, 2025.~~

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1.39 **AMEND** (SDE: Health Education) Requires school districts to ensure compliance with Chapter 32, Title 59, regarding the comprehensive health education program; outlines a complaint process for concerns; and requires the department withhold 1% of a district's Student Health and Fitness Act funds until the district is in compliance.

HOU: AMEND proviso to require a school district to fulfill all requirements of CHEA and provide annual evidence of compliance. Allows the department to review all materials used by school districts to provide oversight of their report of compliance. Sponsor: Rep. M.M. Smith

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.39. (SDE: Health Education) ~~(4)~~(A) Each school district is required to ensure that all comprehensive health education, reproductive health education, and family life education conducted within the district, whether by school district employees or a private entity, must utilize curriculum that complies with the provisions contained in Chapter 32, Title 59 (Comprehensive Health Education Act CHEA) and aligns to all standards and regulations adopted by the South Carolina State Board of Education. A school district must fulfill all of the requirements of CHEA and must not violate any portion of CHEA. Each school within the district must provide evidence of CHEA compliance to the school district, and the school district must annually provide evidence of CHEA compliance to the Department of Education accounting for each school within the district. The department has the right to review all materials used by school districts to provide oversight of a district's report of CHEA compliance and make a final determination. Each district shall publish on its website the title and publisher of all health education materials it has approved, adopted, and used in the classroom. If the department determines that a district is non-compliant with mandated health education upon review of the district's annual CHE Compliance Survey or if the district fails to publish the title and publisher of all materials on its website, then the Department of Education shall withhold ~~one~~ ten percent of the district's funds allocated in Part IA, Section 1, X - Student Health and Fitness Act until the department determines the district is in compliance.

~~(2)~~(B) Any person may complain in a signed, notarized writing to the chairman of the governing board of a school district that matter not in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 32, Title 59 is being taught in the district. Upon receiving a notarized complaint, the chairman of the governing board must ensure that the complaint is immediately investigated and, if the complaint is determined to be founded, that immediate action is taken to correct the violation. If corrective action is not taken within 60 days of such a determination, or if no investigation is made within 60 days of the chairman's receipt of the notarized statement, then the complainant may within 60 calendar days, give written notice to the department. The notice must include the original notarized complaint. If, upon investigation, the department determines that the district has not taken appropriate immediate action to correct a violation, then the Department of Education shall withhold ~~one~~ ten percent of the district's funds allocated in Part IA, Section 1, X - Student Health and Fitness Act until the department determines the district is in compliance.

1.46 **AMEND** (SDE: Full-Day 4K) Provides guidelines for participation in and funding for the SC Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). *Companion to EIA proviso IA.25.*

WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that school districts participating in the EOC wait list pilot are exempt from the September 1 requirement and directs the EOC to annually evaluate the available space in public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms. Requested by the Education Oversight Committee.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.46. (SDE: Full-Day 4K) (A) Eligible students residing in any school district or attending any charter school authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or an approved institution of higher education may participate in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education program (CERDEP) pending the availability of space and funding. Student eligibility as defined by Section 59-156-130 of the 1976 Code is an annual family income of one hundred eighty-five percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines as promulgated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or a statement of Medicaid eligibility.

(B) A parent or guardian may choose to enroll their child in a public school participating in the program and approved by the Department of Education pursuant to Section 59-156-210 or in a private provider participating in the program and approved by the Office of First Steps pursuant to Section 59-156-200. A private provider includes, but is not limited to, a child care center, a military child care facility regulated by the United States Department of Defense, or a non-profit independent school. State funds appropriated for the provision of CERDEP services in military child care facilities may not be used to supplant existing federal child care funds. No school district can be denied participation in CERDEP or be denied CERDEP funding pursuant to the terms of this provision.

(C) 4K programs in public schools and non-profit independent schools participating in CERDEP are not required to be approved, registered, or licensed by the Department of Social Services in order to participate in CERDEP. Instead, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps are responsible for ensuring that providers deliver high-quality educational programs pursuant to Section 59-156-160.

(D) Public and private providers shall be funded for instructional costs at a minimum rate of \$5,100 per student enrolled. Eligible students enrolling during the school year or withdrawing during the school year shall be funded on a pro rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall also be eligible for reimbursement at a minimum of \$620 per eligible child transported. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide an equitable distribution above the minimum between public and private providers. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide a quarterly report beginning October 1 detailing funding above the minimum made to any provider to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. All providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. New providers participating for the first time in the current fiscal year and enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive at a minimum of \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for funding at a minimum of \$10,000. The Department of Education and the Office of First Steps Readiness are authorized to utilize carry forward funds and federal funds to supplement the amount expended for materials and equipment. Providers receiving equipment funding are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps. The Department of Education shall only provide funding for public school students whose complete records have been entered into PowerSchool based on the one hundred and thirty-five day student average daily membership. For the current fiscal year, providers may enroll pay-lunch children who score at or below the twenty-fifth national percentile on two of the

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three DIAL-3 subscales by July 1 if at least seventy-five percent of the total number of children eligible or the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program in a district or county are projected to be enrolled in that program, Head Start, or ABC Child Care Program as determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps, Child Early Reading Development and Education Program. Providers may receive reimbursement for these children if funds are available. By September 1, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps must collect the documented waiting lists, share the lists, and determine a process to notify parents of eligible students of available slots in all approved providers. School districts participating in the EOC wait list pilot are exempt from the September 1 requirement. The Department of Education is required to offer waivers allowing students with disabilities to be served in multi-categorical classroom settings based on similar cognition and abilities. Funding appropriated for CERDEP may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.

(E) Annually, the Department of Education is directed to audit the annual allocations to public providers to ensure that allocations are accurate and aligned to the appropriate pro rata per student allocation, materials, and equipment funding. In the event the department, during the audit process determines that the annual allocations of the prior fiscal year are not accurate, the department must adjust the allocations for the current fiscal year to account for the audit findings. The department must provide the results of the annual audit findings to the General Assembly no later than December first. Likewise, in the event the Office of First Steps determines that the annual allocations of the prior fiscal year to private providers are not accurate, the Office of First Steps must adjust the allocations for the current fiscal year to account for the findings.

(F) Of the funds appropriated, \$300,000 shall be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee to conduct an annual evaluation of the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) and to issue findings in a report to the General Assembly by March first of each year. To aid in this evaluation, the Education Oversight Committee shall determine and obtain the data necessary and both public and private providers are required to submit the necessary data as a condition of continued participation in and funding of the program, including average daily attendance data, so that consistent enrollment may be determined. This data shall include developmentally appropriate measures of student progress. Additionally, the Department of Education shall issue a unique student identifier for each child receiving services from a public or private provider including those funded by CERDEP, Head Start, SC Child Care Scholarships, EIA, Title I, district-funded, and all other federal, state, or local public sources. The Department of Education shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the public state funded full day and half-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers. The Education Oversight Committee shall use this data and all other collected and maintained data necessary to conduct a research based review of the program's implementation and assessment of student success in the early elementary grades along with information, recommendations, and a timeline for how the state can increase the number of students served in high-quality programs. To aid in the accurate reporting of four-year-olds in poverty served in formal education programs in public schools in South Carolina, the Department of Education must provide to the EOC data related to four-year-olds served in formal education programs funded with other state, local, or federal funds, including Title 1 and EIA-District-funded programs, denoting full- or partial-day status. The Education Oversight Committee also shall annually evaluate the availability of space in public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms to serve additional students whose family income is three hundred percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines as promulgated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(G) For eligible children residing in school districts that do not participate in CERDEP, the Department of Education is required to develop and implement inter-district transfer policies that

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give parents or guardians the option of their eligible child attending an out-of-district school that participates in CERDEP.

(H) For the current fiscal year, the Office of First Steps may expend: (1) up to \$2,000,000 to pilot a program to provide higher reimbursement rates to high-quality providers. The reimbursement rate for students enrolled by child care providers rated B or higher in the ABC Quality System operated by the Department of Social Services may be increased by up to 10% of the per-student base following guidelines developed by the Office of First Steps; and (2) up to \$250,000 to provide one-time supplemental, needs-based incentive grants in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for newly created and/or newly approved private providers proposing to expand service to ten or more CERDEP eligible children in communities unable to enroll all eligible students in a public, private, or Head Start setting during the prior fiscal year. These grants are designed to address building renovations, documented as necessary to bring proposed classrooms into compliance with licensing regulations, materials and staffing costs, and/or other obstacles currently preventing their participation in the program. The First Steps Board of Trustees shall develop and approve an application process that incorporates formal review and fiscal safeguards designed to ensure grant funds are used solely to address documented barriers to program participation. Providers receiving this one-time supplement shall be expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years shall require the provider to return a portion of the supplemental allocation at a level determined by the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. First Steps shall submit a report detailing its process, expenditures and expanded enrollment to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee by March 15.

(I) If by August first, the Department of Education or the Office of First Steps determines that appropriations will exceed expenditures, available funds may be used to fund an extended program and to increase the length of the program to a maximum of eight and a half hours per day or two hundred and twenty days per year or to fund summer programs. If a district chooses to fund summer enrollment, the program funding shall conform to the funding in this act for full year programs; however, it shall be reduced on a pro rata basis to conform with the length of the program. A summer program shall be no more than eight and a half hours per day and shall be not more than ten weeks in length. The per pupil allocation and classroom grant must conform with the appropriated amount contained in this act and end of year adjustments shall be based on the one hundred and thirty-five-day student average daily membership or later student average daily membership for districts choosing to extend the program past one hundred and eighty days. Funds may also be used to provide parent engagement, professional development, and quality evaluations of programs. No later than April first, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on the expenditure of these funds to include the following information: the amount of money used and specific steps and measures taken to enhance the quality of the 4K program and the amount of money used for professional development as well as the types of professional development offered and the number of participants. The Office of First Steps is directed to determine if the provision of extended programs in private centers improves the ability of parents to enter the workforce or to pursue postsecondary training or industry credentials.

(J) On or before November 15, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps shall share data that identifies the total number of children enrolled in CERDEP in both public and private providers. If available appropriations exceed the instructional costs of serving children enrolled in the program and if a waiting list of eligible children can be documented by the Department of Education and by the Office of First Steps, then the Executive Budget Office

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may authorize the transfer of funds between the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.

(K) The Office of First Steps and the Department of Education shall collaborate with the South Carolina Head Start State Collaboration Office to inform parents of all publicly funded full-day 4K programs including Head Start by participating in PalmettoPreK and First5SC.

- 1.48** **AMEND** (SDE: Interscholastic Athletic Association Dues) Provides criteria which an interscholastic athletic association, body or entity must meet for a state supported school district or school within that district to be permitted to use funds to associate with the organization. Directs that eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall not be more restrictive than they were on January 1, 2020.
SFC: AMEND proviso to establish a uniform school classification system for all member schools, and direct that if an out-of-zone student multiplier is used, it must be applied to grades 9–11 enrollment based on the 45-day average daily membership.
SEN: AMEND proviso to direct that the purpose of classification shall consider a school’s geographic location and student population. Sponsor: Sen. Hembree

1.48. (SDE: Interscholastic Athletic Association Dues) (A) A public school district supported by state funds shall not use any funds or permit any school within the district to use any funds to join, affiliate with, pay dues or fees to, or in any way financially support any interscholastic athletic association, body, or entity unless the constitution, rules, or policies of the association, body, or entity contain the following:

(1) a range of sanctions that may be applied to a student, coach, team, or program and that takes into account factors such as the seriousness, frequency, and other relevant factors when there is a violation of the constitution, bylaws, rules, or other governing provisions of the association, body, or entity;

(2)(a) guarantees that private or charter schools are afforded the same rights and privileges that are enjoyed by all other members of the association, body, or entity. A private or charter school may not be expelled from or have its membership unreasonably withheld by the association, body, or entity or restricted in its ability to participate in interscholastic athletics including, but not limited to, state playoffs or championships based solely on its status as a private school or charter school. The association, body, or entity shall set reasonable standards for private or charter school admission. A private or charter school denied membership must be provided, in writing within five business days, the reason or reasons for rejection of its application for membership;

(b) guarantees that a South Carolina home school athletic team that is a member of a home school athletic association may not be denied access to preseason and regular season interscholastic athletics including, but not limited to, jamborees and invitational tournaments, based solely on its status as a home school athletic team; other rules or policies of the association, body, or entity would apply;

(3)(a) an appeals process in which appeals of the association, body, or entity are made to a disinterested third-body appellate panel which consists of seven members who serve four year terms, with one person appointed by the delegation of each congressional district;

(b) a member of the panel serves until his successor is appointed and qualifies. A vacancy on the panel is filled in the manner of the original appointment;

(c) members of the appellate panel do not concurrently serve as officers of the association, body, or entity and may not have served as a member of the executive committee within the last three years. Principals and superintendents are able to appeal a ruling of the association, body, or entity to the panel. The appellate panel also must provide the final ruling in any appeal brought against a decision of the association, body, or entity;

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(d) an appeal stays the determination of a sanction made by the association, body, or entity, or staff member of such, pending the outcome of the appeal;

(4) a procedure in place for emergency appeals to be held and decided upon in an expedited manner if the normal appellate process would prohibit the participation of a student, team, program, or school in an athletic event, to include practices;

(5) a uniform system applicable to all member schools at the varsity, sub-varsity, junior varsity, and middle school levels, establishing fines for the cancellation of a scheduled contest regardless of if the contest is in or out of region, including a member school refusing to schedule a mandatory region contest with another member school within the same region. At a minimum, the school canceling the scheduled contest must be fined an amount equal to the cost incurred for officials, tickets, and concessions or \$1,000, whichever is greater. If the contest is rescheduled or cancelled for a documented health or safety reason, the school shall not be fined;

(6) does not permit, allow, or authorize students to earn compensation from the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL); ~~and~~

(7) provisions, implemented within one year after the effective date of this section, that require the composition of the executive committee of the association, body, or entity be geographically representative of this State; *and*

(8) a uniform system of school classification applicable to all member schools. A multiplier system for the purpose of classification shall consider a school's geographic location and student population to include, but not be limited to, out-of-attendance zone students, adequate number of roster players to safely field a team, and performance in each sport in which it participates. A school with a satellite or auxiliary campus must be counted as one school for the purpose of this item.

(B) In the event an association, body, or entity fails to include one of the items listed in this proviso, public school districts and schools must end their affiliation with the association, body, or entity prior to the beginning of the upcoming school year and are prohibited from paying dues or fees to the association, body, or entity.

(C) Eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be no more restrictive in language or application than the rules or policies of the association, body, or entity that were in effect on January 1, 2020.

1.69 AMEND (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) Provides the projected Southeastern average teacher salary. Requires a local district board of trustees to provide a step increase for all eligible certified teachers. Requires districts to use the district salary schedule used in the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the increase. Suspends the requirement that districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year. *Companion to EIA proviso 1A.30.*

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the Southeastern average teacher salary and fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.69. (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) (A) The projected Southeastern average teacher salary shall be the average of the average teachers' salaries of the southeastern states as projected by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. For the current school year, the Southeastern average teacher salary is projected to be \$61,964 \$65,545. The General Assembly remains desirous of raising the average teacher salary in South Carolina through incremental increases over the next few years so as to make such equivalent to the national average teacher salary.

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(B) Additionally, for the current fiscal year, a local school district board of trustees must increase the salary compensation for all eligible certified teachers employed by the district by no less than one year of experience credit using at a minimum the district salary schedule utilized the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the step. Application of this provision must be applied uniformly for all eligible certified teachers. For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, the requirement that school districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year level is suspended.

(C) For purposes of this provision, teachers shall be defined by the Department of Education using the Professional Certified Staff (PCS) System.

- 1.71** **AMEND** (SDE: Standard-Based Assessments Suspended) Suspends Section 59-18-325(C)(3) which requires science standards-based assessments in grade 8 and social studies standards-based assessments in grades 5 and 7. Directs the department to use \$500,000 of the funds available due to the assessment suspension to fund South Carolina Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards educator professional development and to use the remaining funds to pay for industry certification/credentials as approved to measure College/Career Readiness.
WMC: AMEND proviso to fund social studies curriculum and supplemental materials for educator professional development and delete funding requirement for the South Carolina Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards in regards to professional development.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.71. (SDE: Standards-Based Assessments Suspended) In the current fiscal year, the provisions of Section 59-18-325(C)(3) ~~of the 1976 Code~~ requiring science standards-based assessments of students in grade eight and social studies standards-based assessments of students in grades five and seven are suspended. Of the funds available due to the suspension of these assessments, \$500,000 must be used by the Department of Education to fund ~~educator professional development regarding the South Carolina Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards~~ social studies curriculum and supplemental materials, development, and purchase. The remainder of the funds shall be used to pay for industry certification/credentials as approved to measure College/Career Readiness for purposes of the state accountability system.

- 1.72** **DELETE** (SDE: ESSER Monthly Funding Report) Requires the department to submit a monthly report to EBO on the expenditure of federal funds at the state and district level that are allocated to the State through ESSER and the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program. Directs EBO to collaborate with the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees to determine how the data will be reported. Requires SDE and EBO to post the monthly report on their websites.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.72. (SDE: ESSER Monthly Funding Report) ~~The Department of Education is required to submit a monthly report to the Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office documenting the expenditure of federal funds allocated to South Carolina through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief Fund and the Emergency Assistance to Non Public Schools Program. The Executive Budget Office, in collaboration with the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, shall determine how the data will be~~

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~~reported. The data shall document how federal funds are expended at the state and district level in accordance with federal guidelines on allowable expenditures and shall include information on how the funds have been used to offset the learning loss students are facing and mitigations taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Education and the Executive Budget Office shall post the monthly reports on their websites.~~

- 1.74** **AMEND** (SDE: Funding for Schools Safety) Outlines the allocation and use of funds for school safety upgrades. Directs the department to create a process for school districts to apply for funding. Directs that applications must be submitted by September 1, 2025 and directs the department to submit a recommended list to the State Board of Education by December 31, 2025. **WMC:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year references and add ballistic proof door requirements.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: AMEND proviso further to include the purchase of AED, maintenance, equipment, CPR training, basic first aid training, and educational materials.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.
HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1.74. (SDE: Funding for Schools Safety) (A) The funds appropriated for Funding for Schools Safety shall be made available for the direct benefit of all children of South Carolina enrolled in K-12 schools by funding security assessments and facilities upgrades aligned with school safety priorities. The department shall allocate these funds to the public school districts and charter school districts. Eligible school facility upgrades shall include:

- ~~(a)(1)~~ classroom/internal door locks;
- ~~(b)(2)~~ secure school entry points and access control;
- ~~(c)(3)~~ window covers;
- ~~(d)(4)~~ bulletproof glass or bulletproof film for windows or doors;
- ~~(e)(5)~~ electronic or other technology; ~~and~~
- ~~(f)(6)~~ ballistic proof doors, *meaning door assemblies designed to provide enhanced protection against forced entry and ballistic threats, which shall meet all of the following minimum requirements:*

(a) the door shall be designed for installation within existing door frames and shall not exceed a weight that would impede safe and effective operation by students and school personnel;

(b) the door assembly shall be tested and certified by an independent, United States government-authorized laboratory to meet nationally recognized ballistic-resistance standards for high-powered rifle fire; and

(c) the door assembly shall provide fire-resistance performance suitable for installation in school facilities, as determined through independent testing and verification; and

(7) the purchase of AEDs, AED maintenance, AED pads, AED battery replacements, CPR training kits or CPR training for faculty or staff, basic first aid training, and educational materials.

~~(B)~~ School facilities eligible for safety upgrades under ~~this subsection~~ *item (A)* are defined as locations with daily student attendance and shall not include unimproved real property, centralized district administration facilities, or other facilities, including those normally identified with interscholastic sports activities.

~~(B)(C)~~ The department shall develop an application process for public and charter school districts to request funding for facilities upgrades aligned with school safety priorities and establish policies, procedures, and priorities for the making of awards pursuant to this subsection.

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Criteria for prioritizing the awarding of funding shall include, but not be limited to, percentage of students enrolled from low-income families, the age and condition of the existing school facilities to be upgraded as well as the ability to commence construction in a timely matter and the quality of the application. The criteria must also require that all proposed projects do not create new recurring annual expenses and comply with local, state, and federal building codes.

~~(C)~~(D) Applications must be submitted to the department by September 1, ~~2025~~2026. Upon receipt of applications pursuant to the application process adopted by the department, the department shall prioritize the eligible projects with the greatest need using the established criteria and shall submit a list of recommended awards to the State Board of Education no later than December 31, ~~2025~~2026. Funding shall be awarded upon an affirmative vote of the State Board.

~~(D)~~(E) The financial assistance provided to public school districts and charter school districts pursuant to this provision must be used for the eligible school facility project. The department is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to ensure that funds are expended in a manner consistent with this provision. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purposes by the department and award recipients. Following the close of the fiscal year, the department shall submit a report of approved projects to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

~~(E)~~(F) Unexpended funds may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes by the department and school districts.

- 1.76** **AMEND** (SDE: Retired Teacher Salary Negotiation) Allows school districts to negotiate salaries below the salary schedule when hiring retired teachers for the 2024-25 school year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update school year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.76. (SDE: Retired Teacher Salary Negotiation) With funds appropriated for State Aid to Classrooms, when hiring retired teachers for the ~~2024-25~~2026-27 School Year, school districts uniformly may negotiate salaries below the school district salary schedule.

- 1.84** **AMEND** (SDE: Surplus Property) Directs a school district to transfer or to offer for sale a lease a property which has been vacant for the previous four school years and has not been approved for use before July 1, 2025. Directs school districts to publish the list of properties on their website by September 15, 2025. Directs the district to transfer property by December 31, 2025 to a governmental subdivision or state agency that has provided written confirmation to accept the property for public use. States that if no subdivision or state agency accepts the property, the district is directed to offer the property for sale or lease at fair market value. Directs that 5% of state payments be withheld if a district fails to comply.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.84. (SDE: Surplus Property) (A) A school district must transfer, or offer for sale or lease, any surplus real property or property which has been vacant, unused, or unused for direct student instruction for the previous four school years and is not currently included in any district capital improvement plan for future use on or before July 1, ~~2025~~2026. All school districts must

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publish on their website by September 15, ~~2025-2026~~, a list of properties that qualify under this provision.

(B) A school district shall comply with the requirements of this provision by transferring such property to another governmental subdivision or state agency that has provided written confirmation of an intent to accept the property for public use by December 31, ~~2025-2026~~. Any governmental subdivision or state agency providing such written confirmation must comply with all requirements related to the acquisition of real property or surplus property, and/or requirements related to the establishment of permanent improvement projects prior to accepting property transferred pursuant to this provision.

(C) If no governmental subdivision or state agency confirms an intent to accept the property, the district shall offer the property for sale or lease at fair market value as determined by a neutral appraiser and in compliance with existing law providing for sale or lease of such property by a school district. If a school district fails to comply with this provision, the Department of Education must withhold five percent of all state payments to the district until the district complies.

- 1.87** **DELETE** (SDE: Reporting Requirements) Suspends the college freshman reporting requirements of Section 59-101-130. Directs SDE and EOC to use existing data to report on the in-state and out-of-state college enrollment, persistence, and post-secondary completion of high school graduates from South Carolina. Requires SDE to streamline data collection timelines and processes. Extends legislatively mandated due dates for school, district, and state plans to June 30, 2026.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~1.87. (SDE: Reporting Requirements) (A) For the current fiscal year, the college freshman reporting requirements of Section 59-101-130 are suspended. The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Education Oversight Committee, is authorized to use data that is already collected to report on the in-state and out-of-state college enrollment, college persistence, and post-secondary completion of South Carolina's high school graduates.~~

~~(B) The Department of Education shall work to streamline data collection timelines and processes to reduce burden and increase efficiency of data collection and reporting. For the current fiscal year, legislatively mandated due dates for school, district, and state plans including, but not limited to, District Strategic and School Renewal Plans, Read to Succeed Reading Plans, Academic Recovery Plans, District ADEPT Plans, and School Turnaround Plans are extended at the discretion of the Department of Education, but shall be due by June 30, 2026.~~

- 1.95** **AMEND** (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) Directs a school district to adopt a policy, as required by the State Board of Education, that bans students from using personal electronic communication devices during the school day in order to receive state funds.

SFC: AMEND proviso that includes charter schools in the policy adoption requirement.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1.95. (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) To receive state funds allocated for State Aid to Classrooms, a school district *or charter district* shall implement a policy adopted by the State Board of Education that prohibits access to personal electronic communication devices by

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students during the school day. For purposes of this provision, a personal electronic communication device is considered to be a device not authorized for classroom use by a student, utilized to access the Internet, wi-fi, or cellular telephone signals.

- 1.96 DELETE** (SDE: District Accounting Systems and Best Practices) Directs the Department of Education to convene a study committee to examine and propose revisions to improve district accounting systems and best practices. Establishes the membership and duties of the committee. Directs the committee to provide a report of potential reforms by May 31, 2026 to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.96. (SDE: District Accounting Systems and Best Practices) ~~(A) The Department of Education shall convene and staff a study committee to examine and propose necessary revisions for improving district accounting systems and best practices.~~

~~(B) The study committee shall be comprised of the following individuals who each should have background and expertise in education finance:~~

- ~~(1) one member appointed by the Governor; who shall serve as Chair of the task force;~~
- ~~(2) the State Superintendent of Education or their designee;~~
- ~~(3) the Chief Financial Officer of the State Department of Education;~~
- ~~(4) one member of the South Carolina House of Representatives appointed by the Chair of the House of Representatives Education and Public Works Committee;~~
- ~~(5) one member of the South Carolina Senate appointed by the Chair of the Senate Education Committee;~~
- ~~(6) one member appointed by the Chair of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee;~~
- ~~(7) one member appointed by the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee;~~
- ~~(8) one member appointed by the Chair of the Board of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office;~~
- ~~(9) one member appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators;~~
- ~~(10) one member appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the South Carolina School Boards Association; and~~
- ~~(11) one member appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the South Carolina Association of School Business Officials.~~

~~(C) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation but may receive per diem and mileage from the South Carolina Department of Education as provided for boards and commissions.~~

~~(D) The task force must submit recommendations for potential reforms to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate no later than May 31, 2026. Recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:~~

- ~~(1) increased transparency for school district personnel, stakeholders, and policymakers;~~
- ~~(2) ensuring alignment to accounting standards across the State;~~
- ~~(3) ease of reporting;~~
- ~~(4) consolidation of multiple reports into a streamlined reporting format;~~
- ~~(5) consistency of data across districts; and~~
- ~~(6) increased efficiency for school district financial staff.~~

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- 1.103** **AMEND** (SDE: Child Nutrition Programs) Directs that child nutrition programs shall not charge a qualifying student a reduced-price copayment if funds are appropriated. States that all other requirements by the school district related to reduced meals do not change. Directs that reimbursements to school districts for reduced meals shall be reduced proportionately if sufficient funds are not appropriated to cover the full cost.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso so direct that any public school student who does not already receive a free breakfast through another program may request and receive one free breakfast each school day, regardless of income. Directs the department to use available federal child nutrition funds first, and state funds if federal funds are insufficient, to cover the cost.
- HOU:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SFC:** RESTORE original proviso.
- SEN:** ADOPT original proviso.
- HOU2:** AMEND proviso to create a supplemental statewide school breakfast program beginning in the 2026-2027 school year to provide one free breakfast each school day, upon request, to public school students who do not otherwise qualify for free school breakfast programs. Directs the department to use available federal child nutrition funds to cover costs, with state appropriations used if federal funding is insufficient. Sponsor: Rep. Haddon

1.103. (SDE: Child Nutrition Programs) *(A)* 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.

(B) There is created a supplemental school breakfast program for public school students that do not qualify for the school breakfast program established pursuant to Section 59-63-765. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, with funds appropriated and with funds carried forward for the prior fiscal year, a public school student who is not a qualifying student to receive a free breakfast through any local, state, or federal program shall be provided one breakfast at no cost during each school day upon his or her request without consideration of his or her eligibility for a federally-funded free- or reduced-price meal. The Department of Education shall use federal funds that have been disbursed for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to cover the cost of providing one breakfast at no cost to an eligible student under this provision. If the federal funds that have been disbursed for purposes of funding child nutrition programs are insufficient to cover the cost of providing one breakfast at no cost during each school day to an eligible student under this provision, the Department of Education shall allocate state funds appropriated to the Department of Education to cover the cost of providing one breakfast at no cost during each school day to an eligible student under this provision.

- 1.110** **AMEND** (SDE: Assessments and Final Grade Determination) Directs that school districts may not include scores from district-selected benchmark assessments in students' final course grades. These assessments may only be used for instructional purposes unless developed or approved by the course instructor and based solely on previously taught content. Violations may result in corrective action, including reduced state funding. Directs that this does not apply to End of Course assessments.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

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HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.110. (SDE: Assessments and Final Grade Determination) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, no school district receiving funds pursuant to Section 1 of the Appropriations Act may require the inclusion of student performance on any district-selected benchmark assessment in calculating a student's final grade in any course or subject. District-selected benchmark assessments may only be used as formative assessments for informing instructional purposes and shall not factor into a student's course grade unless the assessment is developed or directly approved by the course instructor and exclusively measures content that has previously been taught in the course. Any school district found in violation of this provision may be subject to corrective action, including a reduction in state funding allocations as determined by the department. These provisions do not apply to End of Course assessments.

1.111 **AMEND** (SDE: Charter School Authorizer Contracts) Directs that if a public or independent higher education charter authorizer ceases operations, affected charter schools may apply to a new authorizer for the remainder of their contract term. Directs that charter schools with approved applications but no executed contracts may also seek a new authorizer. Directs the department to develop a LEA closure protocol and a timeline for transferring schools and reviewing applications, to be fully implemented by June 1, 2026. Schools will not need to resubmit full applications unless the new authorizer identifies specific concerns.

SFC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1.111. (SDE: Charter School Authorizer Contracts) If a public or independent institution of higher learning charter authorizer ceases operations, any charter school under a current contract with the authorizer may apply to a new authorizer for the remainder of the charter school's contract term. Any charter school with an approved application that has not yet executed a contract as of the effective date of this act may elect to request that a new authorizer consider its application. Of the funds appropriated, the Department of Education shall create a LEA closure protocol to be fully implemented by June 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, and a timeline for the transfer of any charter schools and the receipt and review of any applications by a new authorizer for this purpose. Schools shall not be required to resubmit a full application unless the new authorizer specifically identifies an area of concern.

1.112 **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (SDE: Employment Contract) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that for superintendent contracts entered into on or after July 1, districts must cap mutual contract termination settlements at no more than one year's salary or the remaining contract value, whichever is less.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso by deleting "superintendent" relating to employment contracts.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.112. (SDE: Employment Contract) With funds appropriated, a local school district board of trustees shall include a term in all district employment contracts, entered into on or after July 1 of the current fiscal year, specifying that the maximum settlement amount to be paid by the district as part of the mutual dissolution of the contract shall not exceed one year's salary or the

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remainder of the contract value, whichever is less. Nothing in this provision limits a district superintendent's right to file a claim in state or federal court based on an alleged violation of law relevant to that individual's employment.

1.113 AMEND NEW PROVISO (SDE: Capital Funding for Schools) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to establish a Capital Funding for Schools Committee to develop criteria and award capital funds for eligible K–12 school facilities projects. Provides for the composition of the committee. Directs the committee to evaluate applications from eligible school districts, charter schools with a “good” or higher academic rating, and special schools. Directs that awards shall be based on demonstrated facility needs, local support, financial contributions, academic benefit, school safety, and priority for areas of critical need. Directs that funds may be used only for eligible instructional facilities and related project costs. Directs the committee to provide a report of funded projects to the Governor and the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means by June 30, 2027. Directs that unexpended funds may be carried forward for the same purpose.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to include prerequisites and preferences for public schools and districts and charter schools and districts and update the criteria for eligibility for project consideration.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1.113. (SDE: Capital Funding for Schools) (A) For the current fiscal year, of the funds appropriated for Capital Funding for Schools, the Department of Education shall comprise a committee to establish and approve criteria to disburse funds.

(B) The committee shall be comprised of the following individuals:

(1) one individual with significant experience in educational facilities appointed by the State Superintendent of Education, who serves as inaugural chair;

(2) one individual with at least five years of economic development experience appointed by the Governor;

(3) one individual appointed by the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee;

(4) one individual appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee;

(5) one individual appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee;

(6) one individual appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee; and

(7) one individual appointed by the South Carolina Manufacturers and Commerce.

(C) No member of the committee shall serve on the committee if that member or immediate family is an employee, contractor, or board member of a school district, charter school, or other educational institution that has the potential to receive funds from the Capital Funding for Schools Committee. No member of the General Assembly shall serve on the committee.

(D) In order for a project to be considered by the committee, the applicant must provide information that includes at least the historical and projected student enrollment of the applicant and building information to include: square footage, both total and broken down by usable space, capacity of each space based on recommended square footage per student, and the age and condition of each building, if applicable.

(E) Among eligible schools, preferred schools, and school projects screened above, the following criteria shall be considered:

(1) Sustained Academic Performance. The committee shall consider the academic performance record of the applicant school or district. Priority shall be given to schools and districts that have demonstrated sustained academic success, including performance on State assessments and overall school or district ratings. Schools that have earned an Unsatisfactory

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or Below Average rating and districts that are designated as underperforming as defined in Section 59-18-1615 in any of the previous two years shall receive significantly lower priority; and for charter schools, schools that have earned an Excellent rating in any of the previous two years shall receive significantly higher priority.

(2) Areas and Populations of Critical Need. Priority shall be given to projects located in counties designated as Tier III or Tier IV by the Department of Revenue pursuant to Section 12-6-3360, or as otherwise defined by criteria reflecting local property wealth per student, per capita income, poverty, or other relevant measures of economic need. Priority shall be given to schools or districts in which more than two-thirds of the student population consists of students from high-need, underserved backgrounds or students receiving special education services.

(3) Charter School Institutional Strength (Charter Schools Only). For applications submitted by charter schools, the committee shall consider the institutional strength and operational track record of the applicant including: (a) the duration of the school's continuous operation under its current charter, with preference given to schools that have operated for more than four consecutive years at the time of application; (b) a recommendation from the school's authorizing sponsor confirming that the proposed project is consistent with the purposes of the charter and the Charter Schools Act; (c) a certification from the authorizing sponsor that the school is in compliance with its charter and that no formal action to revoke or not renew the charter has been made as of the time of application; and (d) the nonprofit status of the entity holding the charter and the entity serving as the school operator, with significant priority given to nonprofit operators over for-profit operators. The committee shall grant the highest level of preference to established networks and schools that already serve more than 1,000 students within the State or 2,500 students outside the State, and are seeking to add additional sites or increase enrollment within existing sites.

Additional priority shall be awarded to applicants that demonstrate the following:

(1) High Poverty Concentration. At least 60% of enrolled students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program, or at least 60% are identified as economically disadvantaged through direct certification, Medicaid eligibility, or an equivalent state-approved measure.

(2) Outstanding Academic Track Record. The applicant must demonstrate sustained, measurable academic performance, defined as meeting at least two of the following criteria over the most recent three consecutive school years:

(a) student proficiency rates in math and/or reading that meet or exceed the state average for comparable student populations;

(b) year-over-year academic growth scores in the top quartile for schools serving similar demographics;

(c) a school performance rating of "B" or higher, or equivalent, under the applicable state accountability system; and

(d) graduation rates of 90% or above for applicable grade configurations.

(3) School Safety: The committee shall incorporate the extent to which the proposed project addresses school safety, including the ability of the project to optimally use, close, consolidate, or replace existing facilities or consolidated districts in order to enhance student and staff safety and accommodate current and projected student enrollment.

(4) Project Viability. The committee shall evaluate the financial condition and long-term viability of the applicant and the proposed project. Criteria shall include the nature and scope of the proposed facilities project, the school's or district's demonstrated financial need for funding assistance, and the applicant's Debt Service Coverage Ratio as a potential indicator of the ability to service existing and proposed debt obligations. Schools and districts that have significantly underperformed their enrollment targets shall receive lower priority.

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(5) Community Analysis. The committee shall consider the availability of other possible facility options, including the use of existing district or public buildings, and the extent to which the proposed project represents the most efficient and effective use of available resources. Local support for the project, as expressed by resolutions of the governing body of the school district or, for charter schools, by the charter school governing board, shall also be considered.

(F) Funds may only be used for school buildings whose primary purpose must be for K-12 in-person classroom instruction, state-funded full-day 4K, or other public school secondary in-person classroom instruction. School buildings shall not include unimproved real property, centralized district administration facilities, or other facilities, including those normally identified with interscholastic sports activities.

(G) Eligible costs for projects include preliminary engineering, traffic and revenue studies, environmental studies, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction management, and facilities.

(H) The committee shall issue a report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than June 30, 2027. The report shall include the districts and charter schools funded, the amount, and the purpose of the award.

(I) All unexpended funds appropriated for Capital Funding for Schools may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes by the department, school districts, and charter schools.

- 1.114 DELETE** (SDE: Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to establish a statewide Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit within the Office of School Facilities to provide, upon request, certified preventative, routine, and emergency indoor air quality and mold assessment, mitigation, and repair services to public school districts under policies and procedures set by the department.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.114. (SDE: Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit) DELETED

- 1.115 ADD** (SDE: Sign Language Interpretive Incentive Program) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to develop and implement a tiered system of bonuses and salary supplements for interpreters.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1.115. (SDE: Sign Language Interpretive Incentive Program) Of the funds appropriated to the department for the Sign Language Interpreter Initiative, the department shall develop and implement a tiered system of bonuses or salary supplements for interpreters based on increased scores on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). Unexpended funds for this initiative may be carried forward and used for the same purpose.

- 1.117 DELETE** (SDE: Imagination Library) **WMC:** ADD proviso to transfer remaining funds for the Imagination Library from the Department of Education to First Steps to administer the program. Sponsor: Rep. Whitmire
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.

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SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.117. (SDE: Imagination Library) DELETED

- 1.118 DELETE** (SDE: High School League Oversight) **HOU:** ADD proviso to provide criteria for the interscholastic athletic associations that public school districts may join or financially support. Requires the association's governing body to include members appointed by legislators, the governor, educators, and athletics representatives, and subjects the association to legislative audits, budget review, ethics reporting, and oversight by the General Assembly. Establishes criteria to allow participation opportunities for private schools, charter schools, homeschool teams, and certain private school students to play sports at their local public school if their school does not offer that sport. Requires uniform penalties for canceling scheduled games, creates a standardized eligibility system including a one-time transfer rule for middle and high school athletes, and prohibits student NIL compensation. Creates an independent seven-member appeals panel to review league decisions and establishes a temporary legislative oversight committee to study the operations of high school athletics in South Carolina and report findings by June 30, 2027. Sponsors: Reps. Hayes and Erickson
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.118. (SDE: High School League Oversight) DELETED

- 1.119 DELETE** (SDE: Home School Students) **HOU:** ADD proviso to suspend Section 59-63-100(A)(3) to allow home school students to participate in public school interscholastic activities, and waives the one-year home school instruction requirement for students who attended a public or private school the prior year and meet specified disciplinary and GPA criteria. Sponsor: Rep. Erickson
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.119. (SDE: Home School Students) DELETED

- 1.120 DELETE** (SDE: Funding for School Safety) **HOU:** ADD proviso to allow the department to utilize funds for school safety to assist schools to promote cardiac emergency response plans. Sponsor: Rep. Lawson
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1.120. (SDE: Funding for School Safety) DELETED

- 1.121 ADD** (SDE: Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Pilot Program) **SFC:** ADD proviso to authorize the Department of Education to pilot an interlocal cooperative purchasing program for school districts and higher education institutions to streamline procurement. Directs that the program include selected K-12 districts and colleges to purchase goods and services for facilities, operations, and technology. Directs that a report on cost savings and efficiency shall be submitted by June 30, 2027.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.
HOU2: ADOPT new proviso. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

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1.121. (SDE: Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Pilot Program) (A) For the current fiscal year, the Department of Education may pilot test an interlocal cooperative purchasing method at the request and on behalf of the state's PK-12 school districts by entering into contracts to allow selected participants the option to choose the same procurement method currently afforded to South Carolina local governmental entities by allowing cooperative contract holders the ability to advertise on South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO).

(B) The pilot program shall support ten diverse PK-12 school districts in order to obtain materials, labor, and services used for maintenance, operations, component replacement, restoration or repairs of existing facilities and grounds in addition to other supplies, services, and technology related procurement.

(C) A report detailing the pilot program's success related to expediting procurement and reducing the administrative cost and resource burden of acquisition and utilization of local contractors shall be provided to the Governor, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Superintendent of Education by June 30, 2027.

- 1.122 ADD** (SDE: Supplemental Instructional Materials) **SFC:** ADD proviso to authorize the department to spend up to \$5 million annually on supplemental instructional materials, subject to review for alignment with state standards, with purchases limited to items on an approved list. *Companion proviso to 1A.76.*
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1.122. (SDE: Supplemental Instructional Materials) The Department of Education is authorized to utilize up to \$5,000,000 of instructional materials funding annually to purchase supplemental instructional materials. The Department of Education shall review supplemental materials to ensure alignment to state standards and learning objectives and place these materials on an approved supplemental materials list. Only those materials on the approved supplemental materials list may be purchased with state funds.

- 1.123 DELETE** (SDE: Education Scholarship Trust Fund Assessment) **SFC:** ADD proviso to allocate \$250,000 to the EOC to collect assessment data and report statewide results for students in the ESTF program. Directs that the EOC must ensure privacy, publish aggregated achievement and postsecondary outcomes after three years, and administer an annual parent satisfaction survey. ESTF students in grades 3–8 must take SC READY or another EOC-approved assessment aligned to state standards, and students in grades 9–12 must take EOCEP or another approved readiness assessment. Directs that students with disabilities who cannot participate in standardized tests are exempt.
SEN: DELETE proviso. *Ruled Out of Order.*

1.123. (SDE: Education Scholarship Trust Fund Assessment) DELETED

- 1.124 ADD** (SDE: ESTF Unbundlers) **SFC:** ADD proviso to suspends Sections 59-8-110(14)(n) and 59-8-115(H) for the fiscal year and restricts the department from awarding new scholarships to “unbundlers.” Directs that the 958 current unbundler students may continue receiving scholarships next year if they remain eligible and complete required assessments, but no new unbundler slots may be filled. Directs the department to provide lists of current and returning unbundlers to the EOC and grant the EOC access to data systems. The department must assume certain district-level responsibilities for existing unbundlers, with noncompliant parents removed from the program. All required assessments must be provided to the EOC within 30 days of passage of the General Appropriations Act.

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SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1.124. (SDE: ESTF Unbundlers) (A) For the current fiscal year, Sections 59-8-110(14)(n) and 59-8-115(H) are suspended.

(B) The department shall suspend any award of additional scholarships to those they have previously identified as “unbundlers”. The 958 “unbundlers” who received a scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic school year may, if otherwise qualified under the program, continue to receive a scholarship in the 2026-2027 academic school year; provided, that they have completed all assessments by the end of the current academic school year. If an existing “unbundler” ceases to qualify, is removed from the scholarship program, or does not apply for the scholarship in the 2026-2027 school year, the department may not fill the scholarship slot with a new “unbundler” scholarship student to include a sibling. The department shall provide a list of the 2025-2026 “unbundler” students and addresses and a list of the returning 2026-2027 “unbundler” students and addresses within 15 days of the passage of the General Appropriations Act to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC). The EOC shall have access to the department’s source data systems to ensure compliance with this proviso.

(C) To adequately provide for the current “unbundlers”, the department shall assume the role and responsibilities a school district would incur in Section 59-65-40, excluding subsection (A)(1)(5), (B), and (E). A parent who fails to cooperate or comply with the department in this regard shall be immediately terminated from the program.

(D) The department shall provide all previously required assessments as provided in this act to the EOC within 30 days of passage of the General Appropriations Act.

1.125 ADD (SDE: School Bus Speed Limits) SFC: ADD proviso to direct the department to issue special event variances authorizing district-owned activity buses traveling more than 100 miles on the interstate to school-sponsored events a speed limit of no higher than 65.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1.125. (SDE: School Bus Speed Limits) Using funds appropriated, the department shall issue special event variances authorizing a speed limit of no higher than sixty-five miles per hour for district-owned activity buses, as defined by regulation of the State Board of Education, traveling to school-sponsored events requiring travel of greater than one hundred miles on interstate highways.

1.126 ADD (SDE: Panic Button) SEN: ADD proviso to direct public school districts and charters schools to acquire and implement a mobile panic alert system and provides the requirements of the system. Directs SLED and DPS to identify vendors of that satisfy the requirements, and to make a list of said vendors. Exempts districts or schools that have already implemented satisfactory systems. Sponsors: Sen. Sabb, Stubbs, and Zell

1.126. (SDE: Panic Button) (A) From the funds appropriated to the department, each public school district and charter school in the State:

(1) shall, under the direction of the department, acquire and implement in each school a mobile panic alert system that:

(a) connects disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between local and state law enforcement and first responder agencies;

(b) integrates with existing technology found in each local public safety answering-point infrastructure, as defined in Section 23-47-10, to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations; and

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(c) provides initial training to all public resource officers and public school personnel, who work in the districts where the systems are utilized, on the proper use of the panic button alert system;

(2) ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency; and

(3) shall utilize the school mapping data program provided by the State to implement a mobile panic alert system required by this section. School mapping data must be made available to any vendor that meets the requirements of subsection (A)(1).

(B) The department, in consultation with the State Law Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Safety, shall identify vendors of systems that satisfy the requirements of subsection (A)(1) for use by school districts and shall make this list of vendors available to schools no later than the end of the current fiscal year.

(C) This proviso does not apply to any district or school that has already implemented a mobile panic alert system with capabilities that meet the requirements of subsection (A)(1).

1.127 **ADD** (SDE: Tax Credit Study Committee) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to requires the department to convene and staff a study committee to review and recommend alignment of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children, the Education Scholarship Trust Fund, and the Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Provides for the committees' compositions and directs the committee to submit implementation recommendations following federal guidance by December 1, 2026, or within 60 days of federal guidance issuance, whichever is later. Sponsor: Rep. Erickson **Note: Proviso 1.122 in HOU2**

1.127. (SDE: Tax Credit Study Committee) (A) The Department of Education shall convene and staff a study committee to examine and propose recommendations for alignment of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children, the Education Scholarship Trust Fund, and the Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

(B) The study committee shall be comprised of the following individuals:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor, who shall serve as Chair of the study committee;

(2) one member appointed by the Superintendent of Education;

(3) one member appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee;

(4) one member appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee;

(5) one member appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee;

(6) one member appointed by the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee; and

(7) one member appointed by the Director of the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

(C) Members of the study committee shall receive no compensation but may receive per diem and mileage from the South Carolina Department of Education as provided for boards and commissions.

(D) Pending the release of federal guidance on the Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the study committee must submit recommendations on implementation of the scholarship program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate no later than December 1, 2026, or 60 days after publication of the federal guidance, whichever comes later.

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SECTION 1A - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-EIA

1A.6 AMEND (SDE-EIA: (CHE/Teacher Recruitment) Provides for the distribution of teacher recruitment funds for the Teaching Fellows Program; for other state teacher recruitment programs such as Teacher Cadet Program; for recruitment of minority teachers; and to S.C. State for operation of a minority teacher recruitment program. Requires the annual reporting on the success of the recruitment and retention efforts. Requires CERRA to appoint and maintain the S.C. teacher Loan Advisory Committee.

WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that EOC to make recommendations for the Teacher Loan Advisory Committee. Updates membership and responsibilities of the committee. Directs that the Student Loan Corporation must modernize the TLP application process by planning for an online system and update applications to identify Teaching Fellow recipients.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.6. (SDE-EIA: CHE/Teacher Recruitment) *(A)* Of the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, VIII.F. for the Teacher Recruitment Program, the Commission on Higher Education shall distribute a total of ninety-two percent to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA-South Carolina) for a state teacher recruitment program, of which at least seventy-eight percent must be used for the Teaching Fellows Program specifically to provide scholarships for future teachers, and of which twenty-two percent must be used for other aspects of the state teacher recruitment program, including the Teacher Cadet Program and \$166,302 which must be used for specific programs to recruit minority teachers: and shall distribute eight percent to South Carolina State University to be used only for the operation of a minority teacher recruitment program and therefore shall not be used for the operation of their established general education programs. Working with districts with an absolute rating of At-Risk or Below Average, CERRA will provide shared initiatives to recruit and retain teachers to schools in these districts. CERRA will report annually by October first to the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education on the success of the recruitment and retention efforts in these schools. The Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis, shall ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the three teacher recruitment projects, shall review the use of funds and shall have prior program and budget approval. The South Carolina State University program, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education, shall extend beyond the geographic area it currently serves. Annually, the Commission on Higher Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of each of the teacher recruitment projects and shall report its findings and its program and budget recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees, the State Board of Education, and the Education Oversight Committee by October first annually, in a format agreed upon by the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education.

(B) With the funds appropriated CERRA shall also appoint and maintain the South Carolina Teacher Loan Advisory Committee upon recommendations by the Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall be composed of one member representing each of the following: (1) Commission on Higher Education who shall serve as chair of the Committee; (2) State ~~Board~~ Department of Education; (3) Education Oversight Committee; (4) Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement; (5) South Carolina Student Loan Corporation; (6) South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA); (7) a local school district human resources officer; (8) a public higher education institution with an approved teacher education program; and (9) a private higher education

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institution with an approved teacher education program. The members of the committee representing SCASFAA, a local school district, and the public and private higher education institutions ~~shall rotate among those institutions and~~ shall serve a single two-year term on the committee. The committee must be staffed by CERRA, and shall meet at least ~~twice~~ four times annually. The committee's responsibilities are limited to its duties for: (1) establishing, monitoring, and reporting progress on goals for the Teacher Loan Program; (2) facilitating communication among the cooperating ~~agencies~~ entities; (3) actively advocating for program participants; ~~and~~ (4) using the most recent program evaluation reports as a guide, recommending policies and procedures necessary to promote and ~~maintain~~ publicize the program, as well as developing specific recommendations for changes necessary to statute, regulation, and/or proviso necessary to modernize and streamline the program, enhance its alignment and parity with other teacher recruitment initiatives; and (5) annually, by February 1 and August 1, submitting a summary of meetings held during that period and actions taken to conform with each state duty to the Commission on Higher Education and to the Education Oversight Committee for inclusion in the annual program evaluation.

(C) In conformance with the 2025 Teacher Loan Program (TLP) Report Finding and Recommendations, the Student Loan Corporation shall:

(1) review and revise TLP applications and submit a plan to the Commission on Higher Education for implementing an online application process; and

(2) add a question on the TLP application which will designate applicant as a Teaching Fellow recipient.

1A.9 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Teacher Supplies) Provides guidelines for distributing teacher supply reimbursement of up to \$400 each school year to offset the expenses teachers have incurred for teaching supplies and materials. Directs that this reimbursement shall not be considered by the state as taxable income or reported as income on the employee's annual W-2 form, and a district may not withhold or garnish the amount of the supply check from an employee's salary. Allows any classroom teacher, including those at a S.C. private school that are not eligible for this reimbursement, to claim a refundable income tax credit on their 2025 tax return.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update tax year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.9. (SDE-EIA: Teacher Supplies) (A) All certified and non-certified public school teachers identified in PCS, certified special school classroom teachers, certified media specialists, certified guidance counselors, and career specialists who are employed by a school district, a charter school, or lead teachers employed in a publicly funded full day 4K classroom approved by the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, as of November thirtieth of the current fiscal year, based on the public decision of the school board may receive reimbursement of \$400 each school year to offset expenses incurred by them for teaching supplies and materials identified by the employee as essential for student success. Funds shall be disbursed by the department to School districts by July fifteenth based on the last reconciled Professional Certified Staff (PCS) listing from the previous year. With remaining funds for this program, any deviation in the PCS and actual teacher count will be reconciled by December thirty-first or as soon as practicable thereafter. Based on the public decision of the school district and no later than May fifteenth annually, the district shall notify all individuals entitled to receive these funds the manner in which the funds will be disbursed. Funds may be disbursed to each teacher via check in a manner separate and distinct from their payroll check on the first day teachers, by contract, are required to be in attendance at school for the current contract year, or the funds may be

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disbursed to each teacher via direct deposit as long as the funds are handled in a manner to be separate and distinct from their payroll check. This reimbursement shall not be considered by the state as taxable income or reported as income on the employee's annual W-2 form, and a district may not withhold or garnish the amount of the supply check from an employee's salary. Special schools include the Governor's School for Science and Math, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, School for the Deaf and the Blind, Felton Lab, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Palmetto Unified School District. Funds distributed to school districts or allocated to schools must not supplant existing supply money paid to teachers from other sources. If a school district requires receipts for tax purposes the receipts may not be required before December thirty-first. Districts that do not wish to require receipts may have teachers retain the receipts and certify for the district they have received the allocation for purchase of teaching supplies and/or materials and that they have purchased or will purchase supplies and/or materials during the fiscal year for the amount of the allocation. Districts shall not have an audit exception related to non-retention of receipts in any instances where a similar instrument is utilized. Any district requiring receipts must notify any teacher from whom receipts have not been submitted between November twenty-fifth and December sixth that receipts must be submitted to the district. Districts may not add any additional requirement not listed herein related to this reimbursement.

(B) Any classroom teacher, including a classroom teacher at a South Carolina private school, that is not eligible for the reimbursement allowed by this provision, may claim a refundable income tax credit on the teacher's ~~2025~~ 2026 tax return, provided that the return or any amended return claiming the credit is filed prior to the end of the fiscal year. The credit is equal to \$400, or the amount the teacher expends on teacher supplies and materials, whichever is less. If any expenditures eligible for a credit are made after December thirty-first, the teacher may include the expenditures on his initial return or may file an amended ~~2025~~ 2026 return claiming the credit, so long as the return or amended return is filed in this fiscal year. The Department of Revenue may require whatever proof it deems necessary to implement the credit provided by this part of this provision. Any person receiving the reimbursement provided by this proviso is ineligible to take the income tax credit allowed by this proviso.

- 1A.16 DELETE** (SDE-EIA: Assessment) Authorizes assessment funds to be carried forward to pay for state assessment activities and directs that PSAT, pre-ACT, or 10th grade Aspire reimbursements shall resume in the current fiscal year.
SFC: AMEND proviso to include CLT10 in reimbursements.
SEN: DELETE proviso. *Ruled Out of Order.*

~~1A.16. (SDE-EIA: Assessment) The department is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year, prior year state assessment funds for the same purpose. Reimbursements shall resume in the current fiscal year for PSAT, pre-ACT, or 10th grade Aspire.~~

- 1A.25 AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Full-Day 4K) Provides guidelines for participation in and funding for the SC Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). *Companion to 1.46.*
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that school districts participating in the EOC wait list pilot are exempt from the September 1 requirement and directs the EOC to annually evaluate the available space in public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms. Requested by the Education Oversight Committee.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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1A.25. (SDE: Full-Day 4K) (A) Eligible students residing in any school district or attending any charter school authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or an approved institution of higher education may participate in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education program (CERDEP) pending the availability of space and funding. Student eligibility as defined by Section 59-156-130 of the 1976 Code is an annual family income of one hundred eighty-five percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines as promulgated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or a statement of Medicaid eligibility.

(B) A parent or guardian may choose to enroll their child in a public school participating in the program and approved by the Department of Education pursuant to Section 59-156-210 or in a private provider participating in the program and approved by the Office of First Steps pursuant to Section 59-156-200. A private provider includes, but is not limited to, a child care center, a military child care facility regulated by the United States Department of Defense, or a non-profit independent school. State funds appropriated for the provision of CERDEP services in military child care facilities may not be used to supplant existing federal child care funds. No school district can be denied participation in CERDEP or be denied CERDEP funding pursuant to the terms of this provision.

(C) 4K programs in public schools and non-profit independent schools participating in CERDEP are not required to be approved, registered, or licensed by the Department of Social Services in order to participate in CERDEP. Instead, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps are responsible for ensuring that providers deliver high-quality educational programs pursuant to Section 59-156-160.

(D) Public and private providers shall be funded for instructional costs at a minimum rate of \$5,100 per student enrolled. Eligible students enrolling during the school year or withdrawing during the school year shall be funded on a pro rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall also be eligible for reimbursement at a minimum of \$620 per eligible child transported. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide an equitable distribution above the minimum between public and private providers. First Steps and the Department of Education must provide a quarterly report beginning October 1 detailing funding above the minimum made to any provider to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. All providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. New providers participating for the first time in the current fiscal year and enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive at a minimum of \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for funding at a minimum of \$10,000. The Department of Education and the Office of First Steps Readiness are authorized to utilize carry forward funds and federal funds to supplement the amount expended for materials and equipment. Providers receiving equipment funding are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps. The Department of Education shall only provide funding for public school students whose complete records have been entered into PowerSchool based on the one hundred and thirty-five day student average daily membership. For the current fiscal year, providers may enroll pay-lunch children who score at or below the twenty-fifth national percentile on two of the three DIAL-3 subscales by July 1 if at least seventy-five percent of the total number of children eligible or the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program in a district or county

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are projected to be enrolled in that program, Head Start, or ABC Child Care Program as determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps, Child Early Reading Development and Education Program. Providers may receive reimbursement for these children if funds are available. By September 1, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps must collect the documented waiting lists, share the lists, and determine a process to notify parents of eligible students of available slots in all approved providers. School districts participating in the EOC wait list pilot are exempt from the September 1 requirement. The Department of Education is required to offer waivers allowing students with disabilities to be served in multi-categorical classroom settings based on similar cognition and abilities. Funding appropriated for CERDEP may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.

(E) Annually, the Department of Education is directed to audit the annual allocations to public providers to ensure that allocations are accurate and aligned to the appropriate pro rata per student allocation, materials, and equipment funding. In the event the department, during the audit process determines that the annual allocations of the prior fiscal year are not accurate, the department must adjust the allocations for the current fiscal year to account for the audit findings. The department must provide the results of the annual audit findings to the General Assembly no later than December first. Likewise, in the event the Office of First Steps determines that the annual allocations of the prior fiscal year to private providers are not accurate, the Office of First Steps must adjust the allocations for the current fiscal year to account for the findings.

(F) Of the funds appropriated, \$300,000 shall be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee to conduct an annual evaluation of the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) and to issue findings in a report to the General Assembly by March first of each year. To aid in this evaluation, the Education Oversight Committee shall determine and obtain the data necessary and both public and private providers are required to submit the necessary data as a condition of continued participation in and funding of the program, including average daily attendance data, so that consistent enrollment may be determined. This data shall include developmentally appropriate measures of student progress. Additionally, the Department of Education shall issue a unique student identifier for each child receiving services from a public or private provider including those funded by CERDEP, Head Start, SC Child Care Scholarships, EIA, Title I, district-funded, and all other federal, state, or local public sources. The Department of Education shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the public state funded full day and half-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers. The Education Oversight Committee shall use this data and all other collected and maintained data necessary to conduct a research based review of the program's implementation and assessment of student success in the early elementary grades along with information, recommendations, and a timeline for how the state can increase the number of students served in high-quality programs. To aid in the accurate reporting of four-year-olds in poverty served in formal education programs in public schools in South Carolina, the Department of Education must provide to the EOC data related to four-year-olds served in formal education programs funded with other state, local, or federal funds, including Title 1 and EIA-District-funded programs, denoting full- or partial-day status. The Education Oversight Committee also shall annually evaluate the availability of space in public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms to serve additional students whose family income is three hundred percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines as promulgated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(G) For eligible children residing in school districts that do not participate in CERDEP, the Department of Education is required to develop and implement inter-district transfer policies that give parents or guardians the option of their eligible child attending an out-of-district school that participates in CERDEP.

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(H) For the current fiscal year, the Office of First Steps may expend: (1) up to \$2,000,000 to pilot a program to provide higher reimbursement rates to high-quality providers. The reimbursement rate for students enrolled by child care providers rated B or higher in the ABC Quality System operated by the Department of Social Services may be increased by up to 10% of the per-student base following guidelines developed by the Office of First Steps; and (2) up to \$250,000 to provide one-time supplemental, needs-based incentive grants in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for newly created and/or newly approved private providers proposing to expand service to ten or more CERDEP eligible children in communities unable to enroll all eligible students in a public, private, or Head Start setting during the prior fiscal year. These grants are designed to address building renovations, documented as necessary to bring proposed classrooms into compliance with licensing regulations, materials and staffing costs, and/or other obstacles currently preventing their participation in the program. The First Steps Board of Trustees shall develop and approve an application process that incorporates formal review and fiscal safeguards designed to ensure grant funds are used solely to address documented barriers to program participation. Providers receiving this one-time supplement shall be expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years shall require the provider to return a portion of the supplemental allocation at a level determined by the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. First Steps shall submit a report detailing its process, expenditures and expanded enrollment to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee by March 15.

(I) If by August first, the Department of Education or the Office of First Steps determines that appropriations will exceed expenditures, available funds may be used to fund an extended program and to increase the length of the program to a maximum of eight and a half hours per day or two hundred and twenty days per year or to fund summer programs. If a district chooses to fund summer enrollment, the program funding shall conform to the funding in this act for full year programs; however, it shall be reduced on a pro rata basis to conform with the length of the program. A summer program shall be no more than eight and a half hours per day and shall be not more than ten weeks in length. The per pupil allocation and classroom grant must conform with the appropriated amount contained in this act and end of year adjustments shall be based on the one hundred and thirty-five-day student average daily membership or later student average daily membership for districts choosing to extend the program past one hundred and eighty days. Funds may also be used to provide parent engagement, professional development, and quality evaluations of programs. No later than April first, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on the expenditure of these funds to include the following information: the amount of money used and specific steps and measures taken to enhance the quality of the 4K program and the amount of money used for professional development as well as the types of professional development offered and the number of participants. The Office of First Steps is directed to determine if the provision of extended programs in private centers improves the ability of parents to enter the workforce or to pursue postsecondary training or industry credentials.

(J) On or before November 15, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps shall share data that identifies the total number of children enrolled in CERDEP in both public and private providers. If available appropriations exceed the instructional costs of serving children enrolled in the program and if a waiting list of eligible children can be documented by the Department of Education and by the Office of First Steps, then the Executive Budget Office may authorize the transfer of funds between the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.

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(K) The Office of First Steps and the Department of Education shall collaborate with the South Carolina Head Start State Collaboration Office to inform parents of all publicly funded full-day 4K programs including Head Start by participating in PalmettoPreK and First5SC.

1A.30 AMEND (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) Provides the projected Southeastern average teacher salary. Requires a local district board of trustees to provide a step increase for all eligible certified teachers. Requires districts to use the district salary schedule used in the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the increase. Suspends the requirement that districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year. *Companion to General Education proviso 1.69.*

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the Southeastern average teacher salary and fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.30. (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) (A) The projected Southeastern average teacher salary shall be the average of the average teachers' salaries of the southeastern states as projected by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. For the current school year, the Southeastern average teacher salary is projected to be ~~\$61,964~~ \$65,545. The General Assembly remains desirous of raising the average teacher salary in South Carolina through incremental increases over the next few years so as to make such equivalent to the national average teacher salary.

(B) Additionally, for the current fiscal year, a local school district board of trustees must increase the salary compensation for all eligible certified teachers employed by the district by no less than one year of experience credit using at a minimum the district salary schedule utilized the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the step. Application of this provision must be applied uniformly for all eligible certified teachers. For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, the requirement that school districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year level is suspended.

(C) For purposes of this provision, teachers shall be defined by the Department of Education using the Professional Certified Staff (PCS) System.

1A.35 AMEND (SDE-EIA: EOC Partnerships for Innovation) (SDE-EIA: EOC Partnerships for Innovation) Directs the EOC to participate in public-private partnerships to promote innovative ways to transform how public education is assessed that supports increased student achievement in reading and college and career readiness. Allows the funds to also be used for innovative delivery of science, technology, and genetic education and exposure to career opportunities in science to students in the Abbeville equity school districts and in high poverty schools. Directs the committee to work to expand the engagement of stakeholders and annually report to the General Assembly on measurement results.

SFC: AMEND proviso to delete language related to allowing the funds to be used for innovative delivery of science, technology, and genetic education and exposure to career opportunities in science to students in the Abbeville equity school districts and in high poverty schools and directing the committee to work to expand the engagement of stakeholders.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.35. (SDE-EIA: EOC Partnerships for Innovation) Of the funds appropriated or carried forward from the prior fiscal year, the Education Oversight Committee is directed to participate in public-private partnerships to promote innovative ways to transform the assessment of public education in South Carolina that support increased student achievement in reading, mathematics,

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and college and career readiness. The Education Oversight Committee may provide financial support to districts and to public-private partnerships for planning and support to implement, sustain and evaluate the innovation and to develop a matrix and measurements of student academic success based on evidence-based models. ~~These funds may also be used to support the innovative delivery of science, technology, and genetic education and exposure to career opportunities in science, including mobile science laboratory programs, to students enrolled in the Abbeville equity school districts and students in high poverty schools. These funds may also focus on creating public-private literacy partnerships utilizing a 2:1 matching funds provision when the initiative employs research-based methods, has demonstrated success in increasing reading proficiency of struggling readers, and works directly with high poverty schools and districts. The committee will work to expand the engagement of stakeholders including state agencies and boards like the Educational Television Commission, businesses, and higher education institutions.~~ The committee shall annually report to the General Assembly on the measurement results.

- 1A.44 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive)** Creates a program within CERRA to recruit and retain classroom educators in rural and underserved districts that annually experience excessive teacher turnover. Requires CERRA report by July 31st of the current fiscal year to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House on the incentives that have been developed and to make recommendations for attracting and retaining high quality teachers. Requires EOC to complete a evaluation of the impact of funds and incentives related to the Rural Teacher Recruitment Incentive and provide the evaluation to the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Education Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Education Committee, and the Governor’s Office by June 30, 2026.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso change “CERRA” to “SC TEACHER” and redefine eligibility for district participation in the incentive. Adds evidence-based requirements to the annual report. Directs SC TEACHER to create a district-facing portal to provide relevant information and access, and to support district’s required responsibilities. Deletes the reference to the evaluation of the program by EOC as it will be complete.
- HOU:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SFC:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SEN:** ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.44. (SDE-EIA: Rural Teacher Recruiting *and Retention* Incentive) (A) There is created a program within the South Carolina ~~Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA)~~ *Teacher Education Advancement Consortium through Higher Education Research (SC TEACHER)* to recruit and retain classroom educators in rural and underserved districts experiencing *elevated teacher* ~~excessive~~ turnover of classroom teachers on an annual basis.

(B) During the current fiscal year ~~CERRA~~ *SC TEACHER* shall publish eligibility requirements and applications for individual educators, school districts, and institutions of higher education not inconsistent with existing licensure requirements for each, but also including:

(1) Eligible districts identified by ~~CERRA~~ *SC TEACHER* as *those whose three-year average teacher retention rate, calculated using teacher-level administrative data for eligible classroom educators, falls below the statewide three-year average district retention rate, and that are not within the highest quartile of districts based on index of taxpaying ability. Eligible districts may make application to participate in the program experiencing greater than eleven percent average annual teacher turnover, as reported on the districts’ five most recent district report cards issued by the South Carolina Department of Education and are not one of the fifteen*

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wealthiest districts based on the index of taxpaying ability, may make application to participate in the program.

(2) Notwithstanding item (B)(1), districts in the lowest quartile of taxpaying ability shall remain eligible if their three-year average teacher retention rate is within two percentage points of the statewide three-year district average, recognizing structural recruitment and retention challenges associated with limited fiscal capacity.

(3) Once determined eligible, a district shall retain eligibility status for a period of three fiscal years, subject to monitoring and reporting by SC TEACHER, to support long-term strategic recruitment and retention planning and implementation.

(4) Individuals eligible for incentives shall be willing to provide instructional services in an eligible district in exchange for participation in an incentive detailed in item (C) pursuant to the obligations and restrictions stated for each.

(5) Institutions of higher education eligible to receive education funding as a component of recruiting incentives created pursuant to item (C) of this provision shall not be excluded from participation in Teaching Fellows Program.

(6) Any incentives requiring individuals to relocate into an eligible district to provide instructional services shall not be made available to individuals providing instructional services in other eligible districts.

(C) Pursuant to item (A), ~~CERRA~~ SC TEACHER shall develop a set of incentives including, but not limited to, salary supplements, education subsidies, loan forgiveness, professional development, and mentorship to be provided to eligible classroom teachers or candidates ~~educators that offer instructional services~~ in eligible districts and shall provide incentive options for eligible individuals at all stages of their careers, including high-school and college or university students interested in entering the teaching profession and including individuals entering the field through an approved alternative certification pathway ~~to include, but not limited to, PACE, ABCTE, Teach for America, and CATE Work Based Certification.~~ In developing and approving incentives, SC TEACHER shall ensure that funding allocations reflect a balanced and evidence-informed approach to both recruitment and retention, recognizing that sustained workforce stability requires investment beyond initial hiring.

(1) At a minimum, the incentives shall include:

(a) Development of a program for forgiveness of undergraduate student loans, not to exceed \$5,000 per year, for up to 7 years, for teachers participating in this incentive that achieve certification through an alternative pathway or who have a loan from an institution other than the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation or program other than the South Carolina Teachers Loan Program.

(b) Development of a forgivable loan program for individuals pursuing graduate coursework in furtherance of a teaching career, including enrollment in graduate-level coursework necessary to seek additional credentialing or certification relevant to the participant's teaching practice, or individuals seeking an alternative pathway to certification as a teacher.

(c) Support for the establishment and maintenance of a teaching mentorship program, including salary supplements for teaching mentors not to exceed \$2,500 per year.

(d) Other technical support and recruiting incentives as developed by ~~CERRA~~ SC TEACHER in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee consistent with the objectives of this section.

(D) In addition to eligibility and application requirements, ~~CERRA~~ SC TEACHER shall develop a process for recovering an amount equal to the incentives given to individual participants who fail to comply with the obligations associated with a relevant incentive in which they participate including, but not limited to, failure to complete a prescribed course of study, failure to obtain a relevant certification or licensure upon completion of a course of study, or failure to provide instructional services in an eligible district for a prescribed period of time.

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(E) ~~CERRA~~ SC TEACHER shall report by July thirty-first of the current fiscal year to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House, and Education Oversight Committee on the incentives developed pursuant to item (C) of this proviso and make recommendations for attracting and retaining high quality teachers in rural and underserved districts. The report shall contain at a minimum eligibility requirements and application processes for districts and individuals, descriptions of and proposed budgets for each incentive program and an analysis of the number and demographics of individuals potentially eligible for each.

(F) Additional evidence-based report requirements shall include:

(1) tracking of incentives funded under this proviso, to the extent practicable, to individual classroom educators;

(2) analysis of expenditures by category of recruitment and retention strategy;

(3) computation of return on investment and related effectiveness measures for categories of spending, including impacts on recruitment, retention, and workforce stability; and

(4) as a condition of eligibility and continued participation, districts shall provide timely, accurate, and standardized information necessary for such tracking and analysis, as specified by SC TEACHER.

(G) To streamline reporting evidence consistency, accuracy, and transparency, SC TEACHER shall:

(1) Develop, maintain, and make available to eligible districts a secure district-facing portal that provides access to aggregated information relevant to the Rural Teacher Recruiting & Retention Incentive, including but not limited to incentive expenditures, recruitment and retention trends, and educator working conditions data, consistent with applicable privacy and data governance requirements.

(2) The district portal shall be designed to support district's required responsibilities in use of these data for district planning, monitoring, and evaluation of recruitment and retention strategies funded under this proviso.

(H) Funds appropriated or transferred for use in the Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive may be carried forward from prior fiscal years and used for the same purpose.

~~(G) The Education Oversight Committee is required to complete an evaluation of the impact of the funds and incentives related to the Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive. A completed evaluation is due to the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Education Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Education Committee, and the Governor's Office by June 30, 2026.~~

1A.50 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Career and Technology Education) Provides for the distribution and use of Career and Technology Education funds to school districts and multi-district career centers. Requires the district plan contain certain information on other available career and technical equipment and to include charter schools offering at least one career and technical education completer program. Authorizes school districts and career centers to carry forward these funds for the same purpose. Directs that \$125,000 be allocated to the Palmetto Partners for Science and Technology for robotics competition, curriculum, and support.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the distribution to school districts, the public charter school district, and approved institutions of higher education authorizing charter schools based on the prior year's 135-day average membership count with no entity receiving less than \$250,000.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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1A.50. (SDE-EIA: Career and Technology Education) ~~Of~~ The funds appropriated for Career and Technology Education, ~~multi-district career centers that received funds in Fiscal Year 2025-26 from the State Aid to Classrooms line item shall receive in the current fiscal year at least \$2,750,000. The balance of funds appropriated for Career and Technology Education will be distributed to school districts and multi-district career centers based on the prior year actual student enrollment for career and technology education courses, with no district or multi-district career center receiving less than \$50,000 shall be allocated to school districts, the Statewide Public Charter School District, any approved institution of higher education authorizing charter schools, and multi-district career centers based on the prior year's 135-day average daily membership count for each district or authorizer with no district or multi-district career center receiving less than \$250,000.~~ Funds may be expended for the purchase of career and technical equipment, technology, curriculum, industry certifications, the up fitting of facilities, and the purchase of consumables, regional career specialists, and such evidence-based initiatives like High Schools that Work and Project Lead the Way. Each district must include in the district plan submitted to the Office of Career and Technology Education information on other career and technical equipment available. The district must include, at a minimum, equipment located at the career center and at the technical college, information on the alignment of equipment to current industry jobs and needs in the state as recommended by career and technical program advisory committees. District plans must include charter schools within the school district offering at least one career and technical education completer program. School districts and career centers may carry forward unexpended funds to be used for the same intended purposes to up fit career and technical facilities and replace career and technical program consumables. In addition, \$125,000 of the funds appropriated shall be allocated to the Palmetto Partners for Science and Technology for robotics competition, curriculum, and support.

1A.55 **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Grants Committee) Directs the grants committee to accept applications per the established process not to exceed the amount appropriated. Provides for the requirements of the process and the composition of the committee. Provides the suggested criteria for awarding grants to schools, school districts, or directly purchasing services. Requires the committee submit an annual report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees by June 30. Requires grantees and service providers to participate in an external evaluation conducted by the EOC.

SFC: AMEND proviso to direct the committee to set policies for grant entry, continuation, and exit, prioritize applicants with matching contributions and high-need schools, and require detailed applications, annual reporting, and performance data. Directs that grants are limited to three years, cannot supplant existing funding, and must meet strict eligibility, evaluation, and accountability standards focused on student outcomes. Directs the department to review programs to determine potential ongoing funding. At least one grant must support a statewide education software assessment tool, and all recipients are evaluated under a uniform framework with clear metrics, continuation thresholds, and possible independent review for larger awards.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.55. (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. The Grants Committee shall establish and publish a Program Lifecycle Policy governing the entry, continuation, and exit of all grant-funded programs and projects. The process shall include the application and selection process.

~~(B) The process shall include the application and selection process. The grants committee must be comprised of seven members, one member of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of~~

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~~the Senate Finance Committee, one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, two members selected from the education community, and three 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) 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 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 will be required to participate in an external evaluation by selecting an evaluator approved by the department.~~

~~(F) 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.~~

~~*(1) The grants committee shall be comprised of seven members as follows:*~~

~~*(a) one member of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee;*~~

~~*(b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee;*~~

~~*(c) two members selected from the education community; and*~~

~~*(d) three members selected from the business community.*~~

~~*(2) The Grants Committee shall select a chairman from among its membership. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve without compensation but may receive mileage and per diem as authorized by law.*~~

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(B) Applicants who commit to a match will be given priority in the selection process. The 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.

(C) The following conditions shall apply to all applicants and recipients:

(1) Eligibility and Application. Any public school, public school district, charter school, or education-serving nonprofit organization operating within the State may apply for an Innovation Grant. The Department of Education shall post notice of grant opportunities, application requirements, and all applicable deadlines on its official website no later than October 1 of the fiscal year. Applications shall be submitted to the department on a form prescribed by the Grants Committee no later than November 1 of the fiscal year. Applications shall include, at minimum: a statement of the educational need or problem to be addressed; a description of the proposed program or project; a projected budget; measurable goals aligned to the metrics established in this proviso, and an exit and sustainability plan describing how the program or project will transition at the conclusion of grant funding. Applications received after November 1 shall not be considered for funding in that cycle.

(2) Award Notification. The Grants Committee shall complete its review of all timely submitted applications and shall issue written notification of grant awards and final grant amounts to all applicants no later than March 1 of the fiscal year. Notification shall be sent to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants shall receive a brief written statement of the basis for denial and shall be eligible to reapply in a subsequent funding cycle.

(3) Initial Award Period. Awards shall be made on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee. Grant funds shall not be used to supplant existing federal, state, or local funding streams.

(4) Maximum Funding Period and Mandatory Exit. No program or project shall receive Innovation Grant funding for more than three consecutive fiscal years. A program or project that has received an Innovation Grant award in the three immediately preceding fiscal years shall not be eligible for a new grant award in the current fiscal year. A program or project seeking to re-enter the grants process must demonstrate in its application that it represents a substantially new initiative distinct from any previously funded program or project, as determined by the Grants Committee.

(5) Department of Education Review and Funding Determination. No later than January 1 of the grant recipient's third and final funded fiscal year, the Department of Education shall conduct a formal review of the program or project and shall submit to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor a written determination as to whether the department recommends permanent base budget funding for the program or project in a subsequent appropriations cycle. The determination shall include the department's findings on program effectiveness, cost per student served, and scalability. Failure by the department to submit such a determination shall be noted in the subsequent year's Executive Budget request documentation.

(6) Prohibited Uses. Innovation Grant funds shall not be used for the construction or renovation of facilities, the purchase of real property, or administrative overhead costs exceeding fifteen percent of the total award.

(D) 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

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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.

(E) From funds appropriated to the Department of Education Innovation Grants Fund, all grant recipients shall be subject to a uniform performance evaluation framework. The Grants Committee, in consultation with the Department of Education's Office of Research and Data, shall establish baseline measurements for each funded program or project at the time of initial award and shall evaluate recipient performance against the following metrics:

(1) Primary Metrics – Student Academic Performance. The following shall serve as the primary basis for evaluating grant effectiveness:

(a) Reading Proficiency Growth. The percentage of participating students demonstrating measurable growth on a State-approved reading assessment from the beginning to the end of each funded program year, disaggregated by grade band, student subgroup, and initial proficiency level.

(b) Mathematics Proficiency Growth. The percentage of participating students demonstrating measurable growth on a State-approved mathematics assessment from the beginning to the end of each funded program year, disaggregated by grade band, student subgroup, and initial proficiency level.

(c) Acceleration of Below-Grade-Level Students. The percentage of participating students who entered the program performing below grade level and who achieved at least one grade-level equivalent of growth during a single program year, as measured by a State-approved diagnostic or growth assessment tool.

(d) Reduction in Achievement Gaps. Demonstrable narrowing of the performance gap between historically underserved student subgroups, including students with disabilities, English learners, students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals, and students in rural or underserved communities, and the general student population within the program or project.

(2) Secondary Metrics – Student Engagement and Progression. The following shall serve as supporting indicators of program effectiveness:

(a) Chronic Absenteeism Rate. The percentage of participating students classified as chronically absent (missing ten percent or more of enrolled school days), compared to a matched comparison group or prior-year baseline.

(b) Course Passage and Credit Attainment. For secondary-level programs, the percentage of participating students successfully completing coursework and earning credits on pace for grade-level promotion or graduation.

(c) Graduation Rate Trajectory. For multi-year programs serving secondary students, the four-year and five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of participating students compared to the statewide average and to a matched non-participating cohort.

(3) Evaluation Reporting Requirements. Each grant recipient shall submit to the Grants Committee an annual performance report no later than June 30. The report shall include: enrollment and participation data; pre- and post-assessment results for each primary metric applicable to the program; a narrative explaining results, including any factors outside the program's control that affected performance; and a projection of outcomes for the subsequent program year. The Grants Committee shall compile all recipient reports into an aggregate annual report submitted to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the

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House Ways and Means Committee, and the Department of Education no later than June 30 of the fiscal year.

(4) Continuation and Termination Standards. The Grants Committee shall establish, by written policy, minimum performance thresholds for each metric category in items (1) and (2). A recipient that fails to meet the minimum threshold on the primary metrics in item (1) for a single program year shall be placed on a formal improvement plan with conditions specified by the Grants Committee. A recipient that fails to meet minimum thresholds for two consecutive program years shall be ineligible for continuation funding and shall wind down program activities within the funded fiscal year. The Grants Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of its membership and with written findings, grant a single-year exception upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances beyond the recipient's control.

(5) Independent Evaluation. For any program or project receiving cumulative Innovation Grant funding in excess of five hundred thousand dollars, the Grants Committee shall commission an independent third-party evaluation prior to the conclusion of the final funded year. The cost of such evaluation may be drawn from the Innovation Grants Fund appropriation and shall not be charged against the individual recipient's award.

1A.61 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Surplus) Provides that the expenditures of the EIA cash funds and EIA funds from the prior fiscal year not appropriated or authorized must be carried forward and expended to entities in the order listed.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference and delete prior year funding items and update spending for the current fiscal year. Sponsor: Rep. Whitmire

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND proviso to update funding items.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: AMEND proviso to update funding items.

1A.61. (SDE-EIA: Surplus) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, EIA cash funds from the prior fiscal year and EIA funds not otherwise appropriated or authorized must be carried forward and expended on the following items in the order listed.

~~(1) \$29,614,175 to the Department of Education for the purchase of instructional materials;~~

~~(2) \$35,000,000 to the Department of Education for School Buses;~~

~~(3) \$20,000,000 to the Department of Education for School Facilities Safety Upgrades;~~

~~(4) \$23,519,825 to the Department of Education for Summer Reading Camps;~~

~~(5) \$1,000,000 to the College of Education at the University of South Carolina for the Teaching Transformation Pilot Program;~~

~~(6) \$750,000 to the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation to support the Ag in the Classroom program by providing resources and professional development to teachers and schools;~~

~~(7) \$5,000,000 to the Department of Education for the Teacher Strategic Compensation;~~

~~(8) \$1,600,000 to reimburse school districts for reduced meals for the Child Nutrition Program;~~

~~(9) \$1,500,000 to the South Carolina Technical College System to create, in partnership with the South Carolina Technical College System Foundation (SCTCSF), a pilot program to increase the number of individuals earning an associate's degree in education who will then transfer to a four year institution of higher learning and complete a bachelor's degree in education. The pilot program will provide a cost efficient, accelerated online, in person or hybrid program to facilitate completion of an education degree. Focusing on rural South Carolina communities, the SCTCSF will partner with local school districts to identify future teachers;~~

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provide apprenticeship opportunities, and encourage future long-term employment in rural school districts for Tech to Teach graduates. The SCTCSF shall issue a report to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Education Oversight Committee by June 30, 2026; and

~~(10) \$6,000,000 to the Statewide Implementation of the Imagination Library.~~

(1) \$34,300,000 to the Department of Education for Instructional Materials;

(2) \$20,000,000 to the Department of Education for School Safety Grants;

(3) \$1,000,000 to the University of South Carolina for the Teaching Transformation Pilot

Program;

(4) \$5,000,000 to the Department of Education for Teacher Strategic Compensation;

(5) \$9,860,581 to the Office of First Steps for CERDEP Expansion in Private Centers;

(6) \$4,999,999 to the Office of First Steps for Innovation Investments;

(7) \$3,200,000 to the Department of Education for the Statewide Education Finance Data

Platform;

(8) \$3,500,000 to the Department of Education for Learning.com;

(9) \$2,200,000 to the Department of Education for Amira; and

(10) \$1 to the Department of Education for Disconnect to Reconnect.

1A.67 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Developmental Education and Therapy Services) Directs the appropriation of fund to various entities for students with multiple documented disabilities. Directs that funds shall be disbursed by the department to the district in full not later than December 1, and the district shall remit the total allocation to the schools within 30 calendar days.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update funding amounts and number of students served. Directs funding directly to the Goodwill Excel Center subject to the execution of a written contract that gives the center the ability to serve as an adult education center or adult high school under authority of an entity accredited to award high school diplomas to adults. Sponsors: Reps. Whitmire, Cobb-Hunter, and Dillard

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND proviso direct the department to distribute funds monthly to Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center once a contract is executed, and to pay the Meyer Center and Pattison's Academy in full by December 1, with the district forwarding funds within 30 days. If a contract is not executed by December 1 or is later void, unspent or improperly spent funds must be returned or recouped and reallocated. Any formula-based aid normally due to the Excel Center must be offset by the amount provided under this proviso.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1A.67. (SDE-EIA: Developmental Education and Therapy Services) (A) Of the funds appropriated for Developmental Education and Therapy Services for students with multiple documented disabilities, ~~\$651,504~~ \$736,486 shall be allocated to the Meyer Center, ~~\$1,648,499~~ \$1,724,514 shall be allocated to Pattison's Academy, and ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$839,000 shall be allocated to the ~~SC Public Charter School District~~ Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center, subject to execution of a written contract that gives the Center the ability to serve as an adult education center or adult high school under authority of an entity accredited to award high school diplomas to adults. The funding allocated to the ~~Public Charter School District~~ Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center is estimated to serve ~~450~~ 125 students. If less students are served, the money must be retained and not expended by the ~~Public Charter School District~~ Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center on a pro rata basis. ~~Funds shall be disbursed by the department to the district in full not later than December~~

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~~1, and the district shall remit the total allocation to the schools within 30 calendar days. Funds shall be disbursed by the department to Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center in equal monthly installments once a written contract is executed. Funds shall be disbursed by the department to the district for the Meyer Center and Pattison's Academy in full not later than December 1, and the district shall remit the total allocation to the schools within 30 calendar days.~~

~~(B) If the required written contract is not fully executed on or before December 1 of the current fiscal year, or if at any time the Center is no longer operating under such a contract, any unexpended funds shall be returned to the Department of Education. Any funds previously disbursed and expended in violation of this proviso shall be subject to recoupment by the Department of Education. The Department is authorized to withhold or claw back such funds and shall reallocate them for purposes consistent with this proviso.~~

~~(C) Any funds due to Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center through the normal aid to classroom formula shall be offset by the allocation granted and paid under this proviso.~~

- 1A.71 AMEND** (SDE-EIA: CERDEP Foundational Literacy Skill Training) Directs SDE to provide training on literacy skills to all public school educators and aides who work with CERDEP, and staff of the Office of First Steps in every district that has CERDEP classrooms. Provides a stipend for educators who successfully complete the training. Allows SDE to carry forward and expend funds for the same purposes. Requested by the Department of Education.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that successful completion of the training will satisfy the requirements of the R2S Child Early Reading Development Education Program (CERDEP) Literacy Teacher Endorsement. Requested by the Department of Education.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

~~**1A.71.** (SDE-EIA: CERDEP Foundational Literacy Skill Training) (A) ~~Beginning in the 2025-26 Fiscal Year~~ For the current fiscal year, with funds available, the Department of Education will train public school educators and class aides working with children in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education program (CERDEP) and staff with the Office of First Steps to School Readiness in foundational literacy skills. Each school district with CERDEP classrooms shall participate in the implementation of this foundational literacy skills training.~~

~~(B) Selected educators shall participate in foundational literacy skills training provided and paid for by the Department of Education. Successful completion of this training shall satisfy the requirements of the ~~literacy teacher endorsement~~ R2S Child Early Reading Development Education Program (CERDEP) Literacy Teacher Endorsement. Educators who successfully complete the training, as determined by the department, shall receive a monetary stipend.~~

~~(C) The Department of Education is authorized to carry forward and expend any balance of funds authorized in the prior fiscal year for training for the same purposes in the current fiscal year.~~

- 1A.72 AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Teacher Loan Program) Directs that up to \$10 million from South Carolina's Teacher Loan Program will support certified public school teachers, with \$5 million for refinancing student loan debt statewide, and \$5 million for loan forgiveness in high-vacancy districts with 10% or higher teacher vacancy rates per the 2024-25 Teacher Supply and Demand Report.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete references to teacher vacancies in certain school districts and direct the department to identify rural school districts for inclusion in loan forgiveness. Directs the Student Loan Corporation to have the programs operational by the end of the fiscal year.

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HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

1A.72. (SDE-EIA: Teacher Loan Program) Of the available funds in the Teacher Loan Program revolving account administered by the SC Student Loan Corporation, up to \$5,000,000 shall be made available *through a program administered by the Student Loan Corporation* to assist in refinancing student loan debt for all certified teachers employed in the public schools of the State. An additional \$5,000,000 from the revolving loan account will be made available to teachers *in rural school districts* for loan forgiveness patterned after the SC Teacher Loan ~~in the following school districts based on the number of teacher vacancies and/or the number of teachers of record uncertified in the subject area in which they are teaching: Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun, Jasper, Lee, and McCormick school districts that show a vacancy rate of ten percent or greater based on the 2024-25 Teacher Supply and Demand Report~~ *Program. The Department of Education will identify the rural school districts for inclusion in loan forgiveness using data that documents the difficulty of the districts in recruiting and retaining certified teachers. The Student Loan Corporation must have both programs operational by the end of the fiscal year.*

1A.73 **ADD** (SDE-EIA: Strategic Teacher Career Ladder Pilot Implementation) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to develop at Teacher Career Ladder (TCL) pilot program to provide high-performing teachers with opportunities for career advancement. Details the requirements that must be performed by the department for the pilot program. Requested by the Department of Education.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1A.73. *(SDE-EIA: Strategic Teacher Career Ladder Pilot Implementation) (A) With funds appropriated, the Department of Education shall develop a pilot implementation plan for a strategic Teacher Career Ladder (TCL) program designed to provide high-performing teachers with opportunities for career advancement through advanced license designations, such as Mentor Teacher, Lead Teacher, and Advanced Teacher. These designations shall be linked to clearly defined additional roles, responsibilities, and compensation. The purpose of the TCL is to increase teacher retention, validate career accomplishments, expand access to highly effective educators, and incentivize placement of high impact teachers in schools with the greatest need.*

(B)The department shall:

(1) create an opt-in application process for districts, including a rubric to evaluate and select participants for phased implementation;

(2) develop criteria and guidance for districts to award advanced license designations and validate consistency and fairness through a qualified third party;

(3) publish annually a list of "Targeted Career Ladder Program" schools where designated teachers may earn higher stipends;

(4) include research and best practices from other states to inform the design and execution of the pilot;

(5) allocate funds to participating districts, requiring that at least ninety percent of funds be used for teacher stipends;

(6) require participating districts to submit annual data detailing designation data, educator performance, and implementation outcomes; and

(7) submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the pilot program recommendations for implementing the program.

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- 1A.74 DELETE** (SDE-EIA: ESTF Parent Survey) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct EOC to provide results of the parent survey by June 30. Requested by the Education Oversight Committee.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

1A.74. (SDE-EIA: ESTF Parent Satisfaction Survey) **DELETED**

- 1A.75 ADD** (SDE-EIA: Institute for Public Policy) **SFC:** ADD proviso to establish a statewide data integration and policy analysis institute at USC to support evidence-based decision-making by state and local policymakers. Funds may be used for data infrastructure, reports and analyses, dashboards, stakeholder engagement, and research support. State agencies must collaborate on data sharing and governance, and the institute will provide reports and briefings to the General Assembly upon request.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.
HOU2: ADOPT new proviso. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

1A.75. (SDE-EIA: Institute for Public Policy) (A) Of the funds appropriated to the University of South Carolina for a statewide data integration and policy analysis institute, the university shall develop the institute as a statewide data integration and policy analysis resource to support evidence-informed decision-making by state and local policymakers. The institute shall integrate data across key domains including, but not limited to, education and workforce, public health, economic development, public safety, infrastructure, and demographic trends. Funds may be used to support:

(1) development of a centralized data infrastructure and integration of public and contracted data sources;

(2) production of regular policy briefs, legislative analyses, and statewide data reports;

(3) creation of interactive data dashboards and visualization tools accessible to policymakers and the public;

(4) convening of policy roundtables, symposia, and stakeholder engagement activities;

and

(5) support for research, faculty collaboration, and graduate student policy fellowships aligned to the institute's mission.

(B) The University of South Carolina and relevant state agencies including, but not limited to, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, the Education Oversight Committee, the Department of Employment and Workforce, the Department of Education, and any and all other data-producing entities, shall collaborate with each other to ensure appropriate data access, sharing, and governance consistent with state and federal law. The institute shall provide periodic reports and briefings to the General Assembly, upon request, to inform policy deliberations.

- 1A.76 ADD** (SDE-EIA: Supplemental Instructional Materials) **SFC:** ADD proviso to authorize the department to spend up to \$5 million annually on supplemental instructional materials, subject to review for alignment with state standards, with purchases limited to items on an approved list. Companion proviso to 1.122.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

1A.76. (SDE-EIA: Supplemental Instructional Materials) The Department of Education is authorized to utilize up to \$5,000,000 of instructional materials funding annually to purchase

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supplemental instructional materials. The Department of Education shall review supplemental materials to ensure alignment to state standards and learning objectives and place these materials on an approved supplemental materials list. Only those materials on the approved supplemental materials list may be purchased with state funds.

- 1A.77 ADD (SDE-EIA) SEN:** ADD proviso to allow a school district in Lexington County to expend funds to implement a pilot program to administer state-required assessments, other than English Language Arts, to students identified as English Language Learners. Sponsor Sen. Ott

1A.77. (SDE-EIA: Assessment Pilot) Of the funds authorized and appropriated in this act, a school district located in Lexington County may expend funds to implement a pilot program to administer state-required assessments, other than English Language Arts, to students identified as English Language Learners in their native language. Such assessments include, but are not limited to, kindergarten readiness assessments and those administered pursuant to the state assessment program in Title 59, Chapter 18, excluding English Language Arts assessments.

- 1A.78 ADD (SDE-EIA: Assessment) SEN:** ADD proviso to authorize SDE to carry forward state assessment funds and reimburse districts for the assessments offered. Sponsor: Sen. Ott

1A.78. (SDE-EIA: Assessment) The department is authorized to carry forward into the current fiscal year prior year state assessment funds for the same purpose. Districts shall be reimbursed for the assessments offered pursuant to Section 59-18-340.

SECTION 3 - H660 - LOTTERY EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

- 3.5. DELETE (LEA: FY 2025-26 Lottery Funding)** Directs expenditure of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2025-26.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~3.5. (LEA: FY 2025-26 Lottery Funding) (A) There is appropriated from the Education Lottery Account for the following education purposes and programs and funds for these programs and purposes shall be transferred by the Executive Budget Office as directed below. These appropriations must be used to supplement and not supplant existing funds for education. For cash flow purposes, the Executive Budget Office may facilitate limited transfers from the general deposits of the state for the exclusive purpose of ensuring the timely distribution of scholarships and tuition assistance payments as provided below. Any use of this transfer allowance must include full reimbursement from the Education Lottery Account to the general deposit accounts of the state prior to the close of the fiscal year.~~

~~(B) The Executive Budget Office is directed to prepare the subsequent Lottery Expenditure Account detail budget to reflect the appropriations of the Education Lottery Account as provided in this section.~~

~~(C) All Education Lottery Account revenue shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year including any interest earnings, which shall be used to support the appropriations contained below.~~

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(D) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2023-24 certified surplus, and Fiscal Year 2024-25 projected surplus and undesignated fund balance are appropriated as follows:

- (1) ~~Commission on Higher Education — LIFE Scholarships as provided in Chapter 149, Title 59 — \$ 215,903,281;~~
- (2) ~~Commission on Higher Education — HOPE Scholarships as provided in Section 59-150-370 \$ 13,007,732;~~
- (3) ~~Commission on Higher Education — Palmetto Fellows Scholarships as provided in Section 59-104-20..... \$ 60,957,272;~~
- (4) ~~Commission on Higher Education and State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education —
Tuition Assistance..... \$ 52,994,528;~~
- (5) ~~Commission on Higher Education — Need Based Grants..... \$ 80,000,000;~~
- (6) ~~Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission — Tuition Grants.... \$ 20,000,000;~~
- (7) ~~Commission on Higher Education — SC National Guard College Assistance Program as provided in Section 59-111-75..... \$ 6,200,000;~~
- (8) ~~State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education — South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships \$ 54,324,046;~~
- (9) ~~South Carolina State University \$ 2,500,000;~~
- (10) ~~Commission on Higher Education — Nursing Initiative \$ 10,000,000;~~
- (11) ~~Commission on Higher Education — PASCAL..... \$ 1,500,000;~~
- (12) ~~State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education — readySC..... \$ 1,000,000;~~
- (13) ~~Department of Education — K-12 Education Scholarships..... \$ 20,000,000;~~
- and
- (14) ~~State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program..... \$ 700,000.~~

(E) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, funds certified from unclaimed prizes are appropriated as follows:

- (1) ~~Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Substance Use Services — Gambling Addiction Services..... \$ 100,000;~~
- (2) ~~State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education — South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships \$ 2,848,953;~~
- (3) ~~Commission on Higher Education — College Transition Program Scholarships \$ 3,551,046;~~
- (4) ~~State Department of Education — School Bus Purchase \$ 1;~~
- (5) ~~Commission on Higher Education — Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program..... \$ 9,000,000;~~

and

- (6) ~~Commission on Higher Education — Technology — Public Four Year, Two Year, and State Technical Colleges \$ 8,000,000.~~

(F) Any unclaimed prize funds available in excess of the Board of Economic Advisors estimate of \$23,500,000 shall be appropriated as follows:

- Department of Education — School Bus Purchase \$ All remaining.

(G) If the lottery revenue received from certified unclaimed prizes for Fiscal Year 2025-26 is less than the amounts appropriated, the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis.

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~~(H) Fiscal Year 2025-26 funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Tuition Assistance must be distributed to the technical colleges and two-year institutions as provided in Section 59-150-360. Annually, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall develop the Tuition Assistance distribution of funds.~~

~~(I) The provisions of Section 2-75-30 regarding the aggregate amount of funding provided for the Centers of Excellence Matching Endowment are suspended for the current fiscal year.~~

~~(J) The Commission on Higher Education is authorized to temporarily transfer funds between appropriated line items in order to ensure the timely receipt of scholarships and tuition assistance. It is the goal of the General Assembly to fund the Tuition Assistance program at such a level to support at least \$996 per student per term for full-time students.~~

~~(K) Fiscal Year 2025-26 net lottery proceeds and investment earnings in excess of the certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for this period are appropriated and must be used to ensure that all LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships for Fiscal Year 2025-26 are fully funded.~~

~~(L) If the lottery revenue received for Fiscal Year 2025-26 certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2024-25 projected surplus, and Fiscal Year 2023-24 certified surplus and the undesignated fund balance are less than the amounts appropriated, the Executive Budget Office is authorized to use surplus lottery proceeds accumulated in the lottery account from previous fiscal years to fully fund appropriations from the lottery authorized by the General Assembly. If a revenue shortfall still exists once the fund balance has been exhausted, then the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro-rata basis, except that a reduction must not be applied to the funding of LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.~~

~~(M) The Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is authorized to use up to \$70,000 of the funds appropriated in this provision for Tuition Grants to provide the necessary level of program support for the grants award process.~~

~~(N) Any funds carried forward for the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCII) shall be redirected to support the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program and be distributed based on the requirements of Section 2-77-20 and those contained in this act. By March fifteenth, the Commission on Higher Education shall provide a final report on the expenditures of the SCII program to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.~~

~~(O) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for College Transition Scholarships, the commission shall provide scholarships to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established College Transition Program (CTP) that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The commission, in consultation with the CTPs, shall develop guidelines establishing scholarship eligibility, retention, and/or renewal requirements in accordance with this paragraph. Scholarships shall be awarded to each South Carolina resident student enrolled in an established public CTP in an amount of at least \$2,500 per semester, not to exceed \$15,000 per academic year (including summer semester), and no student may receive a scholarship for more than eight semesters in total. In addition, the limitations of Proviso 11.10 notwithstanding, individual CTPs shall have the discretion to allocate a portion of their aggregate funding provided pursuant to this provision for need-based grants to eligible students. This discretion is allowable only to the extent that the funding for need-based grants for eligible CTP students provided pursuant to Proviso 11.10 has first been fully exhausted. The commission, in cooperation with the CTPs, shall collect and report the number of scholarship recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these scholarships in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. The commission shall provide this report to the Governor, the Chairman of~~

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~~the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee no later than September 30. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose, except that up to \$250,000 may be used by the CTP consortium (known as The South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium) to be used collaboratively by the consortium to promote better awareness of CTP programs statewide as an option for youth with intellectual disabilities after high school through dedicated support for activities such as, but not necessarily limited to, student recruitment, development and maintenance of a consortium website and associated materials, and the provision of strategic informational events for prospective students and families across the State.~~

~~(P) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for Need Based Grants, public colleges and universities must submit final invoices for Need-based Grants by a date determined by the commission. Funds allocated for Fiscal Year 2025-26 must be distributed in the same academic year.~~

~~(Q) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the Nursing Initiative, the commission shall use the funds to address the nursing shortage. Funds shall be allocated accordingly to the state's public colleges and universities, including technical colleges and two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina, that have accredited nursing programs accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. For purposes of this provision, two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina System shall be eligible if their programs are accredited by and/or through the accreditation of a comprehensive or research institution within the University of South Carolina system. The first \$5 million shall be used to provide bonuses or supplement the salaries of existing full-time faculty and the hourly rates of part-time faculty, or the salaries of clinical nursing faculty, which includes adjunct faculty. The funds shall be allocated to each public college or university, including technical colleges, based on the number of students enrolled in nursing programs as defined by the Commission on Higher Education. The second five million shall be used to provide tuition reimbursement or scholarships for students enrolled in regionally accredited, not-for-profit, South Carolina-based, public and private institution's graduate-level Master of Science (MSN) programs, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Ph.D., or other like programs appropriate to prepare individuals for faculty roles. The recipient must agree to assume a faculty role in a public South Carolina nursing program after graduation for a minimum of two years for each year they receive the scholarship. Annually by February 1, the Commission shall report on the Nursing Initiative, at a minimum, the following: (1) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships; (2) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships subsequently hired as faculty; (3) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships not hired as faculty; (4) amount of funding allocated to each institution with eligible nursing programs; (5) expenditures and encumbrances of Nursing Initiative funds for eligible faculty for each program; and (6) retention rates, new hires and vacancies for full-time, part-time (including adjunct), and clinical faculty for each eligible program. The Commission may also request institutions to provide other information related to nursing workforce development. This report shall be submitted to the House Education and Public Works Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Education Committee, and Senate Finance Committee.~~

~~(R) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for institutions of higher learning entitled "Technology Public Four-Year Institutions, Two-Year Institutions, and State Technical Colleges," (Technology), the commission shall allocate the realized funds on a proportional basis as follows:~~

(1) The Citadel	\$ 336,141;
(2) University of Charleston	\$ 704,188;

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(3) Coastal Carolina University	\$ 699,612;
(4) Francis Marion University.....	\$ 320,888;
(5) Lander University.....	\$ 341,677;
(6) South Carolina State University.....	\$ 262,080;
(7) USC Aiken Campus	\$ 310,494;
(8) USC Upstate.....	\$ 394,951;
(9) USC Beaufort Campus	\$ 240,556;
(10) USC Lancaster Campus	\$ 131,927;
(11) USC Salkehatchie Campus	\$ 98,932;
(12) USC Sumter Campus	\$ 116,052;
(13) USC Union Campus	\$ 109,659;
(14) Winthrop.....	\$ 389,413;

and

(15) State Technical Colleges and State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education	\$ 3,543,430.
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~~(S) Each institution shall use the amount appropriated only for technology repair and related technology maintenance and/or upgrades that are necessary to support an institution's educational purpose.~~

~~(T) Prior to the utilization of these funds, institutions must certify to the Commission on Higher Education, in a manner it prescribes, the extent to which they have met this requirement.~~

~~(U) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the close of the fiscal year, the Commission on Higher Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee regarding the utilization of this provision.~~

~~(V) Funds not expended in the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year and utilized for the same purpose, subject to certification from the Commission on Higher Education that they continue to meet the requirement of this provision.~~

- 3.8 AMEND (LEA: FY 2026-27 Lottery Funding) WMC:** ADD proviso update expenditures of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Sponsor: Rep. Ballentine
SFC: ADD new proviso to direct the expenditure of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2026-27.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.
HOU2: AMEND proviso to update funding amounts. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

3.8. (LEA: FY 2026-27 Lottery Funding) (A) There is appropriated from the Education Lottery Account for the following education purposes and programs and funds for these programs and purposes shall be transferred by the Executive Budget Office as directed below. These appropriations must be used to supplement and not supplant existing funds for education. For cash flow purposes, the Executive Budget Office may facilitate limited transfers from the general deposits of the state for the exclusive purpose of ensuring the timely distribution of scholarships and tuition assistance payments as provided below. Any use of this transfer allowance must include full reimbursement from the Education Lottery Account to the general deposit accounts of the state prior to the close of the fiscal year.

(B) The Executive Budget Office is directed to prepare the subsequent Lottery Expenditure Account detail budget to reflect the appropriations of the Education Lottery Account as provided in this section.

(C) All Education Lottery Account revenue shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year including any interest earnings, which shall be used to support the appropriations contained below.

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(D) For Fiscal Year 2026-27, certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2024-25 certified surplus, and Fiscal Year 2025-26 projected surplus and undesignated fund balance are appropriated as follows:

- (1) Commission on Higher Education – LIFE Scholarships as provided in Chapter 149, Title 59..... \$ 228,179,029;
- (2) Commission on Higher Education – HOPE Scholarships as provided in Section 59-150-370..... \$ 9,550,710;
- (3) Commission on Higher Education – Palmetto Fellows Scholarships as provided in Section 59-104-20..... \$ 61,367,805;
- (4) Commission on Higher Education and State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – Tuition Assistance \$ 53,000,000;
- (5) Commission on Higher Education – Need Based Grants \$ 80,000,000;
- (6) Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission – Tuition Grants ... \$ 20,000,000;
- (7) Commission on Higher Education – SC National Guard College Assistance Program as provided in Chapter 114, Title 59..... \$ 6,200,000;
- (8) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships \$ 24,717,545;
- (9) South Carolina State University..... \$ 2,500,000;
- (10) Commission on Higher Education – Nursing Initiative..... \$ 10,000,000;
- (11) Commission on Higher Education – Meeting Street College Scholarships..... \$ 15,000,000;
- (12) Commission on Higher Education - PASCAL..... \$ 1;

and

- (13) Commission on Higher Education-Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP)..... \$ 1.

(E) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, funds certified from unclaimed prizes are appropriated as follows:

- (1) Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Substance Use Services – Gambling Addiction Services \$ 100,000;
- (2) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships \$ 18,348,953;
- (3) Commission on Higher Education – College Transition Program Scholarships..... \$ 3,551,046;

and

- (4) Commission on Higher Education – Technology..... \$ 1.

(F) Any unclaimed prize funds available in excess of the Board of Economic Advisors estimate of \$22,000,000 shall be appropriated as follows:

- Department of Education – School Bus Purchase..... \$ All remaining.

(G) If the lottery revenue received from certified unclaimed prizes for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is less than the amounts appropriated, the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis.

(H) Fiscal Year 2026-27 funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Tuition Assistance must be distributed to the technical colleges and two-year institutions as provided in Section 59-150-360. Annually, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall develop the Tuition Assistance distribution of funds.

(I) The provisions of Section 2-75-30 regarding the aggregate amount of funding provided for the Centers of Excellence Matching Endowment are suspended for the current fiscal year.

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(J) The Commission on Higher Education is authorized to temporarily transfer funds between appropriated line items in order to ensure the timely receipt of scholarships and tuition assistance. It is the goal of the General Assembly to fund the Tuition Assistance program at such a level to support at least \$996 per student per term for full-time students.

(K) Fiscal Year 2026-27 net lottery proceeds and investment earnings in excess of the certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for this period are appropriated and must be used to ensure that all LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships for Fiscal Year 2026-27 are fully funded.

(L) If the lottery revenue received for Fiscal Year 2026-27 certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2025-26 projected surplus, and Fiscal Year 2024-25 certified surplus and the undesignated fund balance are less than the amounts appropriated, the Executive Budget Office is authorized to use surplus lottery proceeds accumulated in the lottery account from previous fiscal years to fully fund appropriations from the lottery authorized by the General Assembly. If a revenue shortfall still exists once the fund balance has been exhausted, then the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis, except that a reduction must not be applied to the funding of LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.

(M) The Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is authorized to use up to \$70,000 of the funds appropriated in this provision for Tuition Grants to provide the necessary level of program support for the grants award process.

(N) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for College Transition Scholarships, the commission shall provide scholarships to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established College Transition Program (CTP) that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The commission, in consultation with the CTPs, shall develop guidelines establishing scholarship eligibility, retention, and/or renewal requirements in accordance with this paragraph. Scholarships shall be awarded to each South Carolina resident student enrolled in an established public CTP in an amount of at least \$2,500 per semester, not to exceed \$15,000 per academic year (including summer semester), and no student may receive a scholarship for more than eight semesters in total. In addition, the limitations of Proviso 11.10 notwithstanding, individual CTPs shall have the discretion to allocate a portion of their aggregate funding provided pursuant to this provision for need-based grants to eligible students. This discretion is allowable only to the extent that the funding for need-based grants for eligible CTP students provided pursuant to Proviso 11.10 has first been fully exhausted. The commission, in cooperation with the CTPs, shall collect and report the number of scholarship recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these scholarships in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. The commission shall provide this report to the Governor, the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee no later than September 30. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose, except that up to \$250,000 may be used by the CTP consortium (known as The South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium) to be used collaboratively by the consortium to promote better awareness of CTP programs statewide as an option for youth with intellectual disabilities after high school through dedicated support for activities such as, but not necessarily limited to, student recruitment, development and maintenance of a consortium website and associated materials, and the provision of strategic informational events for prospective students and families across the State.

(O) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for Need-Based Grants, public colleges and universities must submit final invoices for Need-based Grants by a

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date determined by the commission. Funds allocated for Fiscal Year 2026-27 must be distributed in the same academic year.

(P) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the Nursing Initiative, the commission shall use the funds to address the nursing shortage. Funds shall be allocated accordingly to the state's public colleges and universities, including technical colleges and two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina, that have accredited nursing programs accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. For purposes of this provision, two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina System shall be eligible if their programs are accredited by and/or through the accreditation of a comprehensive or research institution within the University of South Carolina system. The first \$5 million shall be used to provide bonuses or supplement the salaries of existing full-time faculty and the hourly rates of part-time faculty, or the salaries of clinical nursing faculty, which includes adjunct faculty. The funds shall be allocated to each public college or university, including technical colleges, based on the number of students enrolled in nursing programs as defined by the Commission on Higher Education. The second five million shall be used to provide tuition reimbursement or scholarships for students enrolled in regionally accredited, not-for-profit, South Carolina based, public and private institution's graduate-level Master of Science (MSN) programs, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Ph.D., or other like programs appropriate to prepare individuals for faculty roles. The recipient must agree to assume a faculty role in a public South Carolina nursing program after graduation for a minimum of two years for each year they receive the scholarship. Annually by February 1, the Commission shall report on the Nursing Initiative, at a minimum, the following: (1) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships; (2) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships subsequently hired as faculty; (3) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships not hired as faculty; (4) amount of funding allocated to each institution with eligible nursing programs; (5) expenditures and encumbrances of Nursing Initiative funds for eligible faculty for each program; and (6) retention rates, new hires and vacancies for full-time, part-time (including adjunct), and clinical faculty for each eligible program. The Commission may also request institutions to provide other information related to nursing workforce development. This report shall be submitted to the House Education and Public Works Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Education Committee, and Senate Finance Committee.

(Q) Of the funds appropriated from the Education Lottery, \$15 million shall be appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for distribution to the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund to leverage private donations to ensure that South Carolina students in all 46 counties who are academically prepared, and who are eligible for a federal Pell Grant, can receive up to \$10,000 annually for four years to attend a South Carolina college or university whose six-year graduation rate is 50 percent or above. Academic preparation is defined as receiving a SC LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, and completing the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid. By June 30, 2027, the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund shall report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee on the utilization of the appropriated funding, to include: final expenditures and any remaining lottery funds, the number of scholarships awarded and county of origin of the scholarship recipients, and the institutions attended.

(R) Not later than one hundred twenty days after the close of the fiscal year, the Commission on Higher Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee regarding the utilization of this provision.

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(S) Funds not expended in the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year and utilized for the same purpose, subject to certification from the Commission on Higher Education that they continue to meet the requirement of this provision.

SECTION 8 - H670 - EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION COMMISSION

- 8.6** **ADD** (ETV: Local Programming and State Government Transparency) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the commission to prioritize funds for the purpose of increasing local, state, and regionally-produced programming.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

8.6.(ETV: Local Programing and State Government Transparency) General funds appropriated in the current fiscal year to the agency used for the broadcast, transmission, or dissemination of programming, content, or information to the general public shall be prioritized for the purpose of increasing local, state, and regionally-produced news, educational, cultural, sports, entertainment, and state government transparency programing.

SECTION 11 - H030 - COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

- 11.12** **DELETE** (CHE: Other Funded FTE Revenue) Requires the Executive Budget Office, when higher education institutions request additional other funded FTE's, to inform CHE of its decision regarding the request and whether the institution has sufficient revenue to fund the salary and fringe benefits.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~11.12. (CHE: Other Funded FTE Revenue) When institutions of higher learning request additional other funded full time equivalent positions, the Executive Budget Office shall inform the Commission on Higher Education of its decision regarding the request and whether or not sufficient revenues exist to fund the salary and fringe benefits for the positions.~~

- 11.20** **DELETE** (CHE: Review of Tuition Mitigation Calculations) Requires CHE to review the calculation of tuition mitigation funding in collaboration with public research institutions, four-year public institutions, and systems of higher education, and report their findings by October 1.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~11.20. (CHE: Review of Tuition Mitigation Calculations) The Commission on Higher Education shall review the calculation of tuition mitigation funding to public institutions of higher education. The commission shall collaborate with representatives from each of South Carolina's public research institutions, four year public institutions, and systems of higher~~

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~~education and report on suggested recommendations to the General Assembly no later than October 1, 2025.~~

SECTION 20 - H450 - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- 20.6** **DELETE** (USC: Permanent Improvement Projects) Redirects remaining funds appropriated to USC for the Tucker Center to be used for permanent improvement projects by the university.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~20.6.(USC: Permanent Improvement Projects) Of the funds appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19, Item (18)(b) to the University of South Carolina, the remaining \$5,800,000 shall be redirected to be used by the University for permanent improvement projects.~~

- 20.7** **DELETE** (USC: Harper/Elliott Honors College) Allows the use of funds appropriated in Act 285 of 2016, Section 1(11) to be redirected towards renovations and repairs of E&G space in the Harper/Elliott Honors College. Requested by the University of South Carolina.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the University of South Carolina.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~20.7.(USC: Harper/Elliott Honors College) Capital Reserve Fund appropriations to the University of South Carolina in Section 1(11) of Act 285 of 2016 for construction of Education and General (E&G) space in the addition to the Honors College dormitory may instead be redirected by the university towards necessary renovations and repairs of E&G space in the Harper/Elliott Honors College located on the historic Horseshoe of campus.~~

- 20.8** **AMEND** (USC: Health Science Campus) Authorizes USC to undertake permanent improvements necessary for the construction of the Health Science Campus. Allows funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. Requires the funds to be accounted for separately and for a report to be submitted semiannually to the Chairman of JBRC on the funding carried forward, amounts remaining to be expended, project status, and any other information requested by the committee.
SFC: AMEND proviso to include the College of Pharmacy in the permanent improvements.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

20.8.(USC: Health Science Campus) With the funds appropriated for this purpose, the University of South Carolina is authorized to undertake permanent improvements necessary for the construction of the Health Science Campus, including the Brain Health Center, and the College of Pharmacy. Further, the funds appropriated in Part IA and IB of this act for the Health Science Campus may be carried forward and expended for the necessary permanent improvements. The funds must be accounted for separately, and the university shall report semiannually to the Chairman of the Joint Bond Review Committee on the amount of funding carried forward, the amount remaining to be expended, the overall status of the project, and any other information requested by the committee.

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- 20.9** **DELETE** (USC: Substance Abuse Prevention) Encourages USC division of student health and wellness to apply for applicable grant funding intended for the pilot program across the USC system for access to over-the-counter opioid reversal medications through non-traditional distribution mechanisms. Directs USC to examine practices by other states and annually report metrics related the effectiveness and costs of this proviso by May 31.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the University of South Carolina.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~20.9.(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 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Substance Use 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.~~

- 20.11** **ADD** (USC: Beaufort Convocation Center) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that up to \$2,000,000 of previously appropriated funds shall be used to complete an architectural and engineering design for final construction, cost certainty, and permitting readiness for a convocation center and sports complex. Directs that the remaining previously appropriated funds shall be held by USC pending completion of the design process.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

20.11. (USC: Beaufort Convocation Center) For Fiscal Year 2026-27, of the funds previously appropriated to the University of South Carolina-Beaufort for the design and construction of a convocation center and sports complex, up to \$2,000,000 shall be used to complete a full architectural and engineering design that will produce final construction documents, refined cost certainty, and permitting readiness. The remaining previously appropriated funds shall be held by the University of South Carolina pending completion of the architectural and engineering design.

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SECTION 23 - H510 - MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- 23.4** **DELETE** (MUSC: Blood Borne Virus Screening) Utilizes \$200,000 to develop a pilot program to improve screening and care for blood borne viruses. Directs the program to improve screening and identification of individuals with the viruses to reduce transmission rates. Requires a report to be submitted by June 30 on the effectiveness of the program.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Sponsor: Rep. Hewitt
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~23.4. (MUSC: Blood Borne Virus Screening) Of the funds appropriated for Blood Borne Virus Screening, the Medical University Hospital Authority, in conjunction with the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) Initiative, shall utilize at least \$200,000 to develop a pilot program to improve the screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care for blood borne viruses by routine screening services in hospital emergency departments. The pilot program shall lead to reduced transmission rates for South Carolinians by improving the early identification of undiagnosed infections, supporting the identification of individuals living with blood borne viruses who were previously diagnosed but are not participating in care, and providing linkage to care for individuals who would benefit from blood borne virus management or participating in preventative services. By June 30, 2025, the MUSC Hospital Authority shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Department of Public Health detailing the effectiveness of the program.~~

- 23.5** **DELETE** (MUSC: Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Assessment) Directs the MUSC Hospital Authority to work with current alcohol and substance abuse treatment providers to evaluate the need for long-term inpatient rehab programs. Requires the Authority to submit a report outlining their efforts and proposed plan to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by September 30, 2025.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Medical University of South Carolina.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~23.5. (MUSC: Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Assessment) The MUSC Hospital Authority, in conjunction with existing service providers of alcohol and substance abuse treatment, shall assess the need in developing long-term inpatient residential rehabilitation treatment programs. The MUSC Hospital Authority shall submit a report by September 30, 2025, to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee detailing these efforts and its proposed plan.~~

SECTION 25 - H590 - STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

- 25.5** **DELETE** (TEC: Florence-Darlington Marion Campus) Allows Florence-Darlington Technical College to utilize funds appropriated for Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement to conduct a feasibility study and engineering for the construction of the Marion County Campus and for the construction completion of the Darlington County Campus.
SFC: DELETE proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

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~~25.5. (TEC: Florence-Darlington Marion Campus) Nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act or the Capital Reserve Fund to Florence-Darlington Technical College for Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement may be used to conduct a feasibility study and engineering related to the construction of a Marion County Campus. These funds may also be used for the completion of construction of the Darlington County Campus.~~

- 25.8 RESTORE** (TEC: SC Workforce Competitiveness Initiative) Directs that funds appropriated to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for the SC Workforce Competitiveness Initiative must be used to develop and manage a public awareness campaign, created in consultation with manufacturing trade associations, to promote careers in manufacturing and related industries. Directs that unexpended funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: RESTORE original proviso.
SEN: ADOPT original proviso.

25.8. (TEC: SC Workforce Competitiveness Initiative) Of the funds appropriated to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for the SC Workforce Competitiveness Initiative, and in collaboration and consultation with trade associations representing manufacturing, the State Board shall develop, deploy, and manage a public awareness campaign to ensure that parents, students, and educators understand employment opportunities, workplace environments, and careers in manufacturing and related industries in South Carolina. Related industries include, but are not limited to, transportation, distribution, logistics, warehousing, construction, and information technology. Funds must be used to create, deploy, and otherwise develop and manage the awareness campaign. Unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.

- 25.10 RESTORE** (TEC: Dual Enrollment Courses) Requires all technical colleges to adopt policies prohibiting automatic enrollment of students in dual enrollment courses and direct the State Board to withhold 10% of funding if such policies are not adopted.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: RESTORE original proviso.
SEN: ADOPT original proviso.

25.10. (TEC: Dual Enrollment Courses) Of the funds appropriated to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the board shall require all technical colleges to adopt policies prohibiting automatic enrollment of students in dual enrollment courses. The State Board shall withhold ten percent of state funding for any technical colleges failing to adopt such policies.

SECTION 27 - H870 - STATE LIBRARY

- 27.1 AMEND** (LIB: Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment) Directs that funds for “Aid to County Libraries” shall distributed per capita based on the 2020 Census, with a minimum of \$150,000 per county, paid in two equal installments. To receive funds, counties must maintain prior local funding levels and certify that no materials appealing to the prurient interest of minors are

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accessible in youth sections without parental consent. Noncompliance or challenges from local legislative delegations may result in fund withholding until the State Library verifies compliance.

WMC: AMEND proviso to increase the amount of funds distributed to \$200,000.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

27.1. (LIB: Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment) The amount appropriated in this section for “Aid to County Libraries” shall be allotted to each county on a per capita basis according to the official United States Census For 2020, as aid to the County Library. No county shall be allocated less than ~~\$150,000~~ \$200,000 under this provision. Counties shall receive their allocations in two equal parts To receive this aid, local library support shall not be less than the amount actually expended for library operations from local sources in the second preceding year. Prior to receiving each of these allocations, county libraries must certify to the State Library and have an adopted policy in place that their county libraries do not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children’s, youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent. Failure to provide these certifications in a manner satisfactory to the State Library shall result in the immediate withholding of the allocation. If the local Legislative Delegation presents evidence that these requirements are not being met by a county library, the delegation may request a comprehensive review of the certification by the State Library. All remaining funds shall be withheld until the State Library verifies full compliance with these requirements and issues a written determination of compliance to the delegation.

SECTION 31 - J060 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

31.47 **DELETE** (DPH: Nursing Home Review) Directs DPH to conduct a study to examine the need for distinct requirements for memory care and assisted living facilities within nursing homes and evaluate and propose suitable staff-to-resident ratios to ensure adequate staffing for providing essential nursing care and services to all residents. Directs DPH to submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee and the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee by January 1, 2026.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~**31.47.** (DPH: Nursing Home Review) The Department of Public Health shall conduct a study regarding separate requirements for memory care facilities and assisted living facilities within nursing homes. Additionally, the department shall assess and recommend appropriate staff to resident ratios to ensure a sufficient number of staff are available at all times to provide necessary nursing care and related services to each resident. A report detailing the findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee and the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee no later than January 1, 2026.~~

31.48 **DELETE** (DPH: Florence Health Department HVAC) Redirects funds from Florence Health Department HVAC to be utilized for the Florence Office relocation and furniture.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

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SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~**31.48.** (DPH: Florence Health Department HVAC) The funds appropriated in Act 226 of 2024, Section 118.20(B)(26)(D) to the Department of Public Health for Florence Health Department HVAC shall be redirected for the Department of Public Health's Florence Office relocation and furniture.~~

- 31.49** **DELETE** (DPH: Disaster Readiness Fund) **WMC:** ADD proviso to establish an interest-bearing Disaster Readiness Fund within the Department of Public Health to support emergency response activities, including medical sheltering and Medical Equipment Power Shelters. All FY 2026–27 Disaster Readiness appropriations and any related funds must be deposited into the fund. Unexpended balances may be carried forward, and any reimbursements or cost recoveries must be returned to the fund for future disaster response needs. Requested by the Department of Public Health.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

31.49. (DPH: Disaster Readiness Fund) DELETED

- 31.50** **DELETE** (DPH: Health Systems Modernization) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct DOA's Office of Technology and Information Services to provide project oversight to the EHR system and seek to coordinate DPH and other agencies efforts to modernize EHR systems to promote cohesive care.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.
HOU2: ADOPT deletion. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

31.50. (DPH: Health Systems Modernization) DELETED

- 31.51** **ADD** (DPH: Perinatal Regionalization) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize the department to continue the existing designation of perinatal regions in the state and to renew contracts with RPCs to fulfill regional requirements.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

31.51. (DPH: Perinatal Regionalization) The Department of Public Health is authorized to continue the existing designation of perinatal regions in the State of South Carolina. The Department is additionally authorized to renew contracts with currently designated regional perinatal centers (RPCs) to enable fulfillment of the RPC regional requirements established in the perinatal regulations.

- 31.52** **ADD** (DPH: Blood Borne Virus Screening) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct DPH, in partnership with the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) Initiative and the South Carolina Hospital Association, to allocate up to \$200,000 to support hospital emergency

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department screening for blood borne viruses from funds appropriated for Critical Public Health Services. Sponsor: Rep. Hewitt

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

31.52. (DPH: Blood Borne Virus Screening) Of the funds appropriated for Critical Public Health Services, the South Carolina Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) Initiative and the South Carolina Hospital Association, shall allocate up to \$200,000 to continue screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care for blood borne viruses through routine screening services in hospital emergency departments. The funds should be used to reduce transmission rates for South Carolinians by improving the early identification of undiagnosed infections, supporting the identification of individuals living with blood borne viruses who were previously diagnosed but are not participating in care, and providing linkage to care for individuals who would benefit from blood borne virus management or participating in preventative services.

- 31.53** **ADD** (DPH: Controlled Substance Registration) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to allow veterinarians affiliated with a state-supported college of veterinary medicine to operate under the institution's controlled substance registration, without obtaining separate individual state registrations, when acting within their institutional duties. Directs DPH to treat multiple veterinary college facilities as a single campus for controlled substance registration purposes when the facilities are used in an integrated manner for instruction, clinical care, or research during Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

31.53. (DPH: Controlled Substance Registration) For Fiscal Year 2026–2027, the Department of Public Health, for purposes of administering and enforcing controlled substance registration requirements pursuant to Section 44-53-290(e) of the S.C. Code, shall allow individual practitioners affiliated with a state-supported college of veterinary medicine and registered pursuant to 21 C.F.R. Section 1301.22 to operate under the institution's registration without requiring a separate individual state registration, provided such practitioners are acting within the scope of their institutional duties.

(B) The department shall further, for the current fiscal year, treat multiple facilities operated by a state-supported college of veterinary medicine as a single campus for purposes of determining a principal place of business or professional practice, where such facilities are used in an integrated manner for instruction, clinical care, or research.

- 31.54** **ADD** (DPH: Firefighter Health Testing) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to direct the Department of Public Health to spend up to \$7.5 million to create a statewide firefighter occupational health program in coordination with the State Fire Marshal. Directs the program to provide free PFAS blood testing, cancer screenings, and occupational health diagnostics for all active career and volunteer firefighters, while ensuring confidential medical results, statewide access through contracted providers, and paid release time for firefighters to participate. Sponsors: Reps. Teeple, Sessions, and M.M. Smith

31.54. (DPH: Firefighter Health Testing) (A) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Health, the department shall expend up to \$7,500,000 to establish and administer a statewide firefighter occupational health program in coordination with the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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(B) The department shall provide, at no cost to the firefighter, blood testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for all active career and volunteer firefighters employed by a municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire department.

(C) For purposes of PFAS testing, the department shall contract with a qualified medical provider that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) demonstrated expertise in PFAS-specific blood testing and toxic exposure analysis, including interpretation of firefighter exposure levels;

(2) ability to perform large-scale blood collection and analysis using standardized laboratory methodologies appropriate for occupational exposure monitoring;

(3) capacity to provide statewide access, including coordination with fire departments to ensure participation by career and volunteer firefighters;

(4) provision of individual confidential PFAS test results directly to firefighters, including explanatory materials regarding exposure levels and potential health considerations; and

(5) capability to provide aggregate, de-identified PFAS exposure data to the department for public health monitoring and reporting purposes.

(D)(1) The department also shall provide, at no cost to the firefighter, occupational health and cancer screenings, including cancer-related diagnostic testing consistent with nationally recognized firefighter medical and occupational exposure standards.

(2) For purposes of occupational health and cancer screenings, the department shall contract with a single statewide medical and diagnostic provider that meets all of the following minimum qualifications:

(a) demonstrated specialization in firefighter occupational health, cancer risk screening, and early cancer detection;

(b) ability to provide mobile, on-site comprehensive diagnostic screenings statewide, including urban, rural, and volunteer fire departments;

(c) capacity to deliver multisystem cancer screening and diagnostic services through an integrated clinical model under a single contract;

(d) maintenance of a secure longitudinal health database capable of tracking firefighter screening results over the course of a firefighter's career for trend analysis and early detection;

(e) provision of individualized confidential medical reports directly to firefighters, accompanied by clinical interpretation and follow-up guidance from licensed medical professionals;

(f) ability to provide aggregate, de-identified health data to the department for program evaluation, epidemiological analysis, and public health planning; and

(g) demonstrated experience administering firefighter-specific health screening programs at a statewide or multijurisdictional level.

(E) Fire departments are not responsible for contracting or procuring services under this proviso.

(F) Individual test results obtained pursuant to this proviso are confidential medical records protected by state and federal law and may not be used for discipline, termination, denial of promotion, or any adverse employment action.

(G) Fire departments shall allow reasonable paid release time for firefighters to participate in testing and screenings required pursuant to this proviso.

31.55 ADD (DPH: Emergency Suspension of EMT and Paramedic Licenses) HOU2: ADD proviso to prohibit the department from taking emergency action to suspend an EMT or paramedic license until specified investigative procedures, standards, training, notification requirements, timelines, and communication protocols are established and implemented. Sponsor: Rep. Cobb-Hunter

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31.55. (DPH: Emergency Suspension of EMT and Paramedic Licenses) (A) Of the funds authorized and appropriated herein, the Department of Public Health shall not take emergency action to suspend any Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic license until the following measures are established and implemented:

(1) defined investigative procedures, timelines, and evidentiary standards;

(2) mandatory training requirements for investigators;

(3) clear notification requirements for EMS agencies and licensed providers;

(4) reasonable timelines for investigation resolution which are communicated to impacted parties in writing; and

(5) transparent case-status communication protocols.

(B) These requirements are intended to ensure due process, transparency, and parity with the investigative and disciplinary standards afforded to other licensed healthcare professionals in South Carolina.

SECTION 33 - J020 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

33.20 AMEND (DHHS: Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative) Directs the department to implement accountability and quality improvements initiatives for: (A) Community Health Improvement Initiative; (B) Community Health Alignment Initiative; (C) Improving Access Initiatives; (D) Quality Through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (QTIP) Initiative; (E) Health Services Initiative; and (F) Primary Care Safety Net Initiative. Provides eligibility requirements. Directs the department to evaluate each initiative annually and report the results to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Budget Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update method of distributing funding to local providers using a grants-based system for distribution of funds. Requested by the Department of Health and Human Services.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

33.20. (DHHS: Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative) From the funds appropriated and authorized to the Department of Health and Human Services, the department is authorized to implement the following accountability and quality improvement initiatives:

(A) Community Health Improvement Initiative - To improve community health, the department may explore various health quality outreach, education, patient wellness and incentive programs. The department may pilot health interventions targeting diabetes, smoking cessation, weight management, heart disease, and other health conditions. These programs may be expanded as their potential to improve health and lower costs are identified by the department.

(B) Community Health Alignment Initiative - The department shall contract with the Center for Community Health Alignment (CCHA) at the University of South Carolina in a collaborative effort to expand the community health worker program to hospital settings. The goal of this program shall be to improve health outcomes for individuals that do not have access to affordable health insurance by facilitating resource connections and access to safety net providers. The department shall facilitate the Center's coordination of placement and funding of qualified community health workers in hospital settings to achieve program goals. The Center must provide the department with patient, service, and other data to assist in the operation and ongoing

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evaluation of this initiative. The department may tie hospital reimbursements, as appropriate, to participation in this Community Health Alignment Initiative.

(C) Improving Access Initiatives - The department may pursue Medicaid reimbursement and health care delivery methodologies to sustain and improve access to services particularly in underserved and designated rural areas. The department shall review existing reimbursement levels and, as funds are available, take measures to implement competitive rate structures that provide incentives for providers to treat Medicaid, uninsured, and underinsured individuals. These structures may include the use of disproportionate share, directed payments, and other supplemental payment programs. The department may adjust provider assessments to align with available supplemental funding not to exceed the safe harbor threshold under the federal hold harmless provision. Utilizing income, population, provider capacity, and other relevant data, the department may designate certain areas of the state as rural for Medicaid initiatives. To be eligible for these initiatives, the department may require providers to participate in quality, accountability, and reporting programs.

(D) Quality Through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (QTIP) Initiative – The department shall explore ways to enhance the existing QTIP program. The goal of this program is to improve quality measure outcomes, promote medical home concepts, and support mental health skill-building and integration through targeted quality improvement and technical assistance to pediatric practices.

(E) Health Services Initiative – The department may use available funds from the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) allotment to implement specific health service initiatives to improve the public health of children, including targeted low-income children and other low-income children as defined in 42 CFR 457.10. These initiatives may include preventive care and other interventions that improve the overall health and mental well-being of children. These initiatives may not supplant federal funds currently used to provide services under the state’s CHIP program.

(F) Primary Care Safety Net Initiative - The department shall formulate a separate methodology to allocate at least \$1,500,000 of funding to Free Clinics throughout the state, \$2,500,000 of funding for local alcohol and drug abuse authorities created under Act 301 of 1973, ~~and~~ as well as a grants-based process for distribution of up to \$4,000,000 for capital improvements to the Act 301 facilities ~~through~~ in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Substance Use Services, to ensure funds are provided on a needs based approach. The department may continue to develop and implement a process for obtaining encounter-level data that may be used to assess the cost and impact of services provided through this proviso.

(G) To be eligible for funds in this proviso, providers must provide the department with patient, service and financial data to assist in the operation and ongoing evaluation of both the initiatives resulting from this proviso, and other price, quality, transparency, and accountability efforts currently underway or initiated by the department. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office shall provide the department with any information required by the department in order to implement this proviso in accordance with state law and regulations.

(H) The department annually shall evaluate each initiative within this provision to measure its effectiveness in meeting expected goals. The department shall continually monitor all third-party contracts employed under this provision to ensure that appropriations are being efficiently and effectively utilized for their intended purpose. The department also shall annually report on the results of each evaluation to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Budget Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

33.31 AMEND (DHHS: Children’s Hospital and Healthcare Innovation) Directs the department to establish the SC Children’s Hospital and Healthcare Innovation Program. Directs the SC

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Children’s Hospital Collaborative to annually submit funding priorities to the department for approval. Provides directives for utilization of funds and qualifications for the program. Directs the department to provide a report on disposition of funds and progress of priorities to the Chairmen of House Ways and Means and Senate Finance by December 31 of each year.

WMC: AMEND proviso to include pediatric palliative care in specialty services with a minimum of \$2,500,000 to be utilized for these services. Sponsor: Rep. Hewitt

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND further to change “\$2,500,000” to \$1,000,000”.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

33.31. (DHHS: Children’s Hospital and Healthcare Innovation) From the funds appropriated for South Carolina Children’s Hospital and Healthcare Innovation, the department shall ~~establish~~ *continue* the South Carolina Children’s Hospital and Healthcare Innovation Program. The purpose of the program is to make strategic investments to ensure that children have in-state access to state-of-the-art children’s hospitals and pediatric specialty services *to include pediatric palliative care*. The South Carolina Children’s Hospital Collaborative, the state children’s hospital association, will annually submit for approval by the department funding priorities for infrastructure, working in partnership with the department to additionally identify regional or statewide pediatric specialty service priorities. A minimum of *\$1,000,000 shall be utilized for pediatric palliative care services while* 80% of *the remaining* funds shall be utilized for children’s hospital infrastructure priorities, being divided equally between the qualifying children’s hospitals unless otherwise agreed upon by the South Carolina Children’s Hospital Collaborative. Funds not allocated to *pediatric palliative care services and* children’s hospital infrastructure priorities will be utilized for *other* pediatric specialty service priorities agreed upon by the department and the South Carolina Children’s Hospital Collaborative. Qualifying children’s hospitals must be nonprofit systems providing comprehensive pediatric inpatient and outpatient services, serve as the regional perinatal center for their perinatal region, and serve as training sites for the Medical University of South Carolina or the University of South Carolina medical schools. Annually, and no later than December 31st, the department will provide to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee a report on the disposition of the funds and progress made on identified priorities.

33.33 **ADD** (DHHS: Youth Behavioral Health Beds) **SFC:** ADD new proviso to direct the department to conduct a review of the State’s youth behavior treatment capacity. Provides the requirements of the review and directs the department to identify areas of unavailable or insufficient services. Requires the department to submit a report of its findings by March 31.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

33.33. (DHHS: Youth Behavioral Health Beds) The department, in coordination with existing service providers and other relevant state agencies, shall conduct a review of youth behavioral health treatment capacity in the State. The review shall include: (1) the number of beds currently available for inpatient treatment; (2) the estimated number of beds needed to meet demand for inpatient treatment; and (3) the availability of outpatient treatment facilities. The department shall also identify any geographic areas within the State where such services are unavailable or insufficient. The department shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by March 31, 2027.

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**SECTION 34 – J080 – DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

- 34.10** **AMEND** (BHDD: Orangeburg Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility) Authorizes the department to use up to \$2,000,000 of its available one-time funds to secure a site in Orangeburg County and prepare it for licensure as a Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility. Directs the department to provide a status report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance, Senate Medical Affairs, House Ways and Means, and Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committees by January 10, 2026.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update proviso title and repurposes funding to be used in supportive housing rather than in behavioral care.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

34.10. (BHDD: Orangeburg ~~Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility~~ *Supportive Housing*) The Office of Mental Health, through its Orangeburg Area Mental Health Center, is authorized to utilize up to two million dollars of its available one-time funds to ~~secure an appropriate site for development, operations, or support of a Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility in Orangeburg County~~ *collaborate with a housing complex/landlord in Orangeburg County to create a supportive housing program.* The office shall provide a report on the status of its efforts to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee by January 10, ~~2026~~2027.

- 34.20** **AMEND** (BHDD: Unlicensed Medication Providers) Authorizes the department to license or certify select unlicensed persons in community-based programs to provide select medications. Limits the medications allowed to be administered to oral and topical medications, regularly scheduled insulin, and prescribed anaphylactic treatments. Requires the department to establish curriculum and standards for training and oversight. Direct that this provision does not apply to a facility licensed as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual and/or related disability.
WMC: AMEND proviso to add intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities for the allowance of specified tasks by designated unlicensed persons. Adds that the medications provided by unlicensed persons for conditions requiring evaluation or assessment of the patient of the use of medical judgement must be performed under the supervision of a licensed nurse within their scope of practice, and that the judgement, assessment, and supervision of an unlicensed person may be performed by a licensed nurse, pharmacist, or medical doctor via telehealth or in person. Sponsor: Rep. B. Newton
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

34.20. (BHDD: Unlicensed ~~Medication~~ Providers) The provision of selected prescribed medications *and the performance of specified tasks* may be performed by designated unlicensed persons in *intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities operated by the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and* community-based programs sponsored, licensed or certified by the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, provided the unlicensed persons have documented successful completion of medication *and/or task* training and competency evaluation. Licensed nurses, licensed

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pharmacists and licensed medical doctors may train and supervise designated unlicensed persons to provide medications *and perform specified tasks*, and, after reviewing competency evaluations, may approve designated unlicensed persons for the provision of medications *and performance of specified tasks*. The provision of medications by designated unlicensed persons *includes, but is not limited to, oral, sublingual, buccal, topical, inhalation and transdermal medications; ear drops, eye drops, nasal sprays, injections of regularly scheduled insulin and injections of prescribed anaphylactic treatments. The provision of medications by designated unlicensed persons does not include rectal and vaginal medications, for conditions requiring evaluation or assessment of the patient of the use of medical judgment including, but not limited to, sliding scale insulin or other injectable medications, must be performed under the supervision of a licensed nurse working within his or her scope of practice.* A written or electronic record regarding each medication provided, including time and amount administered, is required as part of the provision of medication. ~~Provision of medication does not include~~ Judgment, evaluation, ~~or~~ *and* assessment ~~by the designated unlicensed persons~~ *of the patient, as well as supervision of an unlicensed person, may be performed by a licensed nurse, licensed pharmacist, or licensed medical doctor in person or via the utilization of telehealth using audio/video technology.* The designated unlicensed persons and the nurses, pharmacists, and medical doctors that train, approve, and supervise these staff shall be protected against tort liability provided their actions are within the scope of their job duties and the established medical protocol.

The Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities shall establish curriculum and standards for training and oversight.

~~This provision shall not apply to a facility licensed as an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual and/or related disability.~~

- 34.22** **DELETE** (BHDD: Debt Service Account) Allows the department to utilize uncommitted funds in the agency's debt service account for operations and services not funded in the Appropriation Act. Requires the department report by August 1st to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees on the balance in the account and on the amounts purposes for which the funds were used in the prior fiscal year.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~**34.22.** (BHDD: Debt Service Account) The Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities shall utilize the uncommitted dollars in their debt service account, account E164660, for operations and services that are not funded in the appropriations bill. By August first, the office must report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on the remaining balance in this account and on the amounts and purposes for which the account was used in the prior fiscal year.~~

- 34.29** **RESTORE** (BHDD: Gambling Addiction Services) Authorizes the Office of Substance Use Services through the local provider network to direct efforts in treating individuals with gambling addictions through the dissemination of information, education and referral services.

WMC: AMEND proviso to add that required training staff can also be provided with the funds.

Sponsor: Rep. B. Newton

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: RESTORE original proviso.

SEN: ADOPT original proviso.

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34.29. (BHDD: Gambling Addiction Services) In that gambling is a serious problem in South Carolina, the Office of Substance Use Services through its local county commissions may provide, from funds appropriated to the office, information, education, and referral services to persons experiencing gambling addictions.

- 34.35** **DELETE** (BHDD: Collaboration Technology) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that before purchasing collaboration technology under Section 44-12-40(3), the department must consult with and obtain approval from the Department of Administration on the solicitation scope, specifications, award criteria, and evaluation panel. All other procurement requirements remain subject to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code unless specifically exempted.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

34.35. (BHDD: Collaboration Technology) DELETED

- 34.36** **ADD** (BHDD: FTE Management) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that certain leadership and executive support FTE positions within the department are designated as at-will and exempt from Article 5, Chapter 17 of Title 8, in addition to any at-will exemptions already provided under permanent law.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

34.36. (BHDD: FTE Management) (A) The following Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions authorized and for which funds are appropriated in Part 1A of this act serve in an at-will capacity and are exempt from the provisions of Article 5, Chapter 17, Title 8:

(1) any position, regardless of title or the organizational reporting structure for that position, functioning as the director or administrative head of an Office or Division of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

(2) any position that reports directly to a position functioning as the director or administrative head of an Office or Division of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; and

(3) any position, regardless of title or organizational reporting structure, functioning as the director or administrative head of: (a) financial operations; (b) human resources; or (c) legal affairs for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

(B) The exemptions established by this proviso are in addition to and should be read in conjunction with any permanent law regarding the at-will status of any other FTE position within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

SECTION 38 - L040 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- 38.14** **AMEND** (DSS: Family Foster Care Payments) Establishes the amount of monthly foster care payments for children under the department's sponsorship and under kinship care.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update foster care payment amounts. Requested by the Department of Social Services.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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38.14. (DSS: Family Foster Care Payments) *(A)* The Department of Social Services shall furnish as Family Foster Care payments for individual foster children under their sponsorship and under kinship care:

ages 0 – 5	\$700733	per month
ages 6 - 12	\$818856	per month
ages 13+	\$863904	per month

(B) These specified amounts are for the basic needs of the foster children to include kinship care assistance. Basic needs within this proviso are identified as food (at home and away), clothing, housing, transportation, education, and other costs as defined in the U.S. Department of Agriculture study of “Annual Cost of Raising a Child to Age Eighteen”. Further, each agency shall identify and justify, as another line item, all material and/or services, in excess of those basic needs listed above, which were a direct result of a professional agency evaluation of clientele need. Legitimate medical care in excess of Medicaid reimbursement or such care not recognized by Medicaid may be considered as special needs if approved by the sponsoring/responsible agency and shall be reimbursed by the sponsoring agency in the same manner of reimbursing other special needs of foster children.

38.27 **AMEND** (DSS: Economic Services System Application Modernization) Authorizes the department to retain and carry forward unexpended funds for the ESSAM project.

WMC: AMEND proviso to direct DSS to work with DOA’s Office of Technology and Information Services in design, development and implementation of the ESSAM application. Directs DSS to provide a project description and itemized spend information and project milestones to be reviewed by DOA.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

38.27. (DSS: Economic Services System Application Modernization) *(A) Of the funds appropriated in this act for the Department of Social Services’ Economic Service System Application Modernization (ESSAM), the Department of Social Services is directed to work with the Department of Administration’s Office of Technology and Information Services regarding the design, development, security and privacy controls, and implementation of the ESSAM application. Prior to the expenditure of any funds for the project, the Department of Social Services must provide an outlined description of the project proposal with itemized, detailed spend information and key project milestones and deliverables to be reviewed by the Department of Administration’s Office of Technology and Information Services through its information technology planning process.*

(B) Upon project commencement, the Department of Administration must be given access to a detailed project plan, work breakdown structure, budget versus actual project spend, project risk register, status reports, issue logs, and the project document repository.

(C) The department shall be authorized to retain and carry forward any unexpended funds appropriated for the ~~Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM)~~ ESSAM Project.

38.28 **ADD** (DSS: Childcare Provider Fraud) **WMC:** ADD proviso to require the department to assess its efforts in childcare provider fraud for all providers who accept funding from state and federal resources or receive grants from the department. Directs the department to provide a report on the findings and submit it to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees, and the Governor by the last day of February. Sponsor: Rep. Bannister

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HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso

38.28. (DSS: Childcare Provider Fraud) The department shall assess its efforts to identify, report, and combat childcare provider fraud for all childcare providers who participate in and accept funding from state and federal sources, the South Carolina Child Care Scholarship Program, or receive any grants from the department. The department shall provide the results of these efforts in a report detailing fraud mitigation measures implemented, any incidents of fraud detected, corrective actions taken, funds recovered, and information pertaining to prosecutions of such cases, including plea agreements entered into, for the previous calendar year to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees and the Office of the Governor by the last day of February of the current fiscal year.

SECTION 39 - L240 - COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

39.5 **ADD** (BLIND: Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD proviso to allow the commission to carry forward funds for direct services to be expended for the same purpose.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

39.5. (BLIND: Carry Forward) The Commission for the Blind is authorized to carry forward any unspent funds appropriated for direct services into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose.

SECTION 40 - L060 - DEPARTMENT ON AGING

40.5 **AMEND** (AGING: Home and Community Based Services) Directs that Home and Community-Based Services state funds be used for services that most directly meet the goal of allowing seniors to live safely and independently at home. Defines allowable services; provides a methodology for allocating these funds to the Area Agencies on Aging; allows the AAAs to spend up to 10% for administrative services and the department to retain 1/4 of 1% to monitor and oversee the program; allows the department to retain up to 3% to be allocated for cases of a recognized emergency and/or natural disaster recognized by the Governor and directs that if the funds are not allocated they are to be treated as carry forward funds and reallocated to the AAA's; requires each AAA to submit a budget to the Department on Aging's for approval that indicates the services to be provided; authorizes these funds to be carried forward and used for the same purpose; and prohibits the funds from being transferred and used for any other purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct resources to meals and transportation only if operating within funding constraints. Requested by the Department on Aging.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: AMEND further to change three percent to "\$350,000".
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

40.5. (AGING: Home and Community-Based Services) State funds appropriated for Home and Community-Based Services shall be used to fund those services that most directly meet the goal of allowing seniors to live safely and independently at home. Allowable services, as defined in the Department on Aging's State Plan, include programs to promote social

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connection, group dining, home delivered meals, transportation to group dining sites, transportation for essential trips, personal care, homemaker, home chore, home modification, legal assistance, assessments, dental services, and pest control. During funding emergencies, to include a midyear reduction, delay, or elimination of federal funding, services may be limited to meals and transportation only. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) may expend no more than ten percent for administrative services and one-quarter of one percent shall be retained by the Department on Aging to provide monitoring and oversight of the program. However, up to ~~three percent~~ \$350,000 of the annual state appropriation for Home and Community-Based Services may be retained at the Department on Aging to be allocated by the department to the affected regions in cases of an emergency and/or natural disaster recognized by the Governor. If these funds are not utilized in the fiscal year allocated, they are to be treated as carry forward funds and reallocated to the AAAs. The Intrastate Funding Formula shall be used as a guideline for the allocation of state funds appropriated for Home and Community-Based Services. The Department on Aging shall develop and implement a structured methodology to allocate the state Home and Community-Based Services funding. The methodology shall include flexibility to reallocate funds amongst the AAAs, and be composed of, at a minimum, the following factors: a minimum base amount, the fiscal year's federally allocated funds, federal and state carry forwards funds, and an appropriate weighted proportion that will achieve the mission of the Department on Aging to provide as many services as possible to the citizens of South Carolina. Each AAA shall submit a budget for approval by the Department on Aging indicating the services to be provided. Any unexpended Home and Community-Base Services funds in this program shall be carried forward by the Department on Aging and used for the same purposes. Funds may not be transferred from the Home and Community-Based special line item for any other purpose.

- 40.11 AMEND NEW PROVISO (AGING: Reserve Funds) WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that if federal funding is delayed or eliminated, the department may use General Fund carryforward reserves to support Area Agencies on Aging and maintain services. Any unspent funds may be returned to the department at the end of the current fiscal year. Requested by the Department on Aging.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: AMEND further to delete "or subsequent".
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

40.11. (AGING: Reserve Funds) In the event of a delay or elimination of federal funding during the fiscal year, the Department on Aging may allocate funds in its General Fund Carryforward reserve account to Area Agencies on Aging to ensure that services continue to be provided. Should these reallocated funds not be fully expended by the end of the current fiscal year, the Department on Aging may return the unused funds to other agency reserves.

- 40.12 DELETE (AGING: Grant Forgiveness) WMC:** ADD proviso to forgive the grant awarded to the Town of Pacolet in 2013 for the renovation of the Pacolet Mill Cloth Room.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

40.12. (AGING: Grant Forgiveness) DELETED

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SECTION 42 - L320 - HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- 42.7** **ADD** (HFDA: Workforce Housing) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize the Authority to utilize funds appropriated in this act or expend federal or other funds for the Made it Home! Program. Directs the authority to create the program guidelines and criteria for awarding distributions and allows the authority to establish a separate fund in order to carry out this program. Requires the authority to submit a report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees on the program’s details by June 30. Sponsor: Rep. Stavrinakis
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

42.7. (HFDA: Workforce Housing) (A) The Housing Finance and Development Authority is authorized to use any appropriated funds in this act for the Made it Home! Program to address the lack of affordable home ownership across the state by facilitating the new construction of affordable single family homes. The authority is authorized to expend federal or other funds for the same purpose.

(B) The authority shall:

(1) develop program guidelines, reporting requirements, down payment assistance and homebuyer eligibility requirements; and

(2) establish the criteria for awarding distribution to participating partners that includes qualifications, experience, market analysis, construction plans, specifications, timeliness of completion, and capacity.

(C) The authority may establish a fund separate and distinct from the general funds of the State that consists of monies received or authorized under this provision and any other sources of revenue, public or private, including donations for the purpose of the program. The interest, repayment, or other increments resulting from investment must be deposited into the fund. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and expended for the same purposes, including any prior appropriations received for the purpose of this program. The funds appropriated in Act No. 69 of 2025, by proviso 118.16(39) may be carried forward for this purpose.

(D) The authority may receive reimbursements for the costs or expenses incurred in the administration and operation of the Made it Home! Program from the funds authorized or appropriated in this provision.

(E) The authority shall submit a report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee detailing the awards made, participating partners, homes constructed and purchased, and the program’s overall impact by June 30 of the current fiscal year.

SECTION 43 - P120 - FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 43.7** **AMEND** (FC: Response to Declared Emergencies) Directs 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 Disaster Trust Fund to cover costs, if available. Directs that if the Disaster Trust 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.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the cap amount.

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HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

43.7. (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 Disaster Trust Fund of the State such funds as necessary to cover the costs incurred, if available. In the event the Disaster Trust 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~~\$5,000,000. 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 and 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

44.14 **ADD** (AGRI: Carryforward Certified SC School Cafeteria Funds) **WMC:** ADD proviso to allow the department to carry forward unspent Certified SC School Cafeteria funds from prior fiscal years into the current year for the same purpose. Directs that these carried-forward funds are excluded from the base used to calculate the agency's 10% general fund carry-forward limit.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

44.14. (AGRI: Carry Forward Certified SC School Cafeteria Funds) The Department of Agriculture is authorized to carry forward any unexpended funds from the \$1,000,000 in recurring Certified SC School Cafeteria funding from previous fiscal years into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose. Any Certified SC School Cafeteria funds carried forward are not considered part of, and should not be deducted from, the base for purposes of calculating the agency's general fund appropriations ten percent carry forward amount, as provided for in this act.

44.15 **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (AGRI: Farm Accountability and Resilience Measures Program)
SEN: ADD proviso to establish the Farm Accountability and Resilience Measures Program within the Department of Agriculture, funded with \$35 million to provide financial assistance to eligible South Carolina producers. Directs that payments are primarily made on a per-acre basis using USDA-certified data, with specialty crop support structured using available production or sales data. Eligibility requires active farming, verified acreage or production, financial risk assumption, and compliance with conservation standards. Funds may be reallocated between categories if needed, and payments are capped at \$135,000 per entity and prorated if demand exceeds available funding. The program leverages existing federal data and coordination with USDA to minimize administrative costs, prohibits new staff hires, includes fraud recovery provisions, and requires a detailed report to the General Assembly by March 1, 2027. Sponsors: Sens. Climer, Peeler, Ott, Johnson, Stubbs, Alexander, Kimbrell, and Williams
HOU2: AMEND new proviso to update allocations and to delete the transfer of \$35 million from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture by 7/17. Sponsors: Reps.

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Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, Caskey, and Mitchell

44.15. (AGRI: Farm Accountability and Resilience Measures Program) (A) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture for the Farm Accountability and Resilience Measures Program, \$25 million shall be allocated for staple row crop assistance, \$5 million shall be allocated for cattle farmers, and \$5,000,000 shall be allocated for specialty crop assistance. The department is authorized to reallocate any unexpended or unobligated funds between these categories as necessary to maximize distribution to eligible producers; however, the agency shall prioritize full utilization within each category before reallocating funds. The program shall be administered in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA FSA). The department shall utilize existing federal data and frameworks to the maximum extent practicable to ensure efficient and timely distribution of funds.

(B) To be eligible for assistance under this proviso, a producer must: (1) be actively engaged in farming in South Carolina; (2) intend to farm in the next calendar year and can sign an affidavit to that effect; (3) have planted acres or production data certified with USDA FSA or other verifiable records acceptable to the administering agency; (4) assume financial risk in the production of an eligible agricultural commodity; and (5) comply with conservation and eligibility requirements consistent with USDA FSA program standards.

(C) Payments shall be made on a per-acre basis using FSA-certified planted acreage data. The program shall utilize a flat statewide per-acre payment rate across eligible row crop commodities, modeled on the federal Farm Bridge Assistance Program. Double crop acres, including all initial and subsequently planted crops, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible. The per-acre rate shall reflect approximately fifty percent of documented economic losses, subject to available funding and legislative proration.

(D) A portion of the funds shall be allocated to establish a Specialty Crop Assistance component to provide payments to producers of fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops grown in South Carolina. Payments for specialty crops shall be structured to mirror the federal Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers framework, utilizing either a per-acre payment rate or a production-based or sales-based payment methodology, as determined by the administering agencies based on available and verifiable data. Where USDA FSA acreage data is not available, the agencies may rely on other verifiable records, including crop insurance data, state or federal program participation records, or certified producer documentation.

(E) If total eligible requests exceed available funds, payments shall be prorated proportionally across all eligible applicants.

(F) Total payments to any individual or legal entity shall not exceed one hundred thirty-five thousand dollars. Payment attribution, entity structuring, and actively engaged determinations shall be consistent with USDA FSA payment limitation rules.

(G) Eligible commodities shall include, but are not limited to, row crops, such as corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and peanuts; and specialty crops, including fruits and vegetables, as defined by the department consistent with federal program definitions.

(H) Acreage, production, or revenue data shall be verified using USDA FSA records or other reliable data sources to minimize administrative burden and reduce fraud. The department may enter into data-sharing agreements as necessary to implement this proviso.

(I) Administrative costs shall be minimized by leveraging existing state and federal resources.

(J) The department shall provide a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee no later than March 1, 2027, detailing total funds distributed; the number of recipients; distribution by commodity type, including specialty crops;

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the geographic distribution of funds; and any recommendations for future agricultural risk mitigation programs.

(K) If the department determines that a person who received assistance provided inaccurate information, then the person shall refund the entire amount of the assistance. If the person does not refund the appropriate amount, the Department of Revenue shall utilize the provisions of the Setoff Debt Collection Act to collect the money from the person.

SECTION 45 - P200 - CLEMSON UNIVERSITY - PSA

- 45.10 AMEND** (CU-PSA: Regulatory Services Programs) Directs the PSA to lead the effort to eradicate the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Directs that all revenues and recoveries from USDA-APHIS shall be retained by the PSA Regulatory Services Program to carry out program operations.
WMC: AMEND proviso to add the Yellow Legged Hornet to the list of species.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

45.10. (CU-PSA: Regulatory Services Programs) For the current fiscal year, Clemson University Public Service Activities shall lead state and federal eradication efforts of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) *and the Yellow Legged Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)*. All revenues and recoveries from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) for Clemson University PSA's Regulatory Services Programs and its departments shall be retained by Clemson University-PSA's Regulatory Services Program for purposes of carrying out the operation of its programs.

- 45.11 ADD** (CU-PSA: Separate Accounting and Improper Use Prohibition) **SEN:** ADD proviso to require funds appropriated to Clemson University PSA to be kept in a separate fund from E&G funds, with strict limits on transferring money between them. Transfers are only allowed for fee-for-service or standard cost allocations and must be approved by a majority of the Board of Trustees and all such transactions must be reported to the board quarterly. Sponsor: Sen. Stubbs

45.11. (CU-PSA: Separate Accounting and Improper Use Prohibition) Funds appropriated in this act to Clemson University Public Service Activities (PSA) for agricultural research, extension, regulatory, and related public service programs shall be maintained, budgeted, and accounted for in a separate and distinct fund from all funds appropriated to Clemson University Education & General (E&G). No funds, including state appropriations, federal pass-throughs, indirect cost recoveries, or any other revenues, shall be transferred, loaned, or otherwise moved between the PSA Fund and the E&G fund (or any auxiliary, restricted, or other funds under the administrative control of the greater University), except when provided as a fee-for-service or a standard cost allocation methodology, without the approval of the majority of the Clemson University Board of Trustees. Any fees-for-services or allocation of costs must be reported to the Clemson University Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 47 - P240 - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 47.19 DELETE** (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

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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: DELETE proviso.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~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, 2026, on the implementation of the pilot program and the grants awarded.~~

47.20 DELETE (DNR: Invasive Plant Eradication) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize DNR to establish a pilot program to identify and eradicate specific newly established invasive plant species. Allows the department to utilize other provided funds for the program and for the department's personnel to perform invasive species control work on public and private lands, providing landowners consent and without fees charged. Sponsor: Rep. Lowe

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to add "written consent."

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: DELETE new proviso. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

47.20. (DNR: Invasive Plant Eradication) DELETED

47.21 ADD (DNR: Delisting Initiative) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize DNR to conduct recovery and management activities on lands to advance federal delisting objectives for the relict Trillium. Provides the criteria for the activities and requires written consent of the landowners. Sponsor: Rep. Lowe

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

47.21. (DNR: Delisting Initiative) To advance the federal delisting objectives for the relict Trillium (Trillium reliquum), the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to conduct recovery and management activities on public and private lands. Authorized activities include botanical surveys, exotic species control, and the establishment of new populations through propagation and transplanting. These activities may be supported by federal, private, or other non-state funds. Work on private property shall be conducted only with the written consent of the landowner, and no fees shall be charged to the landowner for these services.

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- 47.22** **ADD** (DNR: Coastal and Marine Resource Center Planning Study) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct DNR to collaborate with College of Charleston to develop a proposal to establish a new Coastal and Marine Resource Center. Provides the requirements of the proposal and requires it to be submitted by January 1st to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means. **SEN:** ADOPT new proviso.

47.22. (DNR: Coastal and Marine Resource Center Planning Study) (A) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for the Coastal and Marine Resource Center, the department shall collaborate with the College of Charleston to develop a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a new Coastal and Marine Resource Center.

(B) The proposal shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) a detailed project timeline, including planning, design, permitting, and construction phases;

(2) a comprehensive cost estimate and funding plan;

(3) an evaluation of potential sites for the new center, and

(4) a plan for the disposition, redevelopment, or continued use of any facilities or property currently utilized for this purpose.

(C) The Department of Natural Resources shall submit the completed proposal to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 1, 2027.

- 47.23** **ADD** (DNR: Coastal Center Carry Forward) **SEN:** ADD proviso to authorize DNR to carry forward and expend funds for the Coastal and Marine Resource Center. Sponsor: Sen. Davis

47.23. (DNR: Coastal Center Carry Forward) The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to carry forward and expend funds for the Coastal and Marine Resources Center for the same purpose.

- 47.24** **ADD** (DNR: Removal and Disposal of Vessels) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that restitution or insurance proceeds received as a result of action under Article 2, Chapter 21, Title 50 must be remitted to DNR for the removal and disposal of abandoned, derelict, or abandoned vessels. Sponsor: Sen. Campsen

47.24. (DNR: Removal and Disposal of Vessels) Any restitution or insurance proceeds received by a state agency as a result of prosecution or civil action under Article 2, Chapter 21, Title 50 must be remitted to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to be held in an account for the removal and disposal of abandoned vessels, derelict vessels, and sunken vessels.

- 47.25** **ADD** (DNR: Funds for Mitigation Work) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to authorize available excess debt service funds appropriated or previously allocated to the Department of Commerce to be used by the DNR during the current fiscal year for economic development-related mitigation work authorized under Act 3 of 2023, prior to the funds being approved for any other purpose under Proviso 112.1.. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey **Note: Proviso 47.22 in HOU2.**

47.25. (DNR: Funds for Mitigation Work) In the current fiscal year, available excess debt service funds appropriated in this act, or previously allocated to the Department of Commerce, may be available to the Department of Natural Resources for economic development purposes

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related to mitigation work outlined in Section 1(B) of Act 3 of 2023 and prior to excess debt service funds being approved for any other purpose as described in Proviso 112.1.

SECTION 48 - P260 - SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

- 48.3 DELETE** (SGC: Return of Funds) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the Sea Grant Consortium to remit any nonrecurring funds appropriated to the general fund in the event they receive any federal NOAA funds received by the Sea Grant Consortium.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.
HOU2: ADOPT deletion. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

48.3. (SGC: Return of Funds) DELETED

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

- 49.19 AMEND** (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) Directs 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 qualifications of the rebate program.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: AMEND proviso to change the fiscal year reference to the current fiscal year.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

49.19. (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) (A) Any unexpended funds authorized or appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the South Carolina Film Commission may be carried forward. ~~For Fiscal Year 2025-26~~ *For the current fiscal year*, up to two million dollars of 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;
- (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; and
- (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 a link to filmsc.com on the production's web page.

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(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.

49.23 **ADD** (PRT: Regional Promotions Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD proviso to allow the department to carry forward funds allocated to Regional Promotions to be used for the same purpose.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

49.23. (PRT: Regional Promotions Carry Forward) The department may carry forward any prior year unexpended general operating funds allocated to Regional Promotions. The funds carried forward must be used for the same purpose.

49.24 **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (PRT: Post Production Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that unexpended funds for the South Carolina Film Commission may be carried forward, with up to \$2 million used in FY 2026–27 to establish a pilot program. Eligible projects with budgets between \$250,000 and \$9,999,999 may receive a state rebate of 20% for post-production conducted outside South Carolina or 25% for post-production conducted in South Carolina, provided all post-production occurs in-state through registered, tax-compliant vendors and projects meet application, audit, and completion requirements.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to change the fiscal year reference to the current fiscal year.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

49.24. (PRT: Post-Production Carry Forward) (A) Any unexpended funds authorized or appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the South Carolina Film Commission may be carried forward. For the current fiscal year, up to two million dollars of these carried forward funds shall be used to create a pilot program.

(B) An entity may apply to receive a state rebate with a project budget of a minimum of \$250,000 and maximum of \$9,999,999. Organizations certifying the satisfaction of the following requirements may receive a state rebate for 20% of all post-production costs for projects filmed outside of South Carolina and 25% for all post-production costs filmed in South Carolina, after a cumulative audit from the South Carolina Department of Revenue and the South Carolina Film Commission. The requirements are as follows:

(1) all post-production activity must be physically in South Carolina, and the vendor must:

(i) have a physical address with a storefront and business sign; and

(ii) be registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State.

(2) post-production vendor must be registered to pay South Carolina income tax, withholding tax, property tax, and sales tax, if applicable;

(3) post-production activity includes wages and supplies for editing, sound design, scoring, and VFX;

(4) all post-production vendors' corporate income taxes must be current;

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

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

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(7) upon application approval, post-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 post-production company on record.

- 49.25** **ADD** (PRT: Welcome Center Privatization Study) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct the department to conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of privatizing the operation, management, and maintenance of welcome centers and provide a report by 3/15/27. Sponsor: Sen. Bright

49.25. (PRT: Welcome Center Privatization Study) (A) The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) shall conduct a comprehensive study to evaluate the feasibility, costs, benefits, and potential savings of privatizing the operation, management, and maintenance of the state's Welcome Centers.

(B) No later than March 15, 2027, PRT shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor.

SECTION 50 - P320 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- 50.22** **DELETE** (CMRC: Emergency Services Pilot) Creates a pilot program in the department for funding projects that increase a local government's emergency services capacity and capability. Provides for the requirements of funding eligibility and requires the department to provide an update by January 15 to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and Ways and Means Committee until all funds are expended. Allows unexpended funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purposes.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~50.22. (CMRC: Emergency Services Pilot) There is established a pilot program within the Department of Commerce named the Public/Private Partnerships Emergency Services Fund for the purpose of funding projects that increase a local government's emergency services capacity and capability. Every project must involve investment and participation by both private companies and local governments in order to be eligible for funding. The Department of Commerce will provide an annual update by January 15 of each year to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee until all funds are expended. Any unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward and expended in the current fiscal year for the same purposes.~~

- 50.25** **DELETE** (CMRC: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production) Appropriates up to \$250,000 to partner with a public research institution to conduct a study on the viability of sustainable aviation fuel production. Provides for the composition and requirements of the study.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

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50.25. (CMRC: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production) ~~In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, from the funds appropriated to the Department of Commerce, up to \$250,000 shall be expended to partner with a public research institution located in this State to conduct a study to determine the viability of sustainable aviation fuel production (SAF) in South Carolina. The study must include, but is not limited to:~~

- ~~(1) identification of the leading pathways for supplying SAF at scale and what infrastructure does South Carolina need to put in place to ensure a supply of SAF to both commercial and military facilities;~~
- ~~(2) identification of the sources of raw materials for biofuel within South Carolina;~~
- ~~(3) the economic potential for South Carolina to capture some of the production market for SAF, including the potential to create new jobs;~~
- ~~(4) the range for production costs;~~
- ~~(5) identification of the current processes currently available to produce biofuel;~~
- ~~(6) identification of any state led or federal initiatives and how they may apply to the implementation of a similar, scalable program in South Carolina;~~
- ~~(7) identification of the lifecycle cost of inputs (feedstock, fossil fuel, energy costs of production) for the production of biofuel;~~
- ~~(8) identification of price points for both the producer and end user defined by current and future markets;~~
- ~~(9) identification of the current production capacity and any useable facilities that may be repurposed or scaled to meet potential demand for biofuel;~~
- ~~(10) identification of air transport industry initiatives for use and demand for biofuel;~~
- ~~(11) identification of what risk reduction measures or financial support mechanisms that are available from the federal government;~~
- ~~(12) identification of any barriers to entry, such as policy or regulatory constraints;~~
- ~~(13) identification of the capability of the fuel handling companies for storage of biofuel and the capacity in the existing transport systems; and~~
- ~~(14) identification of downside risks.~~

50.26 **DELETE** (CMRC: Commerce NBIF Loan) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that up to 25% of excess debt services funds shall be used to pay down the intra-agency loan to Palmetto Railways and shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: DELETE new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

HOU2: ADOPT deletion. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

50.26. (CMRC: Commerce NBIF Loan) DELETED

50.27 **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (CMRC: Nuclear Advisory Council) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the Office of Regulatory Staff to reimburse the Department of Commerce for Nuclear Advisory Council expenses from the SC Energy's Office radioactive waste funds.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: AMEND new proviso to provide up to \$1 million from Department of Commerce funds, subject to the director's approval, to support the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council established under the South Carolina Energy Security Act. Directs that funds may be used for studies, consultants, meetings, and other necessary activities, and are subject to standard accountability and reporting requirements. Sponsor: Sens. Davis and Young

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50.27. (CMRC: Nuclear Advisory Council Operating Expenses) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Commerce in this act, the department shall provide, subject to the approval of the Director of the Department of Commerce, an amount not to exceed one million dollars to pay expenses reasonably incurred by the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities imposed on the council pursuant to the South Carolina Energy Security Act, Act 41 of 2025. Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs associated with conducting studies and analyses, retaining technical and professional consultants, convening meetings, and carrying out any other activities necessary or appropriate to fulfill the council's statutory obligations. Funds provided pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the same accountability and reporting requirements applicable to other appropriated funds administered by the Department of Commerce.

- 50.28** **ADD** (CMRC: Rural Development) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to use funds for rural development for Tier III and IV counties and opportunity zones in Tier I and II counties. Directs that maximum awards are \$1,500,000 and require a 10% match.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

50.28. (CMRC: Rural Development) In the current fiscal year, the Department of Commerce shall utilize funds appropriated for Rural Development for projects in Tier III and Tier IV counties, as well as census tracts that qualify as Opportunity Zones in Tier I and Tier II counties. Maximum awards for these Community and Rural Development projects are \$1,500,000 and will require a minimum 10% match. The Department of Commerce will provide an annual report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee until all funds are expended.

- 50.29** **ADD** (CMRC: Expenditure Limitations) **SFC:** ADD proviso to prohibit the department from entering into open-ended incentive agreements or contracts. Directs that all agreements must include a defined maximum expenditure amount, representing the total funding authorized for the project.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

50.29. (CMRC: Expenditure Limitations) For the current fiscal year, the Department of Commerce shall not enter into open-ended incentive agreements or contracts. Any incentive agreement or contract executed by the Department of Commerce must specify a maximum expenditure amount, which shall represent the total funds the department is authorized to expend on the development and completion of a particular project.

- 50.30** **ADD** (CMRC: Funding Limitations) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that the department is limited to using only funds appropriated in this act to complete projects authorized under Act 3 of 2023. Directs that all related expenditures must be made solely from these appropriations and used in accordance with their designated purpose.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

50.30. (CMRC: Funding Limitations) For the current fiscal year, the Department of Commerce shall not utilize any funding source other than amounts appropriated in this act to complete, in whole or in part, any project promulgated under Act 3 of 2023. All expenditures

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related to completing such projects shall be limited solely to funds appropriated by the General Assembly in this act and shall be expended only in the matter in which they are appropriated.

- 50.31** **ADD** (CMRC: Incentive Prohibition) **SEN:** ADD proviso to prohibit the use of any state economic development funds, including the Closing Fund, to recruit, expand, or construct new data centers in South Carolina unless an incentive agreement was already in place at the start of the fiscal year. Requires the Department of Commerce to report by January 15, 2027, on past data center projects that received or applied for incentives and the total value provided. Defines “data center” as large-scale facilities primarily engaged in data storage and processing, while excluding smaller operations, ancillary computing infrastructure, and telecommunications-related facilities. Sponsors: Sens. Sutton, Campsen, Corbin, Blackmon, Climer, Martin, Bright, and Cash

50.31. (CMRC: Incentive Prohibition) (A) No funds appropriated or authorized for use by the Coordinating Council for Economic Development including, but not limited to, the Closing Fund, or appropriated or authorized the department for any other purpose, may be used to recruit, locate, expand, or construct a data center in this State. This proviso applies to any project for which an incentive agreement was not in place at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

(B) The Department of Commerce shall provide a report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2027, identifying any data center projects that applied for or received incentives in any previous fiscal year and summarizing the total value of such incentives.

(C) For purposes of this proviso, “data center” means a facility, campus of facilities, or array of electronically interconnected facilities under a single electric supply agreement in this State used by an entity or other business enterprise to operate, manage, or maintain a computer, group of computers, or other organized assembly of hardware and software for the primary purpose of storing, retrieving, or transmitting data that has a peak demand of fifty megawatts or greater, and that executes an electric service agreement with an electric service provider after December 31, 2026. For purposes of calculating peak demand under this definition, peak demand shall be determined according to the agreement between the energy user and the electric service provider, and the possibility or occurrence of energy usage which temporarily exceeds fifty megawatts shall not cause a data center to fall under this definition where contractual peak demand is less than fifty megawatts. The term “data center” does not include any computing or data infrastructure that is incidental or ancillary to the primary business operations of any facility whose primary services are not data storage, management, processing, or transmission, any facility owned or operated by a telecommunications company as defined in S.C. Code Section 58-9-2200, or any facility that primarily support telecommunications service or network operations.

SECTION 54 - P450 - RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

- 54.7** **ADD** (RIA: Aiken Wastewater Treatment Plant Regional Assessment & Master Plan) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the county to complete an evaluation of long-term regional wastewater treatment needs and to provide the evaluation to the Aiken and Edgefield County Legislative Delegation by November 2, 2026. Sponsor: Rep. Moss
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

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54.7. (RIA: Aiken Wastewater Treatment Plant Regional Assessment & Master Plan) Of the funds granted to Aiken County from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Regional Assessment and Master Plan, the county shall complete the evaluation of long-term regional wastewater treatment needs including an analysis of financial, managerial, and operational capacity, in collaboration with the study advisory committee, and in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in the grant agreement by November 2, 2026, and provide the evaluation to the Aiken and Edgefield County Legislative Delegations by the same date. Should the evaluation not be completed in full by this date, the funds shall be remitted back to the Authority.

SECTION 55 – P500 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

55.22 DELETE (DES: York Water Filtration Fund) Transfers funds appropriated to DES for the York Water Filtration Plant to be used for the Lincoln Road Sidewalk Project.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Environmental Services.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~55.22. (DES: York Water Filtration Fund) Funds remaining of the \$700,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Proviso 118.19 (B)(83)(h) to the Department of Health and Environmental Control for the York Water Filtration Plant shall be transferred and used for the Lincoln Road Sidewalk Project.~~

55.23 AMEND (DES: PFAS Pilot Program) Creates the PFAS removal evaluation fund and pilot program. Provides the requirements of the program and requires a progress report to be submitted by June 30.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

55.23. (DES: PFAS Pilot Program) There is established within the Department of Environmental Services the PFAS Removal Evaluation Fund. The Department of Environmental Services shall use the fund to create and implement the PFAS Removal Evaluation Pilot Program. The purpose of the pilot program is to evaluate and facilitate the implementation of emerging technologies to remove PFAS compounds from industrial wastewater. The department will establish the selection criteria, terms, and conditions for participation in the pilot program. A progress report on the viability of the piloted technologies and their effectiveness in PFAS removal shall be submitted to the General Assembly no later than June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

55.25 AMEND NEW PROVISIO (DES: State Water Plan Funds) **WMC:** ADD proviso to utilize previously allocated funds for statewide water planning and implementation activities, in continued support of the SC State Water Plan. Requested by the Department of Environmental Services.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to include a fiscal year reference.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

55.25. (DES: State Water Plan Funds) In the current fiscal year, all funds previously allocated for State Water Planning purposes may be utilized for statewide water planning and implementation activities. These funds shall support the continued development, completion, and implementation of the South Carolina State Water Plan. Expenditures shall be made in the order in which funds were received until fully expended.

- 55.26** **ADD** (DES: AI Pilot Program) **WMC:** ADD proviso to create a pilot program of artificial intelligence solutions that improve environmental permitting. Allows the department to utilize internships and other personnel and partnership strategies to support any implementation.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

55.26. (DES: AI Pilot Program) From the funds appropriated, the Department of Environmental Services shall develop and implement a framework to identify, pilot, and scale artificial intelligence solutions that improve efficiency, transparency, and service delivery in environmental permitting. The framework shall support modernization of environmental permitting by enabling a range of innovative use cases such as streamlining application review, leveraging advanced data analytics, and improving applicant interactions while ensuring security and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. To support implementation, the department may utilize internships, fellowships, time-limited positions, or other personnel strategies in collaboration with academic institutions and workforce partners. All activities should prioritize innovation and adaptability to meet evolving program needs.

- 55.27** **ADD** (DES: Permit Central – Nuclear) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct DES to establish “Permit Central—Nuclear” to develop a roadmap for coordinating and streamlining permitting of advanced nuclear technologies and medical isotope activities under existing law. Directs that the roadmap must cover a broad range of reactor types and nuclear lifecycle activities, evaluate current state and federal regulatory frameworks, and identify opportunities to support efficient deployment in South Carolina. DES may use existing staff and collaborate with federal agencies, industry, and academic partners. Directs that report with findings and recommendations be submitted to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

55.27. (DES: Permit Central – Nuclear) (A) With funds appropriated in the current fiscal year, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) shall establish Permit Central—Nuclear to develop a roadmap for the coordination and streamlining of permitting processes for advanced nuclear technologies and medical radioactive isotope harvesting activities under existing state authority.

(B) The roadmap shall address advanced reactor technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), molten salt reactors, microreactors, and fusion systems, as well as nuclear lifecycle facilities and activities, which may include, but are not limited to, fuel cycle facilities, advanced manufacturing, testing, integration, deployment, operations, transportation, fuel management, and decommissioning, and use of radioactive isotopes for medical, research, and industrial applications.

(C) In developing the roadmap, DES, through Permit Central—Nuclear, may review the existing state and federal regulatory framework, coordinate with applicable federal authorities

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including the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy, and identify opportunities to position South Carolina to support advanced nuclear deployment efficiently and effectively under existing law.

(D) Permit Central—Nuclear may utilize existing DES full-time equivalent positions, internships, fellowships, time-limited positions, or other personnel strategies, and may collaborate with industry expertise, including the Savannah River National Laboratory Regulatory Center of Excellence, academic institutions, and nuclear industry experts.

(E) DES, through Permit Central—Nuclear, shall submit a report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026, outlining the roadmap and any recommended administrative or statutory considerations. Nothing in this proviso shall be construed to expand DES regulatory authority beyond that provided by existing law.

55.28 **ADD** (DES: Commercial Data Center Water Use Reporting) **SEN:** ADD proviso to require large commercial data centers to annually report water sources, usage, and projected demand to DES by January 31. Directs the department to publish the reports, audit them with advance notice, and impose penalties of up to \$10,000 per day for late filings or for inaccurate or misleading information. Provides the definition of data centers. Sponsors: Blackmon, Chaplin, Davis, Campsen, Climer, and Garrett

55.28. (DES: Commercial Data Center Water Use Reporting) (A) With funds appropriated in the current fiscal year to the Department of Environmental Services for Water Management, the department shall require a commercial data center that consumes three million or more gallons of water per month to report to the department, by January thirty-first, the source and monthly volume of surface water, groundwater, or other water utilized during the prior calendar year and the anticipated volume of water to be utilized during the current fiscal year.

(B) The department shall make these reports publicly available and may audit the reports and any supporting data; provided, however, the department gives at least a thirty-day notice prior to commencing an audit. The department may assess a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars for each day after January thirty-first that a required report is not filed and may assess a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars for any inaccurate, misleading, or false information contained in a report.

(C) For purposes of the proviso, “data center” means a facility, campus of facilities, or array of electronically interconnected facilities under a single electric supply agreement in this State used by an entity or other business enterprise to operate, manage, or maintain a computer, group of computers, or other organized assembly of hardware and software for the primary purpose of storing, retrieving, or transmitting data that has a peak demand of fifty megawatts or greater, and that executes an electric service agreement with an electric service provider after December 31, 2026. For purposes of calculating peak demand under this definition, peak demand shall be determined according to the agreement between the energy user and the electric service provider, and the possibility or occurrence of energy usage which temporarily exceeds fifty megawatts shall not cause a data center to fall under this definition where contractual peak demand is less than fifty megawatts. The term “data center” does not include any computing or data infrastructure that is incidental or ancillary to the primary business operations of any facility whose primary services are not data storage, management, processing, or transmission, any facility owned or operated by a telecommunications company as defined in S.C. Code Section 58-9-2200, or any facility that primarily support telecommunications service or network operations.

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SECTION 57 - B040 - JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

- 57.13 DELETE** (JUD: Magistrates Training) Directs the Judicial Department to provide annual domestic violence training to magistrates.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~57.13. (JUD: Magistrates' Training) From the funds appropriated to the Judicial Department, the department shall provide magistrates annual continuing education on domestic violence, which may include, but is not limited to:~~

- ~~(1) the nature, extent, and causes of domestic and family violence;~~
- ~~(2) issues of domestic and family violence concerning children;~~
- ~~(3) prevention of the use of violence by children;~~
- ~~(4) sensitivity to gender bias and cultural, racial, and sexual issues;~~
- ~~(5) the lethality of domestic and family violence;~~
- ~~(6) legal issues relating to domestic violence and child custody;~~
- ~~(7) procedures, penalties, programs, and other issues relating to criminal domestic violence, including social and psychological issues relating to such violence, the vulnerability of victims and volatility of perpetrators, and the court's role in ensuring that the parties have appropriate and adequate representation; and~~
- ~~(8) procedures and other matters relating to issuing orders of protection from domestic violence.~~

- 57.20 DELETE** (JUD: Calhoun and Supreme Court Building Office Space Renovations) Directs that funds from Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(48) be redirected to renovate office space in the Calhoun Building and the Supreme Court Building.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Judicial Department.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~57.20. (JUD: Calhoun and Supreme Court Building Office Space Renovations) Funds appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(48) to the Judicial Department for the Court of Appeals New Courtroom and Office Space shall be redirected to be used to renovate office space located in the Calhoun Building and Supreme Court Building.~~

- 57.23 DELETE** (JUD: Family Court Judges) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize the Judicial Department to pay family court judges 95% of the fixed salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: DELETE new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

57.23. (Jud: Family Court Judges) DELETED

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SECTION 59 - E200- OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

- 59.18** **ADD** (AG: Competitive Bids for Outside Counsel) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct the AG to competitively bid contracts for outside counsel unless an extraordinary situation requires a specific legal expert. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch

59.18. (AG: Competitive Bids for Outside Counsel) For the current fiscal year, unless an extraordinary situation requires assistance from a specific legal expert with technical or scientific experience not generally available, the Attorney General shall make every effort to competitively bid contracts for outside counsel in order to provide the highest quality services for the citizens of South Carolina.

- 59.19** **ADD** (AG: Contracts with Vendors) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that vendors who provide services to the state shall be posted on the Office of Attorney General website. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch

59.19. (AG: Contracts with Vendors) For the current fiscal year, all contracts with vendors, including outside counsel, who provide services to the State or perform legal work in the name of the State, shall be publicly posted on the Office of Attorney General website.

- 59.20** **ADD** (AG: Outside Counsel) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that outside counsel providing services to the AG shall provide a detailed report on hours worked, services performed, and fees received from the State. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch

59.20. (AG: Outside Counsel) Outside counsel providing services to the Attorney General on behalf of the State's citizens and taxpayers on a contingent-fee basis shall report detailed information regarding the hours worked, services performed, and fees received from the State, provided this reporting does not undermine the attorney-client privilege.

- 59.21** **ADD** (AG: Contingent Fee-Based Contracts) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that contingent fee-based contracts used when the AG are staff are pursuing litigation that could have a significant policy or regulatory impact shall be subject to review by SFAA. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch

59.21. (AG: Contingent Fee-Based Contracts) Contingent fee-based contracts used when the Attorney General or the Office of Attorney General staff are pursuing litigation that potentially has a significant public policy or regulatory impact shall be subject to review by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

SECTION 60 - E210 - PROSECUTION COORDINATION COMMISSION

- 60.3** **AMEND** (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) Directs that funds appropriated for Judicial Circuits State Support be apportioned quarterly to the circuits on a per capita basis.
SFC: AMEND proviso to update distributed amounts. Requested by the Prosecution Coordination Commission.
SEN: AMEND proviso to update distributed amounts. Sponsor: Sen. Martin

60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Judicial Circuits (16) State Support shall be apportioned among the circuits. The first ~~\$7,632,961~~ \$8,432,961 shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current

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official census. The next ~~\$2,919,041~~ \$4,659,041 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis in equal amounts. Payment shall be made as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical.

SECTION 61 - E230 - COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

61.14 **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (INDEF: Public Defender Technology and Digital Storage) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that the \$1,382,000 appropriated shall be distributed to the judicial circuits in quarterly installments, with \$720,000 allocated evenly at \$45,000 per circuit and the remaining \$662,000 distributed based on population.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to update the distribution amounts.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

61.14. (INDEF: Public Defender Technology and Digital Storage) The \$691,000 appropriated shall be apportioned among the circuits in quarterly disbursements. The first \$360,000 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis at \$22,500 per circuit, and the remaining \$331,000 shall be distributed on a per capita basis.

SECTION 62 - D100 - STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

62.27 **ADD** (SLED: Public Higher Education Campus Mapping Data Program) **SFC:** ADD new proviso to create the Campus Mapping Data Program. Directs SLED to contract with a vendor to provide campus mapping data for each public institution for higher learning and provides the requirements of the campus mapping program. Directs the institutions of higher learning to review all campus facilities and infrastructure to ensure accuracy in the campus mapping data, and to report any changes to SLED.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

62.27. (SLED: Public Higher Education Campus Mapping Data Program) (A) From the funds appropriated to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to facilitate efficient emergency responses in public institutions of higher learning by public safety agencies in this State, the Campus Mapping Data Program is established as a statewide initiative within the SLED. The department shall contract with a vendor to provide campus mapping data for each public institution of higher learning in the State. The data must be provided to each public institution of higher learning, campus police department, local law enforcement agency, and public safety agency for use in response to emergencies. For purposes of this provision, emergencies include, but are not limited to, any event in which a law enforcement officer, firefighter, rescue squad, emergency medical service provider, public safety telecommunicator, or any other emergency management provider may respond.

(B) Campus mapping data must:

(1) be compatible with software platforms used by local, county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific institution for which the data is provided without requiring such agencies to purchase additional software or requiring a fee to view or access the data;

(2) be compatible with security software platforms in use by the specific institution for which the data is provided without requiring the local law enforcement agencies or public institutions to purchase additional software or requiring a fee to view or access the data;

(3) be in a printable format and, if requested, be in a digital file format that may be integrated into interactive mobile platforms in use;

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(4) be verified by the entity producing the data for accuracy by a walk-through of campus buildings and grounds;

(5) be oriented true north;

(6) include accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the campus, which must be updated by the department as it considers necessary;

(7) contain site-specific labeling that matches the structure of campus buildings, including room labels, hallway names, and external door or stairwell numbers and locations of hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits;

(8) contain site-specific labeling that matches the campus grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties;

(9) be overlaid with gridded x and y coordinates; and

(10) be updated and accessible within software platforms used by local, county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific institution.

(C) To ensure that campus mapping data used by law enforcement and emergency response agencies remains accurate and current, each public institution of higher learning shall review all campus facilities and infrastructure, including athletic facilities and branch campuses, to identify material changes, renovations, additions, or updates and shall report such changes to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the mapping vendor under contract pursuant to this provision, provided that nothing herein prohibits more frequent coordination or updates as necessary. The minimum maintenance cost for each public institution of higher learning may not exceed fifteen percent of the initial cost of mapping for the public institution of higher learning.

(D) Campus mapping data is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. For purposes of this provision, "campus mapping data" means information collected pursuant to this provision in an electronic or a digital format and provided to assist first responders in responding to emergencies at an institution.

62.28 **ADD** (SLED: Maritime Action Plan) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct SLED to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to implement the security components of America's Maritime Action Plan, focusing on port security, protection of critical maritime infrastructure, supply chain resilience, and intelligence sharing through the South Carolina Fusion Center. SLED must also report its coordination efforts, including resource needs and potential federal funding opportunities by January 15 of the current fiscal year. Sponsor: Sen. Kimbrell

62.28. (SLED: Maritime Action Plan) From the funds appropriated to or authorized for the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Division shall coordinate with the United States Department of Homeland Security to implement the security-related portions of America's Maritime Action Plan, with a particular focus on enhancing the security and resilience of South Carolina's ports, critical maritime infrastructure, and related supply chains. SLED shall prioritize collaboration on port security, critical infrastructure protection, intelligence sharing through the South Carolina Fusion Center, and any other applicable elements of the Plan's national security, economic security, and industrial resilience components. SLED shall provide a report on its coordination efforts, including any identified resource needs or federal funding opportunities, to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15 of the current fiscal year.

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SECTION 63 - K050 – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

63.8 AMEND (DPS: School Safety Program) Directs that funds appropriated for the School Safety Program must be used to hire certified law enforcement officers as school resource officers (SROs) in districts lacking adequate resources, with priority given to districts with the lowest taxpaying ability. Districts must apply in partnership with a local law enforcement agency, and funds will be directed to the agency or, in Tier IV counties only, to private companies for hiring certified Class I officers. Unused funds may be carried forward for salaries, equipment, and training. Districts must report quarterly SRO staffing. Any remaining funds must be transferred to the Department of Public Safety by August 15.

WMC: AMEND proviso to allow eligibility for public or charter schools serving kindergarten through eighth grade with enrollment exceeding 1,500 students to be eligible for a state-funded School Resource Officer.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

63.8. (DPS: School Safety Program) (A) Funds appropriated for the School Safety Program and School Resource Officers in this act shall be utilized by the department for the purpose of hiring certified law enforcement officers to serve as a school resource officer for school districts, including the South Carolina Public Charter School District and schools authorized by an institution of higher learning, that otherwise would lack the adequate resources to hire their own school resource officers. In making determinations of eligibility, the department shall use the most recent index of taxpaying ability as the district's indicator of ability to pay with districts of the lowest index of taxpaying ability receiving priority consideration. Districts, in collaboration with a local law enforcement agency of its choosing, must apply for funding through the department. In making awards the department shall provide funding directly to the local law enforcement agency, or private companies, as authorized, to pay for the cost of the law enforcement officer that shall serve as a full time school resource officer. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and expended for salaries, equipment, and training. School district superintendents shall provide to the department at the end of each quarter the number of full and part-time school resource officers that currently serve schools in their respective districts, regardless of the fund sources supporting those officers. *Of the funds appropriated for the School Safety Program and School Resource Officers, the Department of Public Safety shall consider a public or charter school serving kindergarten through eighth grade with an enrollment exceeding one thousand five hundred students to be eligible for a state-funded School Resource Officer, without regard to whether the school is located within a single facility. Funds allocated pursuant to this provision shall be used solely to supplement locally-funded School Resource Officers by authorizing a state-funded position and shall not be used to supplant or replace local funds appropriated for the same purpose.*

(B) The Department of Education shall transfer any fund balance to the Department of Public Safety by August 15.

SECTION 65 - N040 - DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

65.31 ADD (CORR: Carry Forward Authorization) **SEN:** ADD proviso to allow the department to carry forward unexpended funds into other current final year for security and operating expenses. Sponsor: Sens. Martin and Hutto

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65.31. (CORR: Carry Forward Authorization) The Department of Corrections may carry forward any unexpended general fund balance into the current fiscal year and expend those funds for security and operating expenses as needed.

SECTION 66 - N080 - DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES

66.6 AMEND (DPPP: Reentry Transition Services) Directs the department to allocate up to \$500,000, if available, for reentry transition services.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

66.6. (DPPP: Reentry Transition Services) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~2026-27, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall allocate up to \$500,000 of any fund balances, if available, for reentry transition services.

SECTION 67 - N120 - DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

67.6 AMEND (DJJ: Juvenile Arbitration/Community Advocacy Program) Directs that Juvenile Arbitration Program funds be retained and expended to provide juvenile arbitration services through the 16 Judicial Circuit Solicitors' offices to fund administrative and personnel costs of the programs. Directs DJJ to contract with the Solicitors to administer the program and to disburse up to \$60,000 per Judicial Circuit based on services rendered. Directs that the \$350,000 for the Community Advocacy Program in the first Judicial Circuit be used for necessary administrative and personnel costs for this status offender diversion program. Authorizes unexpended funds to be retained and carried forward for the same purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the judicial disbursement amount for the Juvenile Arbitration Program. Requested by the Department of Juvenile Justice.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: AMEND proviso to direct that the \$350,000 shall be equally distributed among judicial circuits and deletes reference to the first Judicial Circuit. Deletes language related to funding for administrative and personnel costs.
SEN: AMEND proviso to delete the language appropriating \$350,000 for the Community Advocacy Program and update amount for disbursement to administer the Juvenile Arbitration Program. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch
HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

67.6. (DJJ: Juvenile Arbitration/Community Advocacy Program) (A) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for the Juvenile Arbitration Program and other juvenile diversion programs shall be retained and expended by the Department of Juvenile Justice for the purpose of providing juvenile arbitration services through the sixteen Judicial Circuit Solicitors' offices in the state and used to fund necessary administrative and personnel costs for the programs.

(B) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall contract with Solicitors to administer the Juvenile Arbitration Program and disburse up to ~~\$60,000~~ \$141,875 per Judicial Circuit based on services rendered. The amount payable to Solicitors may vary based on consistent adherence to established statewide program guidelines to assess program performance.

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~~The \$350,000 appropriated for the Community Advocacy Program in the first Judicial Circuit, will be used to fund necessary administrative and personnel costs for this status offender diversion program. The Department of Juvenile Justice shall monitor and provide support to this program.~~

~~(C) All unexpended funds may be retained and carried forward from the prior fiscal year to be used for the same purposes.~~

- 67.16 AMEND** (DJJ: Capital Expenditure Charge) Directs that local governments using the Department of Juvenile Justice’s detention services must pay a \$125 daily capital expenditure fee per child for up to 25 days for new admissions after July 1, 2025, in addition to the existing \$50 daily operating fee. If a local government does not pay in full, the unpaid amount will be transferred from its allocation in the local government fund to the department and counted as a distribution to that local government.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso to exclude municipalities with populations less than 3000 from the \$125 per diem but requires them to pay a \$50 per diem, per child not to exceed 25 days for admissions after July 1, 2026 to cover expenditures and investments. Sponsor: Rep. Lowe
- HOU:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SFC:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SEN:** ADOPT proviso as amended.

67.16. (DJJ: Capital Expenditure Charge) Local governments, *except for municipalities with populations of three thousand or less*, utilizing the juvenile detention services provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice shall pay a capital expenditure charge of \$125 per day per child not to exceed 25 days to the department for new admissions after July 1, 2025, to cover capital expenditures and investments in the facilities that house such juveniles. *Municipalities with populations of three thousand or less utilizing the juvenile detention services provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice shall pay a capital expenditure charge of \$50 per day per child not to exceed 25 days to the department for new admissions after July 1, 2026, to cover capital expenditures and investments in the facilities that house such juveniles.* This capital expenditure charge is in addition to the per diem charge of \$50 that offsets operating expenses. If full funding is not received from the local governments, then the remainder of the funds due shall be transferred to the department from the local government fund on behalf of such local governments. The transfer to the department on behalf of the local government shall be deemed to have been distributed to the local government.

SECTION 72 - R040 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- 72.4 AMEND** (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) Authorizes the commission to repurpose funds authorized in the General Appropriations Act of 2023 for expenses incurred for third-party consultants and experts.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso to add carry forward authority for unexpended funds allocated for avoided cost experts. Requested by the Public Service Commission.
- HOU:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SFC:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SEN:** ADOPT proviso as amended.

72.4. (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) The Public Service Commission is authorized to use and expend funds appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, Proviso 118.19(52) for the South Carolina Integration Study, for expenses incurred for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts

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employed through contract or otherwise and retained pursuant to Section 58-41-20(I). The appropriation is redirected for the Public Service Commission to utilize these funds to pay for the third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise. The commission is authorized to carry forward unexpended funds allocated for avoided cost experts into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

SECTION 73 - R060 - OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

- 73.10** **ADD** (ORS: Energy Assessment Plan) **SFC:** ADD proviso to exempt ORS staff from the State Procurement Code in the hiring of an expert to conduct the energy assessment and action plan pursuant to Section 58-4-150.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

73.10. (ORS: Energy Assessment Plan) The Office of Regulatory Staff is exempt from the State Procurement Code in the selection and hiring of an expert to conduct the South Carolina energy assessment and action plan described in Section 58-4-150.

SECTION 82 - R400 - DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- 82.16** **AMEND NEW PROVISO** (DMV: Electronic Titling) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to utilize up to one million dollars to hire contract computer programmers for the creation of an Electronic Titling Program and provides the description of the program services. Directs the department to select and contract a third-party vendor to create and implement the program and allows the use of programming resources if offered by the vendor. Requires the program to be operational by June 30, 2027.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: AMEND new proviso to update the operational date of electronic titling services to March 31, 2027.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.
HOU2: AMEND proviso to delete the requirement of hiring of contract computer programmers. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

82.16.(DMV: Electronic Titling) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the creation and sustainment of an Electronic Titling Program to provide electronic vehicle title processing services to include the transfer of vehicle ownership and the placement and release of liens for automotive dealers, lenders, and auctioneers, and comparable electronic titling services for vehicle owners and other customers. The department shall select and contract with a third-party vendor to create and implement the program and the department is allowed to utilize programming resources if offered by the Electronic Titling vendor. Electronic titling services for automotive dealers, lenders, and auctioneers must be operational no later than March 31, 2027.

- 82.17** **ADD** (DMV: License Plate) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct the Sestercentennial Commission to submit to the department an approval for a new license plate design to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Sponsor: Sen. Bennett

82.17. (DMV: License plate) From the funds appropriated to the department, during the current fiscal year, the South Carolina Revolutionary War Sestercentennial Commission shall

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submit to the department for approval a new design, emblem, seal, logo, or other symbol it desires to be used as the regular license plate to commemorate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution. The design, emblem, seal, logo, or other symbol submitted to the department must be imprinted with the words "Where the Revolution Was Won" and shall include, at a minimum, a flag against an indigo background together with a gorget in an upper corner of the flag, also known as the Moultrie Flag. The department must use the commission's submission pursuant to this proviso as the new design.

SECTION 83 - R600 - DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

- 83.5** **AMEND** (DEW: REED Act Spending Authority) Authorizes DEW to spend up to \$2,375,072 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the U.S. Social Security Act. Directs the funds be used to for UI, WIOA, and Employment Services Programs. Prohibits the funds from being obligated after a 2-year period beginning July 1.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference. Requested by the Department of Employment and Workforce.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

83.5. (DEW: REED Act Spending Authority) The Department of Employment and Workforce is authorized to expend up to \$2,375,072 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the United States Social Security Act, as amended. The funds must be used under the direction of the Department of Employment and Workforce, for the purpose of funding Unemployment Insurance, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and Employment Services Programs. No part of the funds herein authorized may be obligated after a two-year period beginning on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026. The amount obligated pursuant to this provision shall not at any time exceed the amount by which (a) the aggregate of amounts transferred to the accounts of the State pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act exceeds (b) the aggregate of the amounts obligated for administration and paid out for administration and paid out for benefits and as required by law to be charged against the amounts transferred to the account of this State.

SECTION 84 - U120 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 84.17** **AMEND** (DOT: Waiver Valuations) Directs for federally appropriated funds, cost estimates under \$20,000 for simple real property acquisitions are classified as waiver valuations per Federal Highway Administration guidelines and appraisers licensed in South Carolina are exempt from certain Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice rules when handling these. Directs that the Department must report details of such valuations to the Senate Transportation and House Education and Public Works Committees by June 30, 2026.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

84.17. (DOT: Waiver Valuations) For federal funds appropriated to the department, cost estimates of twenty thousand dollars or less for uncomplicated acquisitions of real property, defined as those involving unimproved strips of land with no damages, no changes in highest and

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best use, or no significant costs to cure, are considered waiver valuations as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. Licensed or certified appraisers, licensed pursuant to S.C. Code Title 40, Chapter 60, preparing or reviewing a waiver valuation are precluded from complying with Standards Rules 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the “Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice,” as promulgated by the Appraisals Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation. The department shall submit a detailed report on the waiver valuations to the Senate Transportation Committee and the House Education and Public Works Committee by June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

- 84.18** **ADD** (DOT: Road Buyback Program) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the department to identify and create a list of roads potentially eligible for transfer according to Section 57-5-80 and determine if they are more properly maintained by a county, municipality, or political subdivision. Provides the factors and criteria the department shall consider in making these determinations. Allows the department to negotiate with the governing recipient of the roads for the maintenance responsibilities, and directs the utilization of the Road Buyback Program funds. Requires the department to submit the list of identified roads, criteria used, and recommendations to the Chairmen of SFC and WMC and the Governor by February 28, 2027. Requested by the Department of Transportation.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

84.18. (DOT: Road Buyback Program) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for the Road Buyback Program, the department shall be directed to identify and compile a list of roads on the state highway system that may be eligible for transfer in accordance with Section 57-5-80. The department shall evaluate roads that may no longer serve a statewide purpose and determine whether such roads are more properly maintained by a county, municipality, or other appropriate political subdivision. In making this determination, the department shall consider functional classification, traffic volume, connectivity, and consistency with the statewide transportation plan. In accordance with Section 57-5-80, roads deemed eligible for transfer shall be those which, in the opinion of the department, are no longer needed to serve the purpose of the state highway system. The department may negotiate with the governing bodies of the appropriate political subdivisions for the transfer of maintenance responsibilities for such roads. Road Buyback Program funds shall be used to assist with costs related to the transfer of roads from the state highway system including, but not limited to, resurfacing, design improvements, documentation, and transition-related expenses agreed upon by the department and political subdivision. The department shall submit the list of identified roads, along with criteria used for selection and any recommendations regarding the transfer process, to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor by February 28, 2027.

- 84.19** **ADD** (DOT: Transportation Economic Development Fund) **SFC:** ADD proviso to establish the Transportation Economic Development Fund within DOT to provide financial assistance to state and local entities for road projects that support industrial development. Directs that the fund shall consist of appropriations and other available monies, with grants approved by the Coordinating Council for Economic Development. Directs that DOT and the Department of Commerce must jointly develop grant criteria which requires approval by the Council. Directs that unexpended funds may be carried forward for the same purposes and no funds shall be awarded for any projects promulgated under Act 3 of 2023.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

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84.19. (DOT: Transportation Economic Development Fund) In order to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for construction, design, improvement, or right-of-way acquisition of roads that provide access to industrial areas and facilitate the development or expansion of industry within the State, there is established within the Department of Transportation the Transportation Economic Development Fund. The fund shall consist of monies appropriated by the General Assembly and any other funds made available for this purpose. Grants from the fund may be awarded only to state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the State and must be approved by the department after receiving recommendations from the Coordinating Council for Economic Development. The department and the Department of Commerce shall jointly develop criteria for awarding grants from the fund, and the Coordinating Council for Economic Development shall provide recommendations prior to implementation. In developing the criteria, the departments shall consider: (1) the economic benefits of the proposed road improvements; (2) the amount of matching funds provided by outside sources; and (3) the number of jobs created or retained by the proposed investment. Any unexpended at the end of the prior fiscal year may be carried forward and expended in the current fiscal year by the department for the same purposes. No funds shall be awarded for any projects promulgated under Act 3 of 2023.

- 84.20** **ADD** (DOT: Disaster Fund Flexibility) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to authorize the DOT to utilize, transfer, and expend any unexpended disaster-related funds, including Hurricane Helene funds carried forward from Act 69 of 2026, for response, recovery, or repair costs associated with any state or federally declared emergency or disaster occurring between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2026. Directs that funds may only be used for expenses related to those declared events. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey **Note: Proviso 84.19 in HOU2.**

84.20. (DOT: Disaster Fund Flexibility) The Department of Transportation shall be authorized to utilize, transfer, and expend any unexpended funds, including the funds carried forward from the appropriation for Hurricane Helene in Act 69 of 2026, by Proviso 118.22(B)(60)(c), that were appropriated for disaster response, recovery, or repair for any emergency or disaster declared by the President of the United States or the Governor of South Carolina occurring between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2026. Funds shall be used solely for expenses associated with such events.

- 84.21** **ADD** (DOT: Funds for Road Work) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to authorize available excess debt service funds appropriated or previously allocated to the DOT may be used for economic development purposes authorized under Act 3 of 2023, prior to the funds being approved for any other purpose under Proviso 112.1. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey **Note: Proviso 84.20 in HOU2.**

84.21. (DOT: Funds for Road Work) In the current fiscal year, available excess debt service funds appropriated in this act, or previously allocated to the Department of Transportation, may be available to the Department of Transportation for economic development purposes related to road work outlined in Section 1(B) of Act 3 of 2023 and prior to excess debt service funds being approved for any other purpose as described in Proviso 112.1.

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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, 2026 to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: 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, ~~2025~~2026, pay to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank one million dollars before June 30, ~~2026~~2027, to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

- 88.7** **ADD** (SPA: Funds for Site in Jasper County) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that up to \$1.8 million in previously appropriated Jasper Ocean Terminal funds must be distributed by the South Carolina State Ports Authority to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, subject to Department of Commerce approval. Directs that the funds will support professional services to analyze and negotiate with key agencies and to advance development of commercial or industrial facilities on designated dredged material sites along the Savannah River.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

88.7. (SPA: Funds for 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 up to \$1,800,000 to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) in installments and subject to the approvals described below. These funds are for SCRDA's service as intermediary and provider on behalf of a coalition of its interested member counties with economic interests in the development of land in Jasper County adjacent to and in the vicinity of the Savannah River, and the funds shall be used to procure legal, financial, engineering, and other professional services necessary to: (1) analyze, and to the extent appropriate, engage in negotiations with the SCSPA, the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); and (2) facilitate and enable the construction of commercial and/or industrial facilities on one or more of the seven Dredged Material Containment Areas (DMCAs) designated in the Corps' Savannah Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP), all of which are currently encumbered by a perpetual spoil easement held by the Corps and used for disposal of materials dredged from the Savannah River. Before receiving any funds from SCSPA, SCRDA shall submit a written request to the Department of Commerce for review and written approval of the proposed distribution. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. SCRDA shall provide copies of both the written request and the Department of Commerce's written approval to SCSPA prior to any distribution of funds.

SECTION 91 - A990 - LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

- 91.13** **AMEND** (LEG: In-District Compensation) Directs that legislators receive \$2,500 per month for in-district compensation.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update dollar amount.

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HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: AMEND proviso to update proviso title and direct that beginning on 7/1/26 and ending 11/1/26, legislative expense allowance will be \$1000 per month and that beginning 12/1/26, the allowance shall be \$2500 per month. Sponsor: Sen. Martin

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister and Rutherford

91.13. (LEG: In-District ~~Compensation~~ Legislative Expense Allowance) ~~(A) All Beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending on November 1, 2026,~~ members of the General Assembly shall receive an in-district ~~compensation~~ legislative expense allowance of ~~\$2,500~~ \$1,000 per month.

(B) Beginning on December 1, 2026, members of the General Assembly shall receive an in-district legislative expense allowance of \$2,500 per month.

91.28 **ADD** (LEG: Greenville Sanitation Audit) **HOU2:** ADD new proviso to authorize The Legislative Audit Council to audit the Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission, allowing access to all pertinent records and supporting documentation. Requires LAC to issue a public report of its findings. Sponsor: Sen. Vaughan

91.28. (LEG: Greenville Sanitation Audit) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the current fiscal year, the Legislative Audit Council is authorized to conduct an audit of the Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission (GGSC), which is a special purpose district as defined in Section 6-11-1610 of the S.C. Code, regardless of whether GGSC receives or expends state appropriated funds, pursuant to an audit request. For the purposes of this provision, the Legislative Audit Council shall have access to all the records, files, documents, contracts, books, and facilities of GGSC. The Legislative Audit Council shall issue a public report of its findings and recommendations, and is authorized to contract for outside assistance for the purposes of this provision, if needed.

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, Hurricane Florence of 2018, or Hurricane Helene of 2024 made after the event and before June 30, 2026, 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.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference and to include any other program funded by the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund for property improvements. Directs that when a weather event leads to a new home replacing a damaged mobile or manufactured home, the property may be reassessed, but any increase may not exceed the prior personal property tax value of the demolished unit. Directs that the reassessed value remains unchanged for the current fiscal year unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: 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,

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damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, Hurricane Florence of 2018, or Hurricane Helene of 2024, after the event and before June 30, ~~2026~~2027, 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, or any other 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.

(C) The property tax value may be reassessed at a higher rate in the event of a real property improvement, resulting from a weather event listed above, wherein a new house is built to replace a damaged mobile home or manufactured housing unit previously taxed as personal property; however, any increase to the real property tax value, as a result of the reassessment, may not exceed the value of the most recent personal property tax assessment for the demolished mobile home or manufactured housing unit. The reassessed value shall remain the same for the current fiscal year unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs.

- 92D.5** **ADD** (SCOR: Captain Sam's Spit) **HOU:** ADD proviso to direct the funds for the acquisition of property or settlement litigation related to Captain Sam's Spit to expire at the end of the fiscal year, and may not be carried forward. Sponsor: Rep. White
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

92D.5. (SCOR: Captain Sam's Spit) Any funds appropriated or authorized in this act for the acquisition of property or settlement of litigation related to Captain Sam's Spit shall expire at the end of the fiscal year and may not be carried forward or reauthorized without the approval of the General Assembly through subsequent legislation.

- 92D.6** **ADD** (SCOR: Flood Planning and Warning Solution) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to direct the Office of Resilience to procure a cloud-hosted flood planning and warning system utilizing artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital twin technology, and real-time analytics to support flood prediction, visualization, emergency alerting, infrastructure and climate scenario modeling, and long-term resiliency planning. Exempts funds appropriated for the system from the requirements of Proviso 117.194 for the current fiscal year. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

92D.6. (SCOR: Flood Planning and Warning Solution) (A) From the funds appropriated, the Office of Resilience shall procure an IT software flood planning and warning system. The solution shall be cloud-hosted and utilize a digital twin foundation powered by artificial intelligence (AI), auto-machine learning (ML) capabilities and an in-memory analytics engine. The digital twin will serve as an essential component of the solution and will dynamically represent the hydrological, infrastructural, geospatial, and environmental parameters necessary to provide real-time flood inundation visualization, predicting real-time and near-future conditions, support the simulation of interventions, and improve situational awareness through real-time automated alerting and decisioning. The solution shall utilize a distributed parameter

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model to address the impacts of runoff, while supporting rainfall-driven simulations across a spatial grid methodology. The solution shall provide a maximum resolution (individual grid size) of 1,000 ft x 1,000 ft with an ability to utilize a higher fidelity resolution to account for spatial variation for critical areas of interest. The solution shall include scenario analysis capabilities such as climate adjusted storm patterns and infrastructure changes (e.g. elevation, stormwater system capacity, % impervious, sediment, etc.) to improve long-term planning and resiliency. The solution shall include an agnostic approach to data ingestion including, but not limited to, sensors, third party systems, databases, and pre-existing models.

(B) For the current fiscal year, any funds appropriated to the Office of Resilience for the purpose of procuring and implementing a Flood Planning and Warning Solution are exempt from the requirements of Proviso 117.194.

SECTION 93 - D500 - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

93.7 DELETE (DOA: First Responder Interoperability) Directs DOA to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to enhance public safety communications. Funds will cover radio user fees for eligible state agencies and first responders, with allocations based on a baseline number of radios per participant. Matching funds are required to receive support. Grants will also be available for local systems to improve interoperability. Remaining funds may be used to expand the system. Funds are held in a separate account and may carry forward. An annual status report is due by October 1 to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Sponsor: Rep. Caskey.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~93.7. (DOA: First Responder Interoperability) The Department of Administration is directed to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster responses and communications. First Responder Interoperability administration and coordination shall be funded as provided in this act. The cost proportional funds shall be utilized for radio user fees of state agencies and public safety first responders (Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement) that participate in the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system (Palmetto 800 participants). The Department of Administration, in consultation with the State Law Enforcement Division, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Emergency Management Division, and a representative of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, shall set a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on the technical aspects of the Palmetto 800 radio system and the jurisdictional requirements of the participant. If a Palmetto 800 participant reduces the baseline number of radios in use, the amount of funds allocated for the participant's radio user fees shall be reduced in a proportional amount. The funds shall also be utilized to provide private county and city radio systems with grant funds to be used for purchases of equipment that support interoperability with the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system and its users. Grant funds shall be allocated to private county and city radio systems based on the criteria used for Palmetto 800 Participants and in amounts proportional to the amounts allocated to support the per site radio user fees of Palmetto 800 participants. A matching share is required by a Palmetto 800 participant or by a private county or city radio system in order to qualify for receipt of funds pursuant to this proviso. Each fiscal year the Department of Administration shall establish the level of match required based upon funding provided by this act. These entities~~

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~~shall be required to furnish such documentation as may be required by the department to verify that the matching funds requirement is met. Upon funding state agency and public safety first responder user fees and private county and city equipment purchases, any remaining funds may be used to enhance and expand the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. All funds shall be held in a separate account established by the department for the purposes set forth herein. Any unexpended portion of these funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose. In the calculation of any across the board budget reduction mandated by the Executive Budget Office or General Assembly, the amount appropriated to the Department of Administration for First Responder Interoperability must be excluded from the department's base budget.~~

~~The Department of Administration shall provide a report on the status of the integration of the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system which shall include, but not be limited to, a list of entities who are not integrated into the system as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year and the reason why they are not integrated. The report shall be submitted by October first, of the current fiscal year to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.~~

- 93.11 DELETE** (DOA: Nuclear Advisory Council) Directs the Office of Regulatory Staff to reimburse the department for travel expense of the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council from radioactive waste funds.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~93.11. (DOA: Nuclear Advisory Council) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall reimburse the Department of Administration for travel expenses associated with the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council from the SC Energy Office's radioactive waste funds.~~

- 93.12 DELETE** (DOA: QECB Allocation) Directs the DOA to develop and implement a plan to use the state's remaining Qualified Energy Conservation Bond allocation on energy conservation projects on state-owned buildings and other eligible capital expenditures that benefit state agencies.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~93.12. (DOA: QECB Allocation) From the funds appropriated to the department, the director of the Department of Administration shall develop and implement a plan to utilize the state's remaining Qualified Energy Conservation Bond allocation to fund energy conservation projects on state-owned buildings and other eligible capital expenditures that benefit state agencies.~~

- 93.14 AMEND** (DOA: SCEIS Carry Forward Authorization) Allow funds appropriated to SCEIS to be carried forward and used for the same purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference. Requested by the Department of Administration.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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93.14. (DOA: SCEIS Carry Forward Authorization) Notwithstanding any provision of state law, for Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, unexpended funds appropriated for the SC Enterprise Information System may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year and used for the same purpose.

93.16 **DELETE** (DOA: Colleton County) Redirects remaining funds appropriated to DOA for the Colleton County industrial shell building and road engineering to be used for the purchase of additional land at the Colleton Mega Site.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

93.16. (DOA: Colleton County) ~~The funds remaining of the \$1,387,932 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(B)(72)(hh) to the Department of Administration for the Colleton County industrial shell building and road engineering shall be redirected by Colleton County for the purchase of additional land at the Colleton Mega Site.~~

93.21 **ADD** (DOA: Aiken County Railroad) **SFC:** ADD proviso to provide that funds remaining from Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(B)(72)(v) for the Aiken Railroad Facilities project may be redirected to related historical and educational purposes, including artifact recovery and display, construction of a facility to house artifacts, a Pullman porter exhibit, and educational kiosks. Requires Aiken County to submit an updated expenditure plan to the EBO and legislative delegation before redirecting funds.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

93.21. (DOA: Aiken County Railroad) (A) The funds remaining of the \$900,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(B)(72)(v) to the Department of Administration for the Aiken Railroad Facilities Renovation and Completion may be redirected for the following purposes:

(1)For the recovery, restoration, and display of early railroad artifacts discovered underground in Hitchcock Woods.

(2)For the construction of a building on Hitchcock Woods Foundation property, and curation of artifacts to be housed there, subject to an agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of Aiken County Railroad Depot and the Hitchcock Woods Foundation.

(3)To provide for a pullman porter exhibit at Aiken's Center for African American History, Art and Culture.

(4)To construct educational kiosks explaining the history of Aiken's wooden bridges over the historic Railroad Cut.

(B) Aiken County shall provide an updated expenditure plan to the Executive Budget Office and the legislative delegation prior to redirecting these funds.

SECTION 96 - E080 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

96.1 **AMEND** (SS: UCC Filing Fees) Authorizes up to \$180,000 of Uniform Commercial Code filing fees to be retained and used for UCC administration.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update dollar amount. Requested by the Office of Secretary of State.

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HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

96.1. (SS: UCC Filing Fees) Revenues from the fees raised pursuant to Section 36-9-525(a), not to exceed ~~\$180,000~~ \$250,000, may be retained by the Secretary of State for purposes of UCC administration.

SECTION 98 - E160 - OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER

98.9 **AMEND** (TREAS: Penalties for Non-Reporting) Directs that if a municipality does not submit audited financial statements within 13 months of the end of their fiscal year, the State Treasurer must withhold their state payments until the statement is received. Requires the State Treasurer to follow the requirements of proviso 117.48 when an audit report is received from a county or municipality with significant findings related to court fine reports or remittances. Provides penalties for deficiencies and delinquent reports. Provides for funds to be made available to the State Auditor for an audit to determine amounts due to the State Treasurer.
WMC: AMEND proviso to add compiled regarding the type of financial statements. Requested by the Office of State Treasurer.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

98.9. (TREAS: Penalties for Non-reporting) (A) If a municipality fails to submit the audited *or compiled* financial statements required under Section 14-1-208 to the State Treasurer within thirteen months of the end of their fiscal year, the State Treasurer must withhold all state payments to that municipality until the required audited *or compiled* financial statement is received.

(B) If the State Treasurer receives an audit report from either a county or municipality that contains a significant finding related to court fine reports or remittances to the Office of State Treasurer, the requirements of Proviso 117.48 shall be followed if an amount due is specified, otherwise the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of all state payments to the county or municipality until the estimated deficiency has been satisfied.

(C) If a county or municipality is more than ninety days delinquent in remitting a monthly court fines report, the State Treasurer shall withhold twenty-five percent of state funding for that county or municipality until all monthly reports are current.

(D) After ninety days, any funds held by the Office of State Treasurer will be made available to the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the entity for the purpose of determining an amount due to the Office of State Treasurer, if any.

SECTION 99 – E190 – RETIREMENT SYSTEM INVESTMENT COMMISSION

99.1 **AMEND** (RSIC: Fiduciary Audit) Suspends Section 9-16-38 for the current fiscal year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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99.1. (RSIC: Fiduciary Audit) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, Section 9-16-380, relating to the solicitation and the bid for a fiduciary audit, is suspended.

SECTION 100 - E240 - OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

100.24 AMEND (ADJ: SC Public Assistance Program) Authorizes SCEMD to establish the South Carolina Public Assistance (PA) Program to aid in disaster recovery from localized events that don't qualify for federal aid and to follow federal PA program guidelines and provide quarterly updates to the Legislature. Directs SCEMD to coordinate with the Office of Resilience to prevent duplication and enhance recovery efforts statewide.

WMC: AMEND proviso delete state agency and non-profits disallowance of eligibility of reimbursement under the program and allows SCEMD to utilize up to 5% of their appropriated funds to manage the PA program. Requested by the Office of the Adjutant General.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

100.24. (ADJ: SC Public Assistance Program) The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) is authorized to establish the South Carolina Public Assistance (PA) Program to support disaster recovery for localized hazard events that cause severe damage but do not meet thresholds/criteria for a federal disaster declaration. ~~State agencies and non-profit organizations will not be eligible to receive reimbursement under this program.~~ SCEMD will utilize the PA Program funds to reimburse eligible entities for unbudgeted response and infrastructure repair costs. SCEMD will follow the guidelines and process utilized for the administration of the Federal Public Assistance program. Cost reimbursement will be 75% of eligible costs. SCEMD may use up to 5% of the appropriated funds to manage the PA Program. SCEMD will provide quarterly reports to the Legislature on the status of the PA Program funds including disbursements. SCEMD will coordinate with the Office of Resilience on an ongoing basis to ensure recovery assistance funds are implemented to avoid duplication and maximize positive impacts for South Carolina communities.

100.25 ADD (ADJ: Emergency Reimbursement Eligibility) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize SCEMD to reimburse eligible costs for specific entities as needed for disaster recovery.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

100.25. (ADJ: Emergency Reimbursement Eligibility) The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) is authorized to reimburse eligible costs for state governmental agencies, local governments, non-profit electric cooperatives, and Santee Cooper, as needed, for disaster recovery.

SECTION 101 - E260 - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

101.3 AMEND (VET: Military Enhancement Fund Allocation) Allows the department to allocate the Military Enhancement Fund to items including land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. Directs that counties and municipalities with federal military installations are eligible recipients.

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HOU2: AMEND proviso to allow good standing nonprofit organizations who meet the grant and transparency requirements to be eligible recipients of the funds. Sponsor: Rep. Caskey

101.3. (VET: Military Enhancement Fund Allocation) Funds appropriated to the department for the Military Enhancement Fund may be allocated to items including, but not limited to, land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. Eligible recipients are counties and municipalities with federal military installations as well as nonprofit organizations who meet the grant and transparency qualifications of the program, are registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State, and operating in said counties and municipalities.

SECTION 104 - E550 - STATE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AUTHORITY

104.10 AMEND (SFAA: P-Card Oversight) Directs that by October 1, 2025, the SFAA's Division of Procurement Services must publish a South Carolina Purchasing Card (P-Card) Policy and Procedures Manual to reduce misuse and fraud. The Division will provide training and testing on the Manual by October 15, 2025. Each government body must create its own P-Card manual by April 1, 2026, and ensure all P-Card holders and oversight personnel complete training and testing by April 15, 2026. New P-Cards or supervisory roles are not allowed until training is completed. Annual internal training and third-party audits are required, with audit results reported to the Division by October 1, 2025. The Division will review compliance during procurement audits and report findings to the Authority, which may impose penalties for repeated or serious violations.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references and clarify language to require an annual review instead of audit. Requested by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

104.10. (SFAA: P-Card Oversight) Using funds appropriated, no later than October 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, Division of Procurement Services (Division) shall publish and maintain a South Carolina Purchasing Card Policy and Procedures Manual (Manual) to establish sound practices for the use of purchasing cards (P-Cards) and for management oversight of such use to reduce the State's risk of P-Card misuse and fraud. The Division shall develop and provide training and testing on the requirements of the Manual and begin offering such training no later than October 15, ~~2025~~ 2026. The director of each governmental body as defined in Section 11-35-310 employing P-card holders shall ensure the governmental body develops an agency-specific P-card use manual no later than April 1, ~~2026~~ 2027. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure that every P-card holder and those with responsibility for implementation and oversight of its P-card program have completed the Division P-card training and successfully passed the Division P-card testing no later than April 15, ~~2026~~ 2027. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure that no supervisory or oversight of a P-card role shall be assigned nor new P-cards issued before such employees shall complete Division P-card training and successfully pass Division P-card testing. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure the governmental body develops, implements, and provides the Division with documentation of an internal P-card annual training program for employees with supervisory or oversight of P-card programs and for all P-card holders. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall obtain an annual compliance

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~~audit review~~ of the governmental body's P-card program ~~conducted by an independent third-party entity qualified to conduct such an audit in accordance with guidance published by the Division~~ and shall provide ~~audit a~~ report ~~of the~~ results and corrective action plans, if any, to the Division no later than ~~October 1, 2025~~ December 1, 2026. The Division shall compile ~~a summary of~~ all such audit report results into a single report and provide the report to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (Authority) ~~at its first~~ no later than its second regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. In each audit of the procurement system of a governmental body pursuant to Section 11-35-1230, the Division shall also audit the governmental body's P-card program to determine whether internal controls of the governmental body's P-Card program are adequate to ensure compliance, in all material respects, with the Manual, applicable laws and regulations, and internal policies. The Division shall include its findings and recommendations in the audit report submitted to the Authority. The Authority shall impose administrative penalties for repeat or egregious violations of the Manual, including but not limited to, reduction or suspension of the governmental body's P-Card program, reduction in procurement certification granted pursuant to Section 11-35-1210, removal of authority to conduct sole source procurements, or directing that all or a portion of any P-Card rebates due the governmental body be deposited in the General Fund. The Authority is authorized to request in-person reports from governmental body leadership on corrective actions being taken to rectify such repeat or egregious violations of the Manual and may exempt any governmental body from any requirement of this proviso.

SECTION 105 - F270 - SFAA, OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR

105.7 **AMEND** (SFAA-AUD: Auditing Moratorium) Allows the State Auditor or a member of his staff to conduct an audit of program, activity, or agency for which he managed or was employed by after one year has passed.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

105.7. (SFAA - AUD: Auditing Moratorium) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, if a minimum of one year has passed, the State Auditor or a member of his staff may conduct an audit of a program, activity, or agency for which he had management responsibility or by which he was employed.

105.8 **AMEND** (SFAA-AUD: Carry Forward) Authorizes the State Auditor to carry forward all funds from the prior fiscal year.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference. Requested by SFAA, Office of State Auditor.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

105.8. (SFAA - AUD: Carry Forward) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, the Office of the State Auditor is authorized to carry forward all funds from the prior fiscal year to ensure that the office can perform operations and conduct audits as needed.

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SECTION 108 - F500 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFIT AUTHORITY

- 108.1 DELETE** (PEBA: Lottery, Infrastructure Bank, and Magistrates Health Insurance) Allows Lottery Commissioners, Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board members, magistrates, if the magistrate's county participates in the plan, and eligible dependents, to participate in the State Health and Dental Plan upon payment of full premium costs.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that municipal court judges and their dependents are eligible to participate in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: RESTORE original proviso.
SEN: DELETE proviso. *Ruled Out of Order.*

~~108.1. (PEBA: Lottery, Infrastructure Bank, and Magistrates Health Insurance) South Carolina Lottery Commissioners and South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board members and their eligible dependents are eligible to participate in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan, upon paying the full premium costs as determined by the Public Employee Benefit Authority. If a county is participating in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan, magistrates and their eligible dependents are eligible to participate in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan, upon the magistrate paying the full premium costs as determined by the Public Employee Benefit Authority.~~

- 108.5 AMEND** (PEBA: State Health Plan) Directs that for Plan Year 2025 there shall be an employer premium increase of 4.6% and a subscriber increase of 0%. Authorize PEBA to adjust the plan, benefits, or contributions during Plan Year 2026 to ensure the plan remains fiscally stable.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the employer increase to 0% and update the calendar year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

108.5. (PEBA: State Health Plan) Of the funds authorized for the State Health Plan pursuant to Section 1-11-710(A)(2), an employer premium increase of ~~4.6~~ zero percent and a subscriber premium increase of zero percent will result for the standard State Health Plan for Plan Year ~~2026~~ 2027. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to Section 1-11-710(A)(3), the Public Employee Benefit Authority may adjust the plan, benefits, or contributions of the State Health Plan during Plan Year ~~2026~~ 2027 to ensure the fiscal stability of the Plan.

- 108.11 DELETE** (PEBA: South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund) Suspends the provisions of Section 1-11-705(I)(2), relating to the establishment and administration of the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund, for the current fiscal year. Directs that funds that would have been transferred to the SC Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund may remain in the operating account for the employee health insurance program.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by Public Employee Benefit Authority.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~108.11. (PEBA: South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund) The provisions of Section 1-11-705(I)(2) are suspended for Fiscal Year 2025-26, and, notwithstanding any other~~

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~~provision of law, during Fiscal Year 2025-26, funds that would otherwise have been transferred to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund from the operating account for the State's employee health insurance program pursuant to Section 1-11-705(I)(2) may remain in the operating account for the State's employee health insurance program.~~

- 108.12 AMEND** (PEBA: Fiduciary Audit) Suspends Section 9-4-40 and bid solicitation for the fiduciary audit for the current fiscal year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

108.12. (PEBA: Fiduciary Audit) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, Section 9-4-40, relating to solicitation of the bid for the fiduciary audit, is suspended.

- 108.14 RESTORE** (PEBA: PORS Return to Work) Directs that if a member of PORS chooses to participate in the Return to Work program, they shall not lose their license or be unable to perform officer duties from their twelve month period off of duties. Requires officers to meet continuous education and training requirements.
HOU: AMEND proviso to direct that the earnings limitation does not apply if the compensation received is for employment in a critical needs law enforcement position. Directs that the Law Enforcement Training Council must review and approve documentation that no qualified, nonretired member is available for employment and meets the requirements. Requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees of the positions requested. Directs the Council to develop guidelines and curriculum for officer recertification. Sponsor: Reps. Pope, Gilliam, and Wooten
SFC: RESTORE original proviso.
SEN: ADOPT original proviso.

108.14. (PEBA: PORS Return to Work) If a member of the Police Officer Retirement System chooses to engage in the Return to Work program, their twelve month period spent not engaging in officer duties shall not cause a member to lose their license or be unable to perform the duties of a police officer. Officers participating in the Return to Work program shall be required to meet continuous training and education requirements of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Academy.

- 108.16 DELETE** (PEBA: Pharmacist Clinical Care Pilot Program) **SFC:** ADD proviso to authorize PEBA to create a pilot program within the State Health Plan to test expanded pharmacist-provided clinical services. Directs PEBA to work with pharmacy school deans to define services, set participation standards, and prioritize inclusion of independent and rural pharmacies. Up to \$500,000 may be used to implement and evaluate the pilot, and PEBA may establish reimbursement models that do not increase plan costs. The program will be assessed using measures of access, outcomes, costs, and pharmacy sustainability, with a report of findings due by February 28, 2027.
SEN: DELETE new proviso. *Ruled Out of Order.*

108.16. (PEBA: Pharmacist Clinical Care Pilot Program) DELETED

- 108.17 ADD** (PEBA: Drug Pricing Program Report) **SEN:** ADD proviso direct that PEBA must use appropriated funds to submit a report by April 1 to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House

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Ways and Means analyzing the financial impact of the 340B Drug Pricing Program on the state employee health plan. Directs that the report must examine 340B purchasing, contract pharmacy arrangements, and related practices for both self- and provider-administered drugs, and assess effects on rebates, premiums, and employee out-of-pocket costs. Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

108.17. (PEBA: Drug Pricing Program Report) With the funds appropriated in this act, the Public Employee Benefit Authority shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by April 1st on any financial impact to the state employee health plan arising from the 340B Drug Pricing Program. This study shall include, but not be limited to, 340B entity purchases, contract pharmacy arrangements, and general practices related to 340B drugs, whether self-administered or provider-administered. The report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of foregone rebates, impact on premiums, and the impact to state employee out-of-pocket costs. Any other state health agency shall provide requested information to the Public Employee Benefit Authority required to complete this report.

- 108.18** **ADD** (PEBA: Retired Member of PORS) **SEN:** ADD proviso to allow members of PORS who have been retired for 90 consecutive days to be hired and return to employment covered by PORS, allowing the member to earn up to \$80,000 annually without an effect on their monthly retirement allowance, but shall not accrue additional service credit. States that a law enforcement officer who holds a supervisory rank at the time of retirement may not return to a supervisory position. Sponsor: Sen. Adams

108.18. (PEBA: Retired Member of PORS) A retired member of the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS), who has been retired for at least ninety consecutive calendar days, may be hired and return to employment covered by PORS. Such a member may earn up to eighty thousand dollars annually without affecting the monthly retirement allowance received from PORS. However, if a law enforcement officer holds a supervisory rank at the time of retirement, he shall not be eligible to return to a supervisory position pursuant to the requirements of this proviso. Returning to covered employment does not accrue additional service credit.

- 108.19** **ADD** (PEBA: School Bus Driver Return to Work) **HOU2:** ADD new proviso to exempt hired school bus drivers from the earnings limitations of PORS and SCRS. Sponsor: Rep. McGinnis
Note: Proviso 108.16 in HOU2.

108.19. (PEBA: School Bus Driver Return to Work) For compensation earned during the current fiscal year, the earnings limitation does not apply to a retired member of the South Carolina Retirement System or the Police Officers Retirement System who is hired by a public school district as a school bus driver.

SECTION 109 - R440 - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- 109.17** **AMEND** (DOR: Emergency Commodity Assistance Program) Allows federally-earned emergency commodity assistance program funds to be exempt from state income taxes.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: AMEND proviso to delete current language and adds language that exempts payments received from state or federal agricultural producer commodity assistance program from state income tax.

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SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

~~109.17. (DOR: Emergency Commodity Assistance Program) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, federally earned emergency commodity assistance program funds from the United States Department of Agriculture are exempt from state income taxes. For the current fiscal year, payments received from state or federal agricultural producer commodity assistance programs are exempt from state income tax.~~

109.18 ADD (DOR: Sales Tax Exemption Report) **SEN:** ADD proviso to require the department to provide a report to the Chairmen of WMC and SFC committees providing the total amount exempted and number of entities claiming an exemption pursuant to Section 12-36-2120(79)(A)(1) and (2). Sponsors: Campsen, Davis, Blackmon, and Matthews

109.18. (DOR: Sales Tax Exemption Report) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Revenue, the department must provide a report to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee providing the following information: (1) the total amount of the exemption claimed pursuant to Section 12-36-2120(79)(A)(1) and (2) of the S.C. Code; and (2) the number of entities claiming an exemption pursuant to Section 12-36-2120(79)(A)(1) and (2).

109.19 ADD (DOR: Farm Machinery) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to allow specific farm machinery utilized for planting, cultivating, or harvesting to be considered for sales tax exemptions. Sponsor: Rep. Haddon **Note: Proviso 109.18 in HOU2**

109.19. (DOR: Farm Machinery) Notwithstanding any administrative interpretation, advisory opinion, or revenue ruling of the Department of Revenue to the contrary, if used in the planting, cultivating, or harvesting of farm crops for sale, ATVs and UTVs are considered farm machinery for purposes of sales tax exemptions.

SECTION 112 - V040 - DEBT SERVICE

112.1 AMEND (DS: Excess Debt Service) Directs that excess debt service funds available in FY 2025-26 may be used to pay down general obligation bond debt. Requires the Treasurer to notify the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of JBRC before funds are used.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: AMEND further to direct that excess debt service approved in previous fiscal year and available for use by the Department of Commerce may be utilized for economic development purposes pursuant to Act 3 of 2023.

112.1. (DS: Excess Debt Service) Excess debt service funds available in Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27 may be expended in the fiscal year to pay down general obligation bond debt for which the State (1) is paying the highest rate of interest; (2) will achieve relief in constrained debt capacity; or (3) reduce the amount of debt issued. Prior to the use of these funds, the Office of the State Treasurer shall notify the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Bond Review Committee. Any excess debt service funds approved in previous fiscal years, and currently

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available for use by the Department of Commerce, may be utilized for economic development purposes as described in Section 1(B) of Act 3 of 2023.

SECTION 113 - X220 - AID TO SUBDIVISIONS, STATE TREASURER

- 113.2 AMEND** (AS-TREAS: Quarterly Distributions) Provides for the quarterly distribution of Aid to Subdivisions Local Government Fund.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

113.2. (AS-TREAS: Quarterly Distributions) For the current fiscal year, one quarter of the amount appropriated in Part IA for Aid to Subdivisions-Local Government Fund shall be distributed as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical with the four distributions together totaling the Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27 Part IA appropriation for the Local Government Fund.

- 113.11 ADD** (AS-TREAS: Employment Contracts and Political Subdivisions) **WMC:** ADD proviso to prevent a political subdivision that receives Local Government Funds from entering settlements for mutual dissolution contracts of employment that exceed one year's salary or remainder of the contract value, whichever is less.
HOU: ADOPT new proviso.
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

113.11. *(AS-TREAS: Employment Contracts and Political Subdivisions) A political subdivision receiving aid from the Local Government Fund may not include a term in any contract of employment allowing for a settlement amount to be paid by the subdivision as part of the mutual dissolution of the contract that exceeds one year's salary or the remainder of the contract value, whichever is less.*

- 113.12 ADD** (AS-TREAS: Salary Supplements) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that salary supplement for Clerks of Court, Probate Judges, Coroners, ROD, and Sheriffs are in addition to salary and other benefits currently paid by the county.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

113.12. *(AS-TREAS: Salary Supplements) The salary supplements for Clerks of Courts, Probate Judges, Coroners, Register of Deeds, and Sheriffs provided in Part IA, Section 113 are in addition to the salary and other benefits currently paid by the county for those officials. No county may use any portion of the salary supplement provided in Part IA to supplant the current salary and other benefits paid by the county to those officials. The State Treasurer shall ensure that each county has complied with this proviso.*

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 117.2 AMEND** (GP: Appropriations From Funds) Directs that funds appropriated from the General Fund, EIA Fund, Highways and Public Transportation Fund and other applicable funds are to meet the ordinary expenses of the State.

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WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.2. (GP: Appropriations From Funds) Subject to the terms and conditions of this act, the sums of money set forth in this part, if so much is necessary, are appropriated from the General Fund of the State, the Education Improvement Act Fund, the Highways and Public Transportation Fund, and other applicable funds, to meet the ordinary expenses of the state government for Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, and for other purposes specifically designated.

117.3 **AMEND** (GP: Fiscal Year Definitions) Defines current and prior fiscal year time frames.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.3. (GP: Fiscal Year Definitions) For purposes of the appropriations made by this part, “current fiscal year” means the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, and ending June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, and “prior fiscal year” means the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, and ending June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

117.49 **AMEND** (GP: H.L. Hunley Museum Location) States that the General Assembly approves the City of North Charleston as the permanent site of the H.L. Hunley Museum contingent upon negotiation and execution of necessary contracts between the State and the City. Directs the Hunley Commission to expend its funds to negotiate and execute contracts on behalf of the State.
SFC: AMEND proviso to change the permanent site of the H.L. Hunley Museum from the Patriots Point Authority to “a suitable waterfront site in the Charleston Harbor or its tributaries.”
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.49. (GP: H.L. Hunley Museum Location) The General Assembly approves ~~the Patriots Point Development Authority~~ a suitable waterfront site in the Charleston Harbor or its tributaries as the permanent site of the H.L. Hunley Museum. This approval is contingent upon the negotiation and execution of necessary contracts between the State of South Carolina and ~~the Patriots Point Development Authority~~ owner of the approved location. The Hunley Commission is directed to expend funds from its account to negotiate and execute contracts on behalf of the State of South Carolina.

117.110 **AMEND** (GP: Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension) Suspends the repeal of Chapter 34 of Title 6, relating to the Retail Facilities Act, as specified in Act 285 of 2006 for sites that provided DOR written notification of election of mode of credit before 7/1/16 and for which a building permit was issued prior to 7/1/16.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.110. (GP: Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension) The repeal of Chapter 34, Title 6 of the 1976 Code as specified in Act 285 of 2006 as to sites for which written notification of election of mode of credit has been provided to the Department of Revenue prior

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to July 1, 2016 and for which a building permit has been issued prior to July 1, 2016, is suspended for Fiscal Year ~~2025-26-2026-27~~.

- 117.112 AMEND** (GP: South Carolina Telemedicine Network) Directs the MUSC Hospital Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to develop the SC Statewide Telemedicine Network. Directs DHHS to report on policy and benefit changes it introduced to improve telehealth services sustainability and to submit a report by October 1, 2019, to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees on how they intend to broaden their service-based coverage to align with the federal changes and to improve sustainability of telehealth services.
- WMC:** AMEND proviso to delete the reporting requirement related to COVID-19. Requested by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- HOU:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SFC:** ADOPT proviso as amended.
- SEN:** AMEND proviso to add that a licensed physician who practices mostly in this State or is employed by a hospital or integrated healthcare system of this State shall be deemed to be practicing medicine within the geographic boundaries of South Carolina for the purposes of supervising physician assistants or entering practice agreements with nurse practitioners, midwives, and nurse specialists in South Carolina upon approval of the Board of Medical Examiners. Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

117.112. (GP: South Carolina Telemedicine Network) *(A)* From the funds appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina for the MUSC Hospital Authority for Telemedicine and the funds appropriated and authorized for the Department of Health and Human Services, the agencies must continue the development of the South Carolina Statewide Telemedicine Network. *As part of the statewide telemedicine network, a physician licensed to practice medicine and is in good standing in South Carolina and who primarily practices at a site physically located in this State or in a state contiguous to South Carolina and who is employed by a hospital or integrated healthcare system that owns hospitals licensed in this State or in a state contiguous to South Carolina that also employs physicians who primarily practice at a site physically located in this State shall be deemed to be practicing medicine within the geographic boundaries of South Carolina for the purposes of supervising physicians assistants and entering practice agreements with nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists who are located in South Carolina; provided, however, that any such physician receives prior approval from the Board of Medical Examiners before such supervision.* The South Carolina Telehealth Alliance shall submit a proposal to the MUSC Hospital Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services to determine which hospitals, clinics, schools or other entities are best suited for Telemedicine partnerships.

~~(A)~~*(B)* The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop or continue a program to leverage the use of teaching hospitals to provide rural physician coverage by expanding the use of Telemedicine, to include new applications such as School Based Telehealth, and Tele-ICU. The department shall also amend its policy related to reimbursement for telemedicine to add Act 301 Behavioral Health Centers as a referring site for covered telemedicine services.

~~(B)~~*(C)* During the current fiscal year the Department of Health and Human Services shall contract with the MUSC Hospital Authority in the amount of \$5,000,000 to lead the development and operation of a statewide, open access South Carolina Telemedicine Network. At the request of the department, MUSC shall provide the department with all information and materials necessary to seek federal medical assistance for this contract. The MUSC Hospital Authority shall contract with each Regional Support Hub to ensure funding and support of strategic plans

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submitted by the Regional Support Hubs and approved by both the MUSC Hospital Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services. Institutions and other entities participating in the network must be afforded the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of any annual refining to the initiative's strategic plan. Working with the department, the MUSC Hospital Authority shall collaborate with Palmetto Care Connections to pursue this goal. No less than \$1,000,000 of these funds shall be allocated toward support of Palmetto Care Connections and other hospitals in South Carolina. The MUSC Hospital Authority must provide the department with quarterly reports regarding the funds allocation and progress of telemedicine transformation efforts and networks. These reports must include an itemization of the ultimate recipients of these funds, whether vendors, grantees, specific participating institutions, or the Medical University of South Carolina, and must distinguish between funds allocation to the university as a participating institution as opposed to those retained and used by the university in its capacity as the administering entity for the network.

~~(C)(D)~~ The Department of Health and Human Services shall continue to identify and implement telehealth benefits and policies that are evidence-based, cost efficient, and aligned with the needs of the Medicaid population. ~~The department must also continue to review the temporary telephonic and telehealth flexibilities it has adopted to address the COVID-19 public health emergency and make permanent those that are suitable for inclusion in the Medicaid benefit. No later than October 1, the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on policy and benefit changes it has introduced in the furtherance of this goal and as part of its ongoing effort to improve the sustainability of telehealth services.~~

- 117.114. AMEND** (GP: SCRS & PORS Trust Fund) Directs that the funds allocated to PEBA for the SCRS or PORS Trust Funds be credited toward contributions due from participating employers in those systems; directs that no credits shall be issued for covered employees of special purpose districts, joint authorities, non-profits, hospitals, participating associations or service organizations as defined in Section 9-1-10(11)(e), relating to retirement systems definitions, and state employees whose salaries are paid with federal funds. Directs that the SC Ports Authority, the SC Public Service Authority, and the Medical University Hospital Authority are excluded from this prohibition. Directs PEBA to collaborate with DOA, EBO, and RFA to determine the amount of credit exclusion for federally funded state employees.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.114. (GP: SCRS & PORS Trust Fund) Unless otherwise provided in Paragraphs A through D of this provision, the funds appropriated to the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) for the South Carolina Retirement System Trust Fund and the Police Officers' Retirement System Trust Fund in Part IA, Section 108 of this act shall be credited toward the contributions due from participating employers in SCRS and PORS for Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27. Each employer's credit shall be determined at the same rate as calculated by PEBA for the pension funding allocation credit for Fiscal Year 2017-18. A participating employer shall not receive a credit that exceeds the employer contributions due from the employer.

(A) From the funds available for allocation pursuant to this provision, no credits shall be issued for covered employees of special purpose districts, joint authorities, or non-profit corporations; however, this provision does not apply to the South Carolina State Ports Authority and the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

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(B) From the funds available for allocation pursuant to this provision, no credits shall be issued for covered employees of hospitals; however this provision does not apply to the Medical University Hospital Authority.

(C) From the funds available for allocation pursuant to this provision, no credits shall be issued for covered employees of participating associations or service organizations as defined in Section 9-1-10(11)(e) of the 1976 Code.

(D) From the funds available for allocation pursuant to this provision, no credits shall be issued for state employees who are funded with federal funds. The Public Employee Benefits Authority shall collaborate with the Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office and the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to determine the amount of credit exclusion for federally-funded employees of state agencies.

117.138 AMEND (GP: Employee Compensation) Provides a plan to distribute employee pay increases for FY 2025-26. Directs EBO to review Executive Branch agencies to determine whether their budgets warrant an increase in other fund authorization due to the pay raise and if so, to work with the Comptroller General to increase the authorization for the affected agencies. Directs that allocations associated with the increases for retirement employer contributions be based on the rate of the retirement system in which employees participate. Authorizes the use of excess funding for statewide employer contributions for other statewide purposes and allow the unexpended funds to be carried forward.

WMC: AMEND proviso to delete language regarding the hiring of a consultant by DOA to study the State's classification and compensation system and pay increases for classified employees of institutions of higher education and technical colleges. Updates fiscal year reference. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

~~**117.138.** (GP: Employee Compensation) (A) The Department of Administration was appropriated funds to engage an external consultant for a study and to provide expert recommendations to reform the State's Classification and Compensation system. A consultant was retained and recommendations made to reform the State's compensation structure and pay grades for state agency employees in classified full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The amounts appropriated to F300-Statewide Employee Benefits for Employee Pay Increases must be allocated by the Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office to the various state agencies to provide for employee pay increases in accordance with the following plan:~~

~~(1) With respect to classified and non-judge judicial classified employees, effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year, the compensation of all classified employees shall be increased to either the minimum of the new State pay grades established by the Department of Administration, or by 2 percent, whichever is greater.~~

~~(2) With respect to unclassified and non-judge judicial unclassified state agency employees or unclassified executive compensation system employees not elsewhere covered in this act, effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year the compensation of all unclassified employees shall be increased by 2 percent. Any employee subject to the provisions of this paragraph shall not be eligible for compensation increases provided in paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6.~~

~~(3) With respect to classified employees of institutions of higher education and technical colleges eligible in this item, effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year, the compensation of all classified higher education employees shall~~

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be increased by 2 percent for FTEs. With respect to unclassified employees of institutions of higher education and technical colleges eligible in this item, institutions and technical colleges are authorized to allot the total funds for compensation increases among individual employees without uniformity. The funds provided for compensation increases for any employee subject to the provisions of this item are based on an annual average of 2 percent and may be based on performance.

(4) Effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year, agency heads not covered by the Agency Head Salary Commission, shall receive an annualized base pay increase of 2 percent for FTEs.

(5) With respect to Transformation Coaches at the Department of Education, compensation shall be increased by 2 percent for FTEs making over \$50,000.

(6) With respect to local health care providers compensated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Substance Use Services, compensation increases shall be 2 percent effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year. School Bus Driver salary and fringe funding to school districts shall be increased by 2 percent.

(7) Effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year, the Chief Justice and other judicial officers shall receive an annualized base pay increase of 2 percent for FTEs.

(8) Effective on the first pay date that occurs on or after July first of the current fiscal year, county auditors and county treasurers shall receive an annualized base pay increase of 2 percent.

(B) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, the Executive Budget Office is directed to review Executive Branch agencies to determine whether their budgets warrant another fund authorization increase due to the 2 percent compensation increase for all full-time employees. If so warranted, the Executive Budget Office shall work with the Office of the Comptroller General to increase such authorization for the affected agencies.

(C) The Department of Administration shall allocate associated compensation increases for retirement employer contributions based on the retirement rate of the retirement system in which individual employees participate.

(D) The Executive Director of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority is authorized to use excess appropriations for the current fiscal year designated for statewide employer contributions for other statewide purposes. At the discretion of the Executive Director of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, such action may be considered a permanent transfer into the receiving agency's base budget.

(E) Funds appropriated in Part IA, F300, Section 106, Statewide Employee Benefits may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year.

117.143 AMEND (GP: Electricity Market Reform) Directs that the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee issue a report on its findings no later than January 31, 2026. Directs that the committee may continue to meet past that date and issue additional reports.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.143. (GP: Electricity Market Reform) The Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee shall issue a report on its work to the General Assembly no later than January 31, ~~2026~~ 2027; however, nothing in this provision prohibits the committee from continuing to meet past January 31, ~~2026~~ 2027 and issue additional reports pursuant to Act 187 of 2020.

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117.144 AMEND (GP: Homestead Exemption Fund) Suspends Section 11-11-156(C), relating to reimbursement of school districts from homestead exemption fund.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.144. (GP: Homestead Exemption Fund) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, Section 11-11-156(C) is suspended.

117.149 AMEND (GP: In-State Tuition Mitigation) States that specific recurring funds have been appropriated in Part IA to institutions of higher education to mitigate tuition and mandatory fee increases. Requires institutions, in order to retain these funds, to certify to CHE by August 15, 2025, and that there is no in-state tuition or mandatory fee increase, excluding auxiliary and athletic fees, for the 2025-26 academic year. Directs any institution proposing a mandatory fee increase to include an analysis of the necessity of the increase. Directs CHE to develop a certification process and requires any institution that is unable to provide the certification to remit their recurring allocation listed in this provision to the General Fund by September 15, 2025. Directs CHE, by November 1, 2025, to report to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees and to EBO the institutions that did not meet the certification requirement and directs EBO to reduce the recurring appropriation for non-compliant institutions.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the title of the proviso and funding amounts to universities. Direct that funds be used to support programs in critical workforce disciplines. Requires institutions to suspend new admissions in at least 50 percent of academic programs that have operated at a financial loss for four or more years and submit an annual report by March 1 to the Governor and the Chairmen of House Ways and Means and Senate Finance detailing discontinued or consolidated programs, cost savings achieved, and program improvements resulting from the initiative.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND proviso further to restore proviso title and delete exclusive support of programs in critical workforce disciplines. Deletes requirement that institutions suspend new admissions in at least 50 percent of academic programs that have operated at a financial loss for four or more years. Directs each institution to maintain a comprehensive academic program review process. Requires the Commission on Higher Education to submit a report by March 1 detailing three years of approved academic programs by institution, including programs that were terminated or consolidated, as well as identifying programs the commission recommended for termination that institutions did not discontinue.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.149. (GP: In-State Tuition Mitigation) (A) The following recurring funds have been appropriated in Part IA to institutions of higher learning to mitigate tuition and fee increases for in-state undergraduate students:

(1) The Citadel	\$3,081,444 <u>1,540,722</u> ;
(2) Clemson University	\$12,196,972 <u>6,098,486</u> ;
(3) University of Charleston	\$2,820,143 <u>1,410,071</u> ;
(4) Coastal Carolina University	\$2,456,003 <u>1,228,001</u> ;
(5) Francis Marion University	\$2,289,757 <u>1,144,878</u> ;
(6) Lander University	\$2,119,998 <u>1,059,999</u> ;
(7) South Carolina State University	\$1,842,814 <u>921,407</u> ;

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(8) University of South Carolina-Columbia	\$14,436,186 7,218,093 ;
(9) University of South Carolina-Aiken	\$2,361,911 1,180,955 ;
(10) University of South Carolina-Upstate	\$3,173,940 1,598,970 ;
(11) University of South Carolina-Beaufort	\$1,077,571 538,785 ;
(12) University of South Carolina-Lancaster	\$640,000 320,000 ;
(13) University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie	\$411,995 205,997 ;
(14) University of South Carolina-Sumter	\$686,882 343,441 ;
(15) University of South Carolina-Union	\$608,475 304,237 ;

and

(16) Winthrop University	\$2,330,588 1,165,294 ;
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and

(17) Medical University of South Carolina	\$12,529,269.
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(B) In order to retain the above appropriations, each institution of higher learning listed above must certify to the Commission on Higher Education by August 15, ~~2025~~ 2026, there is no in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase, excluding increases in auxiliary and athletic fees, for the ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27 academic year.

(C) The Commission on Higher Education shall develop the process by which institutions provide the certification. Certification of any institution proposing an in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase must include analysis as to the necessity of the increase and all cost savings measures that have been undertaken to minimize them. Any institution unable to provide such certification to the commission shall remit their respective above recurring allocation to the General Fund by September 15, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(D) By November 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, the Commission on Higher Education shall report to the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Executive Budget Office the institutions that failed to certify that the in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase met the guidelines outlined in this provision. The Executive Budget Office is directed to reduce the recurring appropriation of any institution found to be non-compliant with the certification.

(E) Each institution shall maintain a comprehensive academic program review process, including annual review of new programs during their initial years of implementation and periodic review of established programs. Findings from these reviews shall inform program improvements, consolidation, or termination.

(F) Each institution shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee on or before March 1, detailing the program review actions taken including, but not limited to, the programs discontinued or consolidated, the cost savings achieved, and the programmatic enhancements implemented under this initiative.

(G) The Commission on Higher Education shall submit a report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee by March 1, detailing three years of approved programs by each institution as well as those programs that were terminated or consolidated. Additionally, the commission shall report those programs that were recommended for termination by the commission that the institutions failed to discontinue.

117.156 AMEND (GP: Millage Calculations) Allows a municipality additional and permanent adjustment to its general operating millage rate increase limitation due to population growth for any increase that would have happened in FY 2021-22 but was not known because of the delayed Census release. Directs the calculation to be made from the July 1, 2020 census population estimates.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.156. (GP: Millage Calculation) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, a municipality is allowed an additional and permanent adjustment to its general operating millage rate increase limitation for population growth, calculated pursuant to Section 6-1-320, for any increase that would have been allowed in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 but was not known because of the delayed release of the 2020 Census. This adjustment must be calculated using the July 1, 2020 census population estimates, as originally published based on the 2020 Census, instead of the July 1, 2019 population estimates based on the 2010 Census.

117.157 DELETE (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) Appropriates funds to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination Commission and the Commission on Indigent Defense for recruitment and retention. Directs that before funds are disbursed, all Prosecution and Indigent Defense Circuits shall provide a report of current warrants pending. Directs the commissions to provide progress reports to the Chief Administrative Judge of each respective circuit handling the General Sessions docket, the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor's Office semiannually.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and Indigent Defense.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

117.157. (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) ~~(A) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Circuit Solicitor and Circuit Public Defender for each judicial circuit shall provide to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination Director and the Commission on Indigent Defense Director, respectively, a report of current warrants pending. The report shall provide the total number of warrants pending in Circuit Court on July 1st of the preceding and current fiscal year, and the total number of warrants disposed of in the previous fiscal year. In addition, the report shall provide the aging categories for pending warrants as follows: (1) those pending 365 days or less; (2) those pending 366 days to 544 days; and (3) the number of warrants pending more than 545 days. Each circuit shall also submit on a semiannual basis an updated report on the current number of warrants pending.~~

~~(B) The Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall semiannually report progress updates to the Chief Administrative Judge of each respective circuit handling the General Sessions docket, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor's Office. The report shall include the utilization of the funds distributed among the circuits, steps taken to retain current employees, the number of new FTEs that have been hired, and information obtained from circuits on how these measures will go towards reducing both the number and aging warrants pending.~~

117.164 AMEND (GP: Prostate Cancer Study Committee) Creates the Prostate Cancer Study Committee. Provides the initiatives that the study committee shall address and the requirements for the appointed members of the committee. Directs that the chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Requires the committee to continuously meet and provide a report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by December 31, 2025 on its findings and recommendations.

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WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND further to add the fiscal year reference, and to allow the study committee to provide feedback or consultations during the implementation of its recommendations. Removes the reporting requirement.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.164. (GP: Prostate Cancer Study Committee) (A) For ~~the current fiscal year~~ Fiscal Year 2026-27, the South Carolina Prostate Cancer Study Committee ~~shall continue to address, but is not limited to addressing,~~ may provide feedback or consultation if requested during any implementation of recommendations made in its February 2026 report regarding the following initiatives:

- (1) the best methods to ensure timely screening, accurate diagnosis, and treatment of prostate cancer;
- (2) the need for and viability of a continuum of care for those diagnosed with and in remission from prostate cancer;
- (3) reviewing and evaluating best practices for education and awareness about prostate cancer;
- (4) identifying areas in South Carolina with a high incidence of prostate cancer or poor outcomes;
- (5) researching the latest and proven methods for screening, diagnosing, and treating prostate cancer; and
- (6) reviewing current efforts to promote prostate cancer awareness and screening in South Carolina and how best to improve those efforts.

(B) In addition to two Senators appointed by the President of the South Carolina Senate and two members of the House of Representatives as appointed by the Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, the committee shall consist of:

- (1) one Urology or Oncology Specialist from the MUSC School of Medicine;
- (2) one Urology or Oncology Specialist from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine;
- (3) three Urology or Oncology Specialists who are not affiliated with the MUSC School of Medicine or the University of South Carolina School of Medicine appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the South Carolina Hospital Association;
- (4) three Urology or Oncology Specialists who are not affiliated with the MUSC School of Medicine or the University of South Carolina School of Medicine appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the South Carolina Medical Association;
- (5) the Director of the Hollings Cancer Center or his designee;
- (6) the Director of the South Carolina Office of Rural Health or his designee;
- (7) the Director of the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare or his designee;
- (8) the Director of Clemson Rural Health or his designee;
- (9) the Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health or his designee;
- (10) one representative from the American Cancer Society;
- (11) one patient advocate, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; and
- (12) one patient advocate, to be appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

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~~(C)~~ No member of the study committee shall be entitled to any compensation or reimbursement.

~~(C)~~(D) From the membership of the committee, a Chairman shall be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

~~(D)~~(E) Any administrative services or support for the study committee shall be provided by staff of the General Assembly.

~~(E) No later than December 31, 2025, the study committee shall provide the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee with a report on its findings and recommendations on the initiatives contained in this provision.~~

117.168 AMEND (GP: Credit Unions) Allows a federal or state credit union headquartered in SC to act as a qualified public depository for deposits held by a municipality if it meets certain criteria. Directs that the credit union must comply with Section 6-5-15 and be insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.168. (GP: Credit Unions) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, a federal or state credit union that is headquartered in the State may act as a qualified public depository for deposits held by a municipality if the population of the municipality is less than five thousand, the municipality is not part of a federally recognized metropolitan statistical area, is located at least ten miles from a bank or credit union branch, and occupies and supports a full-service branching facility in the defined area. The credit union must comply with all other provisions of Section 6-5-15, and its deposits must be insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

117.173 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 6/30/26.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.173. (GP: Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program) (A) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, 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.

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(C) A progress report on the viability of the permit program shall be submitted to the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2026.

117.179 DELETE (GP: Transfer of Physical Assets) Directs DOA to transfer responsibility for building and grounds located at 1 National Guard Road in Columbia to the Office of the Adjutant General. Directs that the Adjutant General shall assume financial and administrative responsibility for the building and grounds to include maintenance, improvements, and operational costs. Directs that DOA shall not collect rent or be responsible for any future maintenance or repairs after the transfer.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Adjutant General's Office.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.179. (GP: Transfer of Physical Assets) In the current fiscal year, the Department of Administration shall transfer the financial and administrative responsibility for the building and grounds located at 1 National Guard Road in Columbia to the Office of the Adjutant General. The Office of the Adjutant General is thereafter responsible for such building and grounds to include maintenance of necessary reserves for deferred and future depreciation and maintenance, assuming improvement obligations, and other costs of operation including, but not limited to, building maintenance, systems and equipment maintenance, custodial services, horticulture and grounds maintenance, insurance, and utilities. The Department of Administration shall not collect rent, and after the transfer, the Department of Administration shall have no responsibility for any deferred or future maintenance or repair of the building and grounds.~~

117.182 DELETE (GP: FTE Management) Directs EBO, in consultation with DSHR, to eliminate 25% of each agency's vacant FTE positions as of February 1, 2025, unless exempted. This reduction, due by 90 days after the budget's passage or by October 1, whichever is later, will account for FTEs added in recent budget acts. Agencies will work with EBO and DSHR to identify positions for elimination based on funding source. Agencies with fewer than five vacancies or special circumstances may be exempt. EBO must report reductions by December 1. This provision does not override provisos 57.15 or 91.23.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.182. (GP: FTE Management) In order to better manage the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across state government, not later than ninety days after the passage of the General Appropriations Act or by October 1, whichever comes later, the Executive Budget Office (EBO), in consultation with the State Division of Human Resources (DSHR) shall eliminate 25% of each agency's vacant FTE positions as of February 1, 2025, unless specifically exempted elsewhere in this act. The elimination of 25% of vacant FTE positions will be adjusted to reflect FTE positions received in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Appropriations Act or the Fiscal Year 2024-25 General Appropriations Act. Agencies shall consult with EBO and DSHR to identify which vacant positions should be eliminated, but the eliminations must align to the funding source for the identified vacant FTE positions. During agency consultations, EBO and DSHR shall determine if agencies have fewer than 5 vacancies or other extenuating circumstances and exempt those agencies from the required reduction. Extenuating circumstances may include that the agency or institution has reduced its authorized FTE count in~~

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~~the last several fiscal years or that it is in the process of hiring positions essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and/or critical operations of the State and the reduction would interfere with filling those positions. EBO must report the number of FTEs deleted by agency, program, and funding source to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by December 1st of the current fiscal year. This proviso does not supersede proviso 57.15 or proviso 91.23.~~

- 117.184 DELETE** (GP: Program Transfer) Directs that CHE collaborate with SDE and DOA, Executive Budget Office to transition the Educator Report Card program to SDE by 1/1/26.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
HOU: ADOPT deletion.
SFC: ADOPT deletion.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.184. (GP: Program Transfer) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Commission on Higher Education shall collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office, to transition the Educator Report Card program, including associated FTE positions and all related funding, to the Department of Education no later than January 1, 2026. The Executive Budget Office is authorized to implement the necessary permanent transfers of funding and positions to facilitate the transition of the program.~~

- 117.185 DELETE** (GP: Evaluation of Agribusiness & Agricultural Marketing Services) Directs 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.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: DELETE proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.185. (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.~~

- 117.187 DELETE** (GP: Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts) Directs 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 strategy for spending disaster planning and mitigation funds and delivering services. Directs that a joint report

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of these findings shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by June 30, 2026.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year and calendar year references.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: DELETE proviso.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.187. (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.~~

117.188 DELETE (GP: Safe Home Program) Directs 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, shall be provided to the General Assembly by June 30, 2026.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: DELETE proviso.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~117.188. (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.~~

117.189 AMEND (GP: Political Subdivision Reimbursement) (GP: Political Subdivision Reimbursement) Directs that up to \$300 million may be used to reimburse political subdivisions, including school districts, for the property tax exemption on certain manufacturing property. Directs that if additional funds are needed beyond this amount, the Trust Fund for Tax Relief may be used to ensure full reimbursement.

HOU2: AMEND proviso to direct that if funds in excess in excess of \$170 million are necessary, the Trust Fund for Tax Relief may be used to ensure full reimbursement. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

117.189. (GP: Political Subdivision Reimbursement) (A) For the property tax year that ends in the current fiscal year, for the property tax exemption on certain manufacturing property for which a reimbursement is required by law, up to three hundred million dollars may be used to reimburse political subdivisions, including school districts.

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(B) To the extent that funds in excess of ~~the amounts~~ one hundred and seventy million are necessary to make the full reimbursement for the property tax exemption on certain manufacturing property are unavailable, then the balance in the Trust Fund for Tax Relief may be expended to make the reimbursements in full.

117.193 DELETE (GP: Aid to Fire District Planning) Directs RFA and EBO to develop and submit options on addressing the Aid to Fire District open-ended status by December 31. Provides the requirements of the options. Requires the Department of Insurance and the State Treasurer to cooperate with any requests for information.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

~~**117.193.** (GP: Aid to Fire District Planning) The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, in conjunction with the Executive Budget Office, shall develop and submit options, including details, to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by December 31, 2025, to address the Aid to Fire District open-ended status as defined by the Office of the Comptroller General. The options shall ensure that all collections are disbursed to fire districts as prescribed by statute, other sources of collections are not altered, and disbursements are not reliant upon budgetary surpluses. The Department of Insurance and the Office of the State Treasurer shall cooperate with any requests for information from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.~~

117.194 AMEND (GP: AI Appropriations) Requires any agency or institution to coordinate their AI efforts and budget requests with DOA's AI Center of Excellence.

WMC: AMEND proviso to exempt institutions of higher learning from this provision if they met specified requirements for the purpose of the products and provide monthly reports to the AI Center of Excellence. Exempts funds appropriated to DES for AI modernization from this provision. Sponsors: Reps. Caskey and Ballentine

HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.

SFC: AMEND proviso further to delete the exemption of funds appropriated to DES for AI modernization from this provision.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

117.194. (GP: AI Appropriations) Any agency or institution that is appropriated or authorized funds for artificial intelligence shall coordinate their efforts and budget requests with the Department of Administration's AI Center of Excellence (*AI COE*). *AI products and services purchased by institutions of higher learning for instructional and/or research purposes are exempt from this provision provided that institutions provide monthly informational reports to the AI COE detailing the type, purpose, and cost of such purchases. Nothing herein exempts institutions of higher learning from complying with institutional and/or state procurement policies for such purchases as may otherwise be applicable.*

117.195 AMEND (GP: JUUL Settlement) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct the annual JUUL Settlement payment received by the Office of the Attorney General to be transferred to the Department of Public Health Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit for statewide tobacco prevention and control efforts. Requires DPH to follow the CDC's Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control

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Programs guidelines in carrying out these efforts and to requires a report to be submitted on the use of the funds to the by June 30 of the current fiscal year.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to change “fund” to “agreement”, and to add carry forward authority for the settlement funds.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.195. (GP: JUUL Settlement) In the current fiscal year, the annual payment received by the State of South Carolina, Office of Attorney General, from the JUUL Settlement Agreement shall be transferred to the Department of Public Health (DPH) Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit to support and increase the work of tobacco prevention and control efforts statewide. The DPH Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit shall follow the Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its mission to prevent and reduce tobacco use through partnerships around the state. Settlement funds the agency is unable to utilize in the current fiscal year may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. DPH shall provide a report on the use of funds to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by June 30 of the current fiscal year.

117.196 ADD (GP: Town of Summerton Audit) WMC: ADD proviso to direct the Office of State Auditor and the Office of the Inspector General to contract a firm to conduct a forensic audit on the Town of Summerton and require the findings to be reported.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.196. (GP: Town of Summerton Audit) Of the funds appropriated in this act and/or carried forward from the previous fiscal year, the Office of the State Auditor, in coordination with the Office of the Inspector General, is directed to contract a firm to conduct a forensic audit on the finances of the Town of Summerton from Fiscal Year 2015-16 through Fiscal Year 2025-26. The State Auditor shall oversee the auditing process and provide interim and final reports to the Town of Summerton, the Clarendon County Delegation, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee upon completion.

117.197 ADD (GP: Aid to Fire Districts Fund) WMC: ADD proviso to create a separate Aid to Fire Districts Fund within the State Treasury to receive designated fire and broker insurance premium tax revenues for local fire services, and distribute those funds to county treasurers in accordance with existing law, with the Department of Insurance ensuring an appropriate fund balance.

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: ADOPT new proviso.

SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.197. (GP: Aid to Fire Districts Fund) (A) There is created in the State Treasury by the Comptroller General a fund separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State and all other funds entitled the Aid to Fire Districts Fund. That portion of fire premium tax revenues and the State portion of the broker premium tax revenues that are required by statute to be distributed to county treasurers for local fire service must be deposited in the fund.

(B) Additionally, the Department of Insurance shall ensure that the fund has an appropriate balance. The State Treasurer shall distribute the revenues in the fund to the county treasurers in the same manner and for the same purpose as provided by law.

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117.199 AMEND (GP: Hospital Emergency Bed Placement) WMC: ADD proviso to allow a hospital to place patient beds in hallways, corridors, or other means of egress during a determined and documented justified emergency. Provides the criteria of the approval of the bed placements and the form they must submit created by the Department of Public Health. Requires hospitals to maintain records and provide copies to DPH and states they shall maintain clear pathways and exits. Allows the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to promulgate emergency regulations to implement the provision. Defines relevant terms. Sponsor: Rep. Hewitt

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to change the reference to the onsite emergency physician to a designated member of the emergency's leadership team and directs the developed form to be electronic. Removes the ability of LLR to promulgate emergency regulations or issue interpretive guidance.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

117.199. (GP: Hospital Emergency Bed Placement) (A) For the current fiscal year with the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Health, and notwithstanding any other provision of law or applicable fire or building code, during a justified emergency, a hospital may place patient beds in hallways, corridors, or other means of egress when a designated member of the emergency department's leadership team, as provided for in the hospital's written policies and procedures, determines and documents, within seven calendar days of the start of the justified emergency, on an electronic form developed by the Department of Public Health that:

(1) all other appropriate treatment space in the hospital has been exhausted; and

(2) the health and safety of patients is jeopardized without the use of patient beds in these areas.

(B) The form required pursuant to item (A) shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) the beginning date and time of the justified emergency;

(2) the ending date and time of the justified emergency;

(3) the nature of the justified emergency as described in item (A);

(4) an indication that all other appropriate treatment space in the hospital has been exhausted;

(5) an indication that the health and safety of patients is at increased risk without the use of patient beds in hallways, corridors, or other means of egress; and

(6) the signature of the designated member of the emergency department's leadership team at the onset of the justified emergency.

(C) Hospitals shall maintain records required pursuant to item (B) and shall provide copies of the form described in item (B) no less than quarterly to the Department of Public Health documenting each instance in which a justified emergency has been determined and patient beds have been used in hallways, corridors, or other means of egress.

(D) When not in use for the care and treatment of patients during a justified emergency, hospitals shall remove any beds from hallways, corridors, or means of egress.

(E) To provide for the safety of hospital staff, patients, and visitors during a justified emergency, hospitals shall maintain a clear pathway in hallways, corridors, and means of egress and shall not block exits. Hospitals shall not erect or construct partitions or structures that obstruct the building's fire protection systems, including automatic sprinkler systems or fire alarm and detection system components.

(F) Hospitals shall develop written protocols governing justified emergency conditions and shall require all employees responsible for the care or treatment of patients to familiarize themselves with these protocols.

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(G) The Department of Public Health shall monitor compliance and take enforcement action as authorized by law.

(H)(1) For purposes of this provision, a “justified emergency” means any of the following:

(a) a declared state of emergency;

(b) a natural or manmade disaster;

(c) a mass transit accident;

(d) an industrial or construction accident;

(e) a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear event;

(f) an act of crowd, spree, or terrorist violence resulting in injuries;

(g) an acute outbreak of contagious or infectious disease; or

(h) the exhaustion of all available treatment space in an emergency department due to the number of patients being treated at that time.

(2) “Hospital” means a facility that is organized and administered to provide overnight medical or surgical care or nursing care for an illness, injury, or infirmity and must provide on-campus emergency services; that may provide obstetrical care; and in which all diagnoses, treatment, or care is administered by or under the direction of persons currently licensed to practice medicine, surgery, or osteopathy. This shall include all hospitals that convert to Rural Emergency Hospitals pursuant to 42 CFR Part 485 Subpart E and Section 125 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

(3) “Hallways,” “Corridors,” and other “Means of egress” shall have the same definitions as provided in the codes and standards in effect at the time of the incident, as identified in Section 1-34-20 and adopted by the Building Codes Council pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 9.

117.200 AMEND NEW PROVISO (GP: First Responder Interoperability) WMC: ADD proviso direct SLED to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to enhance public safety communications. Funds will cover radio user fees for eligible state agencies and first responders, with allocations based on a baseline number of radios per participant. Matching funds are required to receive support. Grants will also be available for local systems to improve interoperability. Remaining funds may be used to expand the system. Funds are held in a separate account and may carry forward. An annual status report is due by October 1 to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means. Sponsor: Rep. Lowe

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso by deleting reference to the procurements by SLED for the administration and coordination of the Palmetto 800 radio system as being exempt from the purchasing procedures of the Consolidated Procurement Code in Chapter 35, Title 11.

SEN: AMEND further to add “a representative of the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association, and a representative of the South Carolina Emergency Medical Service”. Sponsor: Sen. Gambrell

117.200.(GP: First Responder Interoperability) (A) For the current fiscal year, the First Responder Interoperability Program and the funds appropriated to the Department of Administration for this purpose are transferred to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The employees, assets, liabilities, and contracts of the program are also transferred to and become part of SLED. All personnel transferred by this provision are to become employees of SLED with the same compensation, classification, and grade level. Applicable contracts entered by or on behalf of the program are continued and are considered to be devolved upon SLED at the time of the transfer.

(B) SLED is directed to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster

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responses and communications. First Responder Interoperability administration and coordination shall be funded as provided in this act. The cost-proportional funds shall be utilized for radio user fees of state agencies and public safety-first responders (Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement) that participate in the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system (Palmetto 800 participants). SLED, in consultation with the Department of Administration, the Department of Public Safety, the State Emergency Management Division, a representative of the South Carolina Police Chief's Association, a representative of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, a representative of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association, and a representative of the South Carolina Emergency Medical Services Association shall set a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on the technical aspects of the Palmetto 800 radio system and the jurisdictional requirements of the participant. If a Palmetto 800 participant reduces the baseline number of radios in use, the amount of funds allocated for the participant's radio user fees shall be reduced in a proportional amount.

(C) The funds shall also be utilized to provide private county and city radio systems with grant funds to be used for purchases of equipment that supports interoperability with the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system and its users. Grant funds shall be allocated to private county and city radio systems based on the criteria used for Palmetto 800 participants and in amounts proportional to the amounts allocated to support the per-site radio user fees of Palmetto 800 participants. A matching share is required by a Palmetto 800 participant or by a private county or city radio system in order to qualify for receipt of funds pursuant to this proviso. Each fiscal year SLED shall establish the level of match required based upon funding provided by this act. These entities shall be required to furnish such documentation as may be required by the department to verify that the matching funds requirement is met. Upon funding state agency and public safety-first responder user fees and private county and city equipment purchases, any remaining funds may be used to enhance and expand the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. All funds shall be held in a separate account established by the department for the purposes set forth herein. Any unexpended portion of these funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose. In the calculation of any across-the-board budget reduction mandated by the Executive Budget Office or General Assembly, the amount appropriated to SLED for First Responder Interoperability must be excluded from the department's base budget.

(D) SLED shall provide a report on the status of the integration of the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system, which shall include, but not be limited to, a list of entities that are not integrated into the system as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year and the reason why they are not integrated. The report shall be submitted by October first of the current fiscal year to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

117.202 AMEND NEW PROVISO (GP: Redirect of Funds) **WMC:** ADD proviso to redirect funds that were previously appropriated. Sponsor: Rep. Bannister

HOU: ADOPT new proviso.

SFC: AMEND new proviso to include additional redirects to various entities and projects.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

HOU2: AMEND further to include additional redirects to various entities and projects. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

117.202. (GP: Redirect of Funds) Funds previously appropriated are redirected as follows:

(1) The \$750,000 appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, by proviso 118.19(86)(wwwww) to the Town of McColl for Downtown Improvements shall be redirected to be used for the purpose of

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historical buildings preservation in the city of Dillon. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

(2) Funds remaining of the \$2,750,000 appropriated in Act 94 of 2021, by proviso 118.18(51)(e) to the Law Enforcement Training Council Criminal Justice Academy for Emergency Generator for Academy Main Building shall be redirected to be used in the East Dorm Restroom and HVAC System Replacement. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

(3) The \$100,000 appropriated in Act No. 284 of 2016, by proviso 118.16(23)(dd) to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for the York Technical College - Western York Campus shall be redirected for workforce equipment. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

(4) The \$5,086,000 appropriated in Act No. 69 of 2025, by proviso 118.16(27)(l)(i) to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Health Sciences Building shall be redirected for construction of an Advanced Manufacturing Facility. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

(5) Funds appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(B)(56)(G) to the Department of Corrections for Goodman Classroom and Mental Health Services Modular Buildings shall be redirected for the construction of a mental health building at the Graham (Camille Griffin) Correctional Institution.

(6) Funds remaining of the \$500,000 appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, Section 118.19(B)(86)(a) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the American Legion Post 250 Indian Land Veterans Parks shall be redirected to the Land United Foundation.

(7) The \$612,999 appropriated in Act 226 of 2024, by proviso 118.20(21)(g) to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Northeastern Technical College – Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement and the \$750,000 appropriated in Act 229 of 2024, Section 1, Item (21)(f) to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Northeastern Technical College- Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement shall both be redirected to be used for academic and workforce programmatic needs. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

(8) Funds remaining of the \$75,000 appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, by proviso 118.19(86)(fffff) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for Saluda and McCormick County Parks and Recreation Grants shall be redirected as follows: (a) \$25,000 to the McCormick County Parks and Recreation Department; and (b) \$25,000 to the Saluda County Parks and Recreation Department.

(9) The \$100,000 appropriated in Act No. 226 of 2024, by proviso 118.20(85)(mmmm) The South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association – North vs. South All-Star Football Game shall be redirected as follows: (a) \$50,000 shall be redirected to Pickens County for the Pickens County Historical Society, and (b) \$50,000 shall be redirected to the Upper South Carolina Council of the Navy League for the Sea Cadets Youth Program.

(10) The \$10,000 appropriated in Act No. 226 of 2024, by proviso 118.20(85)(iiii) shall be remitted to the General Fund of the State.

117.203 ADD (GP: City of North Augusta Primaries) **HOU:** ADD proviso to allow the City of North Augusta to use interest accrued from the Savannah River Site Litigation Settlement Funds to pay for election primaries held within its jurisdiction. Sponsor: Rep. Hixon
SFC: ADOPT new proviso.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

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117.203. (GP: City of North Augusta Primaries) For the current fiscal year, the City of North Augusta may use interest accrued from any Savannah River Site Litigation Settlement Funds to pay the costs of any election primaries held within its jurisdiction through the 2026 calendar year. The State Election Commission and/or the Aiken County Board of Voter Registration & Elections, as appropriate, shall ensure compliance with this provision, and if the City of North Augusta is in violation, shall notify the State Treasurer's Office, which shall withhold the City of North Augusta's portion of the Aid to Subdivisions, Local Government Fund.

- 117.204 DELETE** (GP: Third Circuit Drug Court Administration) **HOU:** ADD proviso to direct the funds for the Drug Court for the Third Judicial Circuit to be transferred to the Solicitor's Office for the Third Judicial Circuit, and to cap the salary of the drug court judge at a total of \$30,000. **SFC:** DELETE new proviso. **SEN:** ADOPT deletion.

117.204.(GP: Third Circuit Drug Court Administration) DELETED

- 117.205 DELETE** (GP: Administration of Vacant Positions) **HOU:** ADD proviso to require DOA to delete FTE positions in all agencies that have been vacant for over 12 months as of October 31, and to allow each agency to retain a 5% vacancy or minimum of 10 positions, whichever is greater. Allows positions that have been posted for hire to remain, and for the provision not to supersede proviso 57.15 or 91.23. Sponsor: Rep. Ballentine
SFC: DELETE proviso.
SEN: ADOPT deletion.

117.205. (GP: Administration of Vacant Positions) DELETED

- 117.206 AMEND NEW PROVISO** (GP: Name, Image, and Likeness) **SFC:** ADD proviso to prohibit public institutions of higher education from paying intercollegiate athletes for their name, image, and likeness using appropriated funds or tuition revenue.
SEN: AMEND new proviso to add "or revenue derived from required fees paid by students as a cost of attendance". Sponsor: Sen. Massey

117.206. (GP: Name, Image, and Likeness) No appropriated funds or tuition revenue or revenue derived from required fees paid by students as a cost of attendance can be expended by a public institution of higher education to pay an intercollegiate athlete compensation for the use of their name, image, and likeness or for payments as defined by, and authorized pursuant to, the settlement in House v. NCAA.

- 117.207 AMEND** (GP: Scout Motor Site Cost Review) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct the Legislative Audit Council and Office of the Inspector General to jointly review cost overruns tied to the Scout Motors project, including validating the \$150 million request, assessing project management and environmental due diligence, examining decision-making and disclosure of overruns, and identifying potential cost recovery and needed reforms. Directs that the review must also detail payment obligations, risks of default, and the nature of remaining costs. Agencies must fully cooperate, and any evidence of liability must be referred to the Attorney General and the State Ethics Commission with notification to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means. Directs that a joint report is due within 120 days of the effective date of the act, and no funds may be spent on the request until the report is submitted and reviewed by the General Assembly.

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SEN: AMEND new proviso to remove the references to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Allows the requested funds to be utilized to retain third-party professionals and defines third-party professionals. Updates the contents of the review to include the accuracy of the \$150 million request and associated risk, the acquisition and development costs of a flatter tract, the adequacy of the environmental due diligence, the time in which notice was received that the original mitigation package was inadequate, the prudence of commencing upland construction before the wetlands permit was issued, the itemized basis for the road overruns, all phases of construction and applicable information, whether the incentive contract of professional liability remedy provides a basis to recover the overrun, and what systemic reforms to the Department of Commerce are needed. Sponsor: Sen. Davis

HOU2: AMEND further to delete the requirement that no funds shall be expended to satisfy the \$150 million request until the report has been delivered and the General Assembly has enacted authorizing legislation approving the expenditure. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

117.207. (GP: Scout Motor Site Cost Review) (A) With the funds appropriated in this act, the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) shall review cost overruns associated with the Scout Motors manufacturing site in Blythewood, Richland County, incurred in connection with site preparation, road infrastructure and mitigation activities identified in Section 1(B) of Act 3 of 2023, for which the Department of Commerce has requested a \$150 million general fund appropriation, and utilizing these funds shall be authorized to retain third-party professionals, defined in item (G), to the extent it deems necessary to assist in the review.

(B) The review shall address: (1) the accuracy of the \$150 million figure and the risk of further cost growth; (2) whether the acquisition and development costs associated with the Scout Motors Site in Blythewood were greater than they would have been had the Department of Commerce selected a tract that is flatter and more open and whether such a tract was available; (3) the adequacy of the Department of Commerce's original environmental due diligence and consultant qualifications; (4) when the Department of Commerce or its agents received notice that the original mitigation package was inadequate, and what action was taken; (5) the prudence of commencing upland construction before the federal wetlands permit issued, including the decision to retain rather than demobilize heavy equipment during the five-month permit suspension; (6) the itemized basis for the road overruns, distinguishing scheduling disruption from estimation error; (7) all phases of construction, subcontracts, Gantt charts, pay applications, change orders and payments; (8) whether the incentive contract or any professional liability remedy provides a basis to recover overrun costs from responsible parties; and (9) what systemic reforms to the Department of Commerce's project management, environmental due diligence, and legislative reporting practices are needed to prevent recurrence.

(C) The LAC shall also determine: (1) a complete payment schedule identifying each payee, the legal basis, amount, and deadline for each remaining obligation; (2) the amount owed to South Carolina Department of Transportation and whether that interagency obligation warrants the same urgency as payments to private parties; (3) the amount attributable to future environmental remediation, its projected payment schedule, and whether a phased appropriation would satisfy all contractual remaining obligations; (4) whether any portion of the \$150 million reflects contingent or unincurred costs; and (5) whether any remaining obligations are in default or at imminent risk of default and the amount required to cure or prevent that default.

(D) All state agencies shall cooperate fully and produce requested records within fifteen days. The LAC shall have access to all contracts, invoices, correspondence, consultant reports, and permitting and communications records related to the project.

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(E) Where evidence of potential legal liability is found, the LAC shall make appropriate referrals to the Office of the Inspector General and notify the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means within ten days.

(F) A joint written report shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Ways and Means, the Governor, and the Attorney General within 120 days of the effective date of this act.

(G) Any third-party professionals selected to assist in the review shall have expertise in large commercial development projects including site acquisition, environmental permitting, construction management, and cost-estimation to the extent the LAC determines such assistance is necessary or advisable to conduct the review and make the determination required under the provision.

- 117.208. ADD** (GP: Flood Mapping Coordination) **SFC:** Add proviso to direct DNR, SCOR, and EMD to coordinate all flood mapping and related data efforts. Directs the agencies to consult each other to streamline efforts and establish a joint data-sharing protocol to make data available to each agency. Establishes DNR as the lead coordinating agency and requires a report to be submitted describing the efficiency activities and the data-sharing protocol by January 1.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.208. (GP: Flood Mapping Coordination) With the funds appropriated in this act, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Office of Resilience, and the Emergency Management Division shall coordinate all flood mapping and flood-related data efforts to eliminate duplicative work and ensure efficient use of state resources. Before initiating any new flood mapping project or data collection initiative, the agencies shall consult with one another to determine whether the work overlaps with ongoing or planned efforts and, where practicable, consolidate such efforts. The agencies shall establish a joint data-sharing protocol making all flood-related data available to each agency for both long-term planning and real-time emergency response operations. DNR, as lead coordinating agency, shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 1, 2027, describing each agency's flood mapping activities, the data-sharing protocol established, instances in which coordination eliminated duplicative work, and any recommended statutory or regulatory changes to improve interagency coordination.

- 117.209 ADD** (GP: Statewide Data Initiative) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct DOA to operate a Statewide Data Initiative (SDI) to enhance data sharing, management, transparency, and the use of artificial intelligence in state government. Requires state agencies to support SDI by contributing to a statewide data inventory, complying with established data standards and policies, participating in data sharing agreements and pilot projects, and designating staff to assist in developing and implementing the statewide data strategy.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

HOU2: ADOPT new proviso. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey **Note: Proviso 117.206 in HOU2**

117.209. (GP: Statewide Data Initiative) From the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 93, the Department of Administration is directed to operate and support a Statewide Data Initiative (SDI) within the appropriate division of the department. State agencies must coordinate and collaborate with the department as part of the SDI in the establishment of a framework for data sharing, management, and transparency to improve public policy and support the efficient implementation of artificial intelligence. To ensure the coordinated and efficient utilization of state data, state agencies are directed to:

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(1) assist the department in maintaining an enterprise data inventory as part of the SDI by providing descriptions of data created or collected by the agency as requested;

(2) comply with all rules, standards, plans, policies, and technical terminologies established by the department as part of the SDI regarding data creation, security, and privacy;

(3) enter into and comply with interagency data sharing agreements and participate in data sharing pilots for identified use cases; and

(4) designate appropriate personnel to participate in the development of the statewide data strategy and in educational opportunities made available through the SDI.

- 117.210 ADD (GP: Reconciliation) SFC: ADD** proviso to direct the State Treasurer’s Office to implement procedures and reporting to achieve a comprehensive three-way reconciliation of cash and investments across SCEIS systems and external sources, with assistance from the Comptroller General and Department of Administration. Requires the Department of Administration to hire an independent third-party firm to support and verify the reconciliation process, with all relevant state offices participating and reporting outstanding issues. Directs that by December 31 of the current fiscal year, a third-party firm must certify to that the State’s reconciliation processes and reporting meet required standards and have been implemented by the State Treasurer’s Office, Comptroller General’s Office, Office of the State Auditor, and the external joint auditing firm.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.210. (GP: Reconciliation) (A) The State Treasurer’s Office (STO) shall create procedures and reporting to allow the office to conduct a three-way reconciliation of cash and investments that accomplishes the following: (1) reconciles cash and investments custodied by the STO in the Treasury Management module to external third-party sources, to include reconciliations at an individual account level, as well as at the total pooled cash level; (2) reconciles cash and investments custodied by the STO in the Treasury Management module in SCEIS to cash by fund in the Finance module in SCEIS, ensuring that no treasury only funds balances are needed to reconcile; and (3) reconciles cash and investment portfolios custodied by the STO in the Treasury Management module in SCEIS to the Financial module in SCEIS. The Comptroller General’s Office and the Department of Administration shall provide assistance as requested.

(B) Using remaining funds as provided in Section 1 of Act 72 of 2025 and proviso 118.22B(68)(b) of Act 69 of 2025, the Department of Administration shall retain an independent third-party firm with relevant subject matter experience to assist the State by working with the STO, the Comptroller General’s Office, SCEIS, the Office of the State Auditor, and the external joint audit firm contracted by the State Auditor to ensure that the STO creates procedures and reporting that meets the cash and investment reconciliation requirements of the State. All offices must participate in meetings and provide information and analyses as requested by the independent third-party firm. If an office is aware of any current outstanding reconciling item(s), the office must report the item(s) to the independent third-party firm retained by the Department of Administration.

(C) Procurements by the Department of Administration made pursuant to this proviso are exempt from the purchasing procedures of the South Carolina Procurement Code in Chapter 35, Title 11. Upon determination of the relevant subject matter experience, the Department of Administration shall contract directly with the independent third-party firm to perform the required services.

(D) No later than December 31st of the current fiscal year, the third-party firm will provide verification to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means

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Committee that the processes and reporting meet the reconciliation requirements of the State and that the processes and reporting have been adopted for use by the STO, the Comptroller General's Office, the Office of the State Auditor, and the external joint auditing firm contracted by the Office of the State Auditor.

- 117.211 ADD** (GP: Media Reliability Monitoring) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that state agencies are prohibited from using state funds to contract with entities that rate or evaluate the accuracy, bias, or reliability of news and information sources using media reliability monitors, including fact-checking organizations. Directs that this restriction does not apply to contractors that provide audience metrics, demographic data, or media monitoring services for press clipping, aggregation, or public relations purposes.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.211. (GP: Media Reliability Monitoring) For the current fiscal year, a state agency may not use state funds to contract with an advertising agency or other contractor who acts as or uses the services of media reliability monitors. The term "media reliability monitor" means any contractor whose primary or principal function is to rate or rank news and information services for the factual accuracy of their content, whether the content is published online, in print, by audio, or digitally, or by broadcasting via radio, television, cable, streaming service, or any other way news is delivered to the public; or to provide ratings or a subjective evaluation of news and information services regarding misinformation, bias, adherence to journalistic standards, or ethics. The term includes, but is not limited to, organizations that engage in fact checking. The term does not include any contractor that rates media outlets for audience size, viewership, and demographic information; or that monitors media outlets for the purpose of compiling press or video clippings or aggregating news sources for the purpose of public relations and public awareness.

- 117.212 ADD** (GP: Higher Education Annual Business Association Report) **SFC:** ADD proviso to require all public higher education institutions to create a secure system for employees to annually report any compensated outside business activities. Directs that employees must submit disclosures by December 31, and institutions must keep the information confidential and adopt enforcement policies, which must be shared with legislative education committees.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.212.(GP: Higher Education Annual Business Association Report) (A) With the funds appropriated in this act, every public institution of higher education, as defined by Section 59-103-5, shall establish and maintain a secure electronic reporting system for each employee to disclose annually any business with which he is associated. All employees, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and contractual shall report through the secure system. Employees must report on any business, trade, profession, membership, appointment, elected position, or other commercial activity conducted by the employee for compensation, other than the employee's official duties with the institution.

(B) Each employee shall submit this disclosure through the reporting system by December 31st of the current fiscal year. The disclosure shall include: any business with which he is associated; the name of the business; and a general description of the type of work or services performed for the business.

(C) Each institution shall ensure that the reporting system maintains the confidentiality and security of all submitted information and shall adopt policies and procedures necessary to implement and enforce the requirements of this provision, including those addressing noncompliance. A copy of these policies and procedures shall be provided to the Chairmen of

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the Senate Education Committee and House Education and Public Works Committee upon their adoption and upon any subsequent amendments.

(D) Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prohibit an employee from engaging in any outside business activities unless otherwise restricted by state law or institutional policy.

- 117.213 ADD** (GP: Good Faith AED Use) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that a person who in good faith renders emergency care with an AED is entitled to immunity from civil liability provided in Section 44-76-40.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.213.(GP: Good Faith AED Use) For the current fiscal year, a person who, in good faith and gratuitously, renders emergency care or treatment through the use of an automated external defibrillator is entitled to the immunity from civil liability provided in Section 44-76-40, and such immunity shall apply regardless of whether the person has received prior training; provided, however, the person acts without gross negligence, recklessness, or wilful misconduct.

- 117.214 ADD** (GP: Pharmacy Benefit Managers Study Committee) **SFC:** ADD proviso to create a six-member Pharmacy Benefit Managers Study Committee to examine PBM practices, their impact on drug costs and pharmacies, and the effectiveness of current regulations. Directs that the committee will receive staffing support, gather needed data from state agencies, review national practices, and develop recommendations to improve transparency, reduce costs, and protect patient access. Directs that a final report is due by January 15, 2027.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.214. (GP: Pharmacy Benefit Managers Study Committee) (A) There is created the Pharmacy Benefit Managers Study Committee to examine the role, practices, and impact of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) operating in South Carolina.

(B) The study committee shall be comprised of six members as follows: three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three members appointed by the President of the Senate. The Speaker and the President of the Senate shall each designate one of their appointees to serve as co-chairs of the committee.

(C) The General Assembly shall provide staffing and administrative support to the committee. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation but may receive per diem and mileage as provided by law for members of boards, commissions, and committees.

(D) The Department of Insurance, the SC Public Employee Benefit Authority, and other agencies as necessary shall provide documentation and data as requested by the study committee.

(E) The committee's work shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) a review of current PBM practices in South Carolina and nationally, including spread pricing, rebate retention and passthrough, direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees, clawbacks, formulary management, and steering practices;

(2) an analysis of the impact of PBM practices on prescription drug costs for patients, employers, state employee health plans, Medicaid, and other public programs;

(3) an assessment of the effects of PBM practices on pharmacies, including independent, rural, and community pharmacies, with respect to reimbursement rates, financial viability, and patient access to medications;

(4) an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing state laws and regulations governing PBMs, including any gaps in transparency, oversight, or enforcement;

(5) a comparison of PBM regulatory frameworks in other states and any best practices or model legislation that could be adapted for South Carolina; and

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(6) specific legislative, regulatory, or policy recommendations to increase transparency, reduce overall prescription drug costs, protect patient access, ensure fair reimbursement to pharmacies, and promote competition in the PBM marketplace.

(F) The committee shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee no later than January 15, 2027.

- 117.215 ADD** (GP: Petroleum Pipeline Companies) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that the provisions of Section 58-9-2030, as granted under Section 58-7-10 and Chapter 2, Title 28, do not apply to private, for-profit petroleum pipeline companies.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

117.215.(GP: Petroleum Pipeline Companies) The provisions of Section 58-9-2030, as granted under Section 58-7-10 and Chapter 2, Title 28, do not apply to private, for-profit petroleum pipeline companies, including publicly traded for-profit companies, that are not identified within this title as a public utility. These provisions are extended until June 30, 2027.

- 117.216 ADD** (GP: Joint Recycling Study Committee) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct DOT and PRT to convene a study committee to review the Strategic State Plan for litter and propose recommendations to implement a Strategic State Plan for Recycling. Provides for the areas to be studied and the composition of the committee. Sponsor: Sen. Ott

117.216. (GP: Joint Recycling Study Committee) (A) Of the funds appropriated in this act, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall jointly convene a study committee to review the existing Strategic State Plan for Litter, as established by Act 8 of 2015, and propose recommendations for the implementation of a Strategic State Plan for Recycling and any corresponding recommendations to the Take Palmetto Pride in Where You Live Commission.

(B) The committee shall study the following areas:

(1) quantity and sources of litter across the State to include the relative percentage of recyclable materials found in litter;

(2) as available, the cost of local governments to manage litter, illegal dumping, and local recycling;

(3) assessment of existing state and local recycling programs, public awareness campaigns, and enforcement programs including the effectiveness of current penalties and collection of fines;

(4) assessment of the sufficiency of existing state laws and local ordinances related to litter clean-up, prevention, and recycling; and

(5) the cost to local governments to implement a strategic recycling plan as recommended by the study committee.

(C)(1) The study committee shall be comprised of the following:

(a) one member appointed by the Secretary of Transportation;

(b) one member appointed by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism;

(c) one member appointed by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources;

(d) one member appointed by the Secretary of Commerce;

(e) two members appointed by the President of the Senate;

(f) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(g) one member appointed by Governor representing local government interests; and

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(h) three members appointed by the Governor who have expertise in the following fields:

(i) beverage manufacturing, wholesaling, distribution, and retail;

(ii) waste management and recycling; and

(iii) litter prevention.

(2) Of the members selected from the Senate and House of Representatives, the committee shall select a chair and a co-chair, one from each respective body.

(D) Members of the study committee shall serve ex officio and receive no compensation, but may receive mileage, per diem, or subsistence from the department or organization the member represents.

(E) The study committee must submit a research-based plan of recommended actions that can be used statewide to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of Senate Finance Committee no later than March 1, 2027.

- 117.217 ADD (GP: Slash Notation) SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that property tax notices for the current fiscal year must clearly itemize any homestead exemption a taxpayer receives and must also include a notation called “State Legislature Aiding in Saving Homes (SLASH),” showing how much the exemption reduced the tax bill and, if applicable, how much the state reimbursed local taxing authorities on the taxpayer’s behalf. Sponsor: Sen. Goldfinch

117.217. (GP: Slash Notation) From the funds appropriated to the Local Government Fund or otherwise appropriated or authorized in this act and passed through to local taxing entities, for the property tax year that ends during the current fiscal year, every property tax notice or assessment on real property must include an itemized list of any homestead exemption received by the taxpayer and a notation of State Legislature Aiding in Saving Homes (SLASH), the amount in which the individual's property tax bill was reduced, and in the amount, if any, in which the State reimbursed the local taxing jurisdictions on behalf of the individual.

- 117.218 ADD (Solar Manufacturing) SEN:** ADD proviso to prohibit DES from using appropriated funds to permit, approve, or enter compliance agreements for solar panel manufacturing facilities located on property adjacent to a public school. Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

117.218. (GP: Solar Manufacturing) No funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Services in this act may be used to issue permits, approvals, or enter into any consent orders or compliance agreements to allow the manufacturing of solar panel materials, cells, or panels that is located on property that is adjacent to the property line of a public school.

- 117.219 ADD (GP: Ethics Filing) SEN:** ADD proviso to require an ethics filer who reports income derived from funds appropriated in this act to identify the specific state or local government entity from which each type and amount of income was received on their statement of economic interests. Sponsor: Sen. Bennett

117.219. (GP: Ethics Filing) An ethics filer reporting income appropriated by this act on the filer’s statement of economic interests pursuant to Section 8-13-1120(A)(2), shall report the specific State or political subdivision body, agency, board, commission, or entity, for each reported type and amount or value of income.

- 117.220 ADD (GP: Homestead Exemption) SEN:** ADD new proviso to allow any person that is eligible for and claims the exemption pursuant to Section 12-37-250 may claim an additional exemption

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of an additional \$25,000 or \$100,000 if the person: has been a resident of this State for at least 5 property tax years and filed an individual income tax return of this State for at least 5 tax years at any time, has been a resident of this State for at least 10 property tax years and filed an individual income tax return of this State for at least 10 tax years at any time, or was eligible to claim the exemption by 12-37-250 in Property Tax Year 2025. Appropriates funds to reimburse local taxing jurisdictions for this additional exemption, and applies this exemption to the same real estate property taxes. Directs the proviso to not take affect if the exemption amount is increased by statute or if another homestead exemption is enacted by September 1st. Sponsor: Sen. Massey

117.220. (GP: Homestead Exemption) (A) For the property tax year that ends in the current fiscal year, any person that is eligible for and claims the exemption pursuant to Section 12-37-250 may claim an additional exemption, in an amount set forth in subsection (B), if the person:

(1)has been a resident of this State for at least five entire property tax years and filed an individual income tax return for at least five tax years in this State at any time;

(2)has been a resident of this State for at least ten entire property tax years and filed an individual income tax return for at least ten tax years in this State at any time; or

(3)was eligible to claim the exemption pursuant to Section 12-37-250 in Property Tax Year 2025 and otherwise qualifies.

(B) A person who qualifies for this exemption pursuant to subsection (A)(1) qualifies for an additional twenty-five thousand dollar exemption. A person who qualifies for this exemption pursuant to subsection (A)(2) or (A)(3) qualifies for an additional one hundred thousand dollar exemption. The exemption amounts set forth in this subsection are not cumulative and may not be combined.

(C) There is appropriated an amount sufficient to reimburse local taxing jurisdictions for this additional exemption in the same manner as the exemption allowed pursuant to Section 12-37-250 is reimbursed, mutatis mutandis.

(D) For purposes of this proviso, this additional exemption applies to the same real property taxes to which Section 12-37-250 applies.

(E) This proviso shall not take effect if the exemption amount set forth in Section 12-37-250 is increased or if another homestead exemption is enacted by September first of the current fiscal year.

(F) If any subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this proviso is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the General Assembly hereby declares that it would not have passed this proviso, without the subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

117.221 ADD (GP: Debt Report) SEN: ADD new proviso to require political subdivisions who are required to file a report with the State Treasurer on its debt status to also report any installment purchase revenue bonds utilized by the political subdivision for financing public projects. Sponsor: Sen. Corbin

117.221. (GP: Debt Report) From the funds appropriated and authorized in this act, including amounts passed-through to local governments, each political subdivision of this State that is required to file a report with the State Treasurer detailing its debt status for auditing purposes or otherwise, must also include in the report any installment purchase revenue bonds utilized by the political subdivision for the purpose of financing public projects.

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- 117.222 ADD** (GP: Property Tax Bill Payments – Third Party Authorization) **SEN:** Direct counties to accept payments for property tax bills without requiring the owner’s permission so long as proper identifying information is provided, but does not grant any ownership, legal claim, or control over the property, or to allow any changes to mailing addresses. Directs standard fees and procedures to still apply. Sponsor: Sen. Young

117.222. (GP: Property Tax Bill Payments – Third-Party Authorization) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the current fiscal year, any person including, but not limited to, individuals, corporations, associations, nonprofit organizations, or other entities may pay the property tax bill for any real or personal property located in South Carolina. County treasurers and auditors shall accept such payments made on behalf of the property owner of record without requiring proof of authorization from the owner, provided the payment includes the correct tax notice number, parcel identification number, or other sufficient identifying information as required by the county. Payment by a third-party does not confer any ownership interest, lien rights (beyond standard redemption rights under existing law), or other legal claim to the property, except as existing law may allow as to adverse possession. Counties may continue to apply standard processing, convenience fees, if any, and receipt procedures to such payments. Nothing in this proviso authorizes or shall be interpreted to authorize a tax collector to change, update, or substitute the mailing address for subsequent tax notices unless such change is expressly requested by the property owner of record or the owner’s duly authorized agent. This provision applies to taxes billed or due during Fiscal Year 2026-27.

- 117.223 ADD** (GP: Building Leases) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct DOA and RSIC to determine the feasibility of construction and development of two commercial buildings and associated facilities that may include Constitutional officers and state agencies. States that any building developed or constructed is considered an exercise of RSIC’s exclusive authority to invest and manage the Retirement System’s assets, including interest accrued. Requires the department to provide quarterly updates of the progress of implementing this provision to JBRC, and directs the State Treasurer to transfer up to five million dollars from debt service appropriations for this purpose as requested. Allows funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. Sponsor: Sens. Alexander, Peeler, Massey, and Hutto

117.223. (GP: Building Leases) The Department of Administration is authorized and directed to determine with the Retirement System Investment Commission (RSIC) the feasibility of construction and development of up to two commercial buildings and associated facilities that may include as tenants Constitutional officers and state agencies. Any building developed or constructed shall be considered an exercise of RSIC’s exclusive authority to invest and manage the Retirement System’s Assets and any interest in any structure utilized to develop, construct and hold the asset would be treated as an asset of the Retirement System Group Trust. The RSIC decision to facilitate any development or construction is subject to all applicable requirements and to RSIC’s fiduciary obligation to retirement system beneficiaries. The department shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of this proviso to JBRC for review and comment. Up to \$5,000,000 for this purpose shall be paid from excess debt service appropriations, and the State Treasurer shall transfer the funds as requested by the Department for these purposes. Any unexpended funds for planning and implementation may be carried forward and used for the same purposes.

- 117.224 ADD** (GP: Administration of Vacant Positions) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct an agency to eliminate FTE positions that have been vacant for more than 12 months, except for positions that have been posted or are in the hiring process, and allows agencies to retain vacant FTE positions

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when the agency determines the position is necessary to meet operational, programmatic, or strategic needs. Requires each agency to submit a report to the State Office of Human Resources if they retain any FTE vacancies. Sponsor: Sen. Bright

117.224. (GP: Administration of Vacant Positions) (A) Any full-time equivalent (FTE) position in an agency that has been vacant for more than twelve months as of October 31 of the current fiscal year must be deleted by the Department of Administration upon approval by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. Positions that have been posted and/or in the hiring process shall not be deleted. This proviso does not supersede proviso 57.15 or proviso 91.23.

(B) State agencies may retain vacant FTE positions when the agency determines that the position is necessary to meet operational, programmatic, or strategic needs, including but not limited to:

(1) positions requiring extended or specialized recruitment efforts;

(2) positions supported in whole or in part by federal funds, grants, contracts, or other non-general fund revenue sources;

(3) organizational restructuring, reclassification, or realignment of duties; or

(4) delays in hiring due to budgetary uncertainty, program changes, or workforce availability.

(C) Each agency shall maintain documentation supporting the retention of any FTE vacant for more than twelve months as of October 31 of the current fiscal year and shall provide a report to the State Office of Human Resources detailing:

(1) the number of such positions;

(2) the associated funding sources; and

(3) the justification for the FTE retention.

117.225 ADD (GP: Legislator Transparency) SEN: ADD proviso to prohibit members of the General Assembly from receiving funds appropriated in the act, with limited exceptions for legislative compensation and expenses, government employment compensation, and certain contracts, legal services, or awards that comply with state ethics laws and receive prior advisory approval from the appropriate ethics committee. Directs that any violation requires repayment of funds and may result in penalties for misconduct in office. Sponsor: Sen. Climer

117.225. (GP: Legislator Transparency) (A) Members of the General Assembly are prohibited from receiving funds appropriated pursuant to this act except for:

(1) compensation for their legislative service, in-district legislative expense allowance, reimbursements, and per diem payments provided for in Part IA, Section 91 and the corresponding provisos in Part IB, Section 91;

(2) salary, benefits, and appropriate reimbursements commensurate with his employment by a government agency, department, board, or commission;

(3) contracts with the State or its political subdivisions in compliance with Sections 8-13-700(A), 8-13-745(C), and 8-13-775. Prior to receiving initial payment from funds appropriated pursuant to this act for a contract with the State or a political subdivision, a member shall request a formal advisory opinion from the member's ethics committee as to the member's compliance with Sections 8-13-700(A), 8-13-745(C), and 8-13-775. The committee shall issue a formal advisory opinion that must be made available to the public and published on the committee's website. If the committee's opinion is that the member is not in compliance, the member is prohibited from receiving payment from funds appropriated pursuant to this act for the contract;

(4) paid legal representation of the State or its political subdivisions without a contract in compliance with Section 8-13-700(A). Prior to receiving initial payment from funds appropriated pursuant to this act for the legal representation of the State or a political subdivision without a

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contract, a member shall request a formal advisory opinion from the member's ethics committee as to the member's compliance with Section 8-13-700(A). The committee shall issue a formal advisory opinion that must be made available to the public and published on the committee's website. If the committee's opinion is that the member is not in compliance, the member is prohibited from receiving payment from funds appropriated pursuant to this act for the legal representation; or

(5) awards, grants, or scholarships in compliance with Sections 8-13-700(A) and 8-13-795. Prior to receiving an award, grant, or scholarship from funds appropriated pursuant to this act, a member shall request a formal advisory opinion from the member's ethics committee as to the member's compliance with Sections 8-13-700(A) and 8-13-795. The committee shall issue a formal advisory opinion that must be made available to the public and published on the committee's website. If the committee's opinion is that the member is not in compliance, the member is prohibited from receiving the award, grant, or scholarship.

(B) A member of the General Assembly who receives funds in violation of this proviso must return the funds received or is guilty of common law misconduct in office and must be punished as provided by law and must reimburse the state for the funds received.

- 117.226 ADD** (GP: Authorizations for Excess Expenditures) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to prohibit state agencies and entities from expending, obligating, or encumbering funds beyond amounts authorized by the General Assembly or from increasing contract costs without legislative approval. Directs that any cost overruns or expenditures exceeding originally approved amounts must receive subsequent authorization from the General Assembly. Agencies found in violation may be subject to funding withholdings and reporting to the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey **Note: Proviso 117.208 in HOU2.**

117.226. (GP: Authorizations for Excess Expenditures) (A) No agency, department, institution, or other entity shall expend, obligate, or encumber funds in excess of the amounts appropriated or otherwise authorized by the General Assembly, nor shall they amend, modify, extend, or alter any contract in a manner that increases the total cost to the State without expressed authorization. No agency shall incur or approve any cost overrun, budget overage, or expenditure in excess of the amount originally authorized for any program, project, or contract unless such overrun or additional expenditure has been approved by the General Assembly in a subsequent authorization.

(B) Any agency determined to be in violation of this provision shall be subject to a withholding of funds as determined by the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and such violations shall be reported to the respective committees.

- 117.227 ADD** (GP: Continued Monitoring) **HOU2:** ADD proviso to require the Department of Administration to hire an independent third-party firm to monitor the State's progress in implementing recommendations from the AlixPartners forensic accounting report and other related financial oversight studies. Directs the firm to work with the Treasurer, Comptroller General, State Auditor, and Attorney General's Office, and to provide a status update to JBRC by March 15, 2027. Sponsor: Rep. Caskey **Note: Proviso 117.209 in HOU2**

117.227. (GP: Continued Monitoring) In furtherance of and consistent with Sections 1 and 2 of Act 72 of 2025, the Department of Administration shall retain a third-party firm with relevant subject matter experience to assist the State in its continued monitoring of compliance with the recommendations in the AlixPartners forensic accounting report and other relevant studies conducted during Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 by the Office of the State Treasurer,

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the Office of the Comptroller General, and the Office of the State Auditor, with the full cooperation of the aforementioned offices. In monitoring the Offices' compliance with the recommendations, the third-party firm shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General and shall provide an update on the status of recommendations to the Joint Bond Review Committee no later than March 15, 2027.

SECTION 118 - X910 - STATEWIDE REVENUE

- 118.1. AMEND** (SR: Year End Cutoff) Directs year-end expenditure deadlines.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

118.1. (SR: Year End Cutoff) Unless specifically authorized herein, the appropriations provided in Part IA of this act as ordinary expenses of the State Government shall lapse on July 31, ~~2026~~ 2027. State agencies are required to submit all current fiscal year input documents and all electronic workflow for accounts payable transactions to the Office of Comptroller General by July 14, ~~2026~~ 2027. Appropriations for Permanent Improvements, now outstanding or hereafter provided, shall lapse at the end of the second fiscal year in which such appropriations were provided, unless definite commitments shall have been made, with the approval of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority and Joint Bond Review Committee, toward the accomplishment of the purposes for which the appropriations were provided. Appropriations for other specific purposes aside from ordinary operating expenses, now outstanding or hereafter provided, shall lapse at the end of the second fiscal year in which such appropriations were provided, unless definite commitments shall have been made, with the approval of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, toward the accomplishment of the purposes for which the appropriations were provided.

- 118.9. AMEND** (SR: Tax Relief Reserve Fund) Creates the Tax Relief Reserve Fund; directs that accrued interest remain in the fund; and directs the State Treasurer, on December 31, 2025, to transfer from the General Fund any funds identified in this act designated for the Tax Relief Reserve Fund. Directs that the fund may only be used to provide tax relief to businesses and individuals as provided by law and authorizes these funds to be retained, carried forward, and used for the same purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.
HOU: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SFC: ADOPT proviso as amended.
SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

118.9. (SR: Tax Relief Reserve Fund) There is created the Tax Relief Reserve Fund, which shall be separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest accrued by the fund must remain in the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on December 31, ~~2025~~ 2026, the State Treasurer shall transfer funds identified in this act from the General Fund to the Tax Relief Reserve Fund. These funds may only be used to provide tax relief to businesses and individuals as provided by law. Funds within the Tax Relief Reserve Fund shall be retained and carried forward to be used for the same purpose.

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118.19 AMEND (SR: Homestead Exemption Fund) Appropriates \$124,319,000 of revenue from the Homestead Exemption Fund to Part 1A General Funds to provide income tax relief by September 30, 2025.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: AMEND proviso to update the revenue source, fiscal year references, and disbursed amount. Changes income tax relief to property tax relief regarding the disbursement.

SEN: ADOPT proviso as amended.

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

~~\$124,319,000~~ \$120,000,000 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 ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 and shall be available for use in Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27 after September 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, following the Comptroller General's close of the State's book on Fiscal Year ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26.

The State Treasurer shall disburse ~~\$124,319,000~~ \$120,000,000 to Part IA General Fund to provide ~~income~~ property tax relief by September 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

118.20 DELETE (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) Appropriates nonrecurring revenue to various agencies for Fiscal Year 2025-26, generated from specific sources.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

HOU: ADOPT deletion.

SFC: ADOPT deletion.

SEN: ADOPT deletion.

118.20. (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) ~~(A) The source of revenue appropriated in subsection (B) is nonrecurring revenue generated from the following sources:~~

~~(1)\$332,294,362 from Contingency Reserve Fund;~~

~~(2)\$1,226,554,400 from Fiscal Year 2024-25 Projected Surplus;~~

~~(3)\$34,054,856 from Litigation Recovery Account;~~

~~(4)\$1,643,873 from Fiscal Year 2024-25 Projected Debt Service Lapse;~~

~~(5)\$109,752,745 from Fiscal Year 2025-26 Debt Service Appropriated Above Obligations;~~

~~(6)\$2,290,000 from Fiscal Year 2024-25 Governor Vetoes;~~

~~(7)\$6,254,723 from Excess Statewide Employee Benefits;~~

~~(8)\$4,000,000 from Workers' Compensation Commission Overage of IT Project;~~

~~(9)(5,079,000) for Fiscal Year 2024-25 Incremental Income Tax Reduction; and~~

~~(10)any residual certified unappropriated general fund dollars.~~

~~Any restrictions concerning specific utilization of these funds are lifted for the specified fiscal year. The above agency transfers shall occur no later than thirty days after the close of the books on Fiscal Year 2024-25 and shall be available for use in Fiscal Year 2025-26.~~

~~This revenue is deemed to have occurred and is available for use in Fiscal Year 2025-26 after September 1, 2025, following the Comptroller General's close of the state's books on Fiscal Year 2024-25.~~

~~(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.~~

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The State Treasurer shall disburse the following appropriations on February 20, 2026, for the purposes stated, with the exception of items (1) and (68)(b) which shall be disbursed by September 30, 2025.

- (1) ~~F010 General Reserve Fund~~
 - ~~General Reserve Fund Contribution \$99,695,200;~~
- (2) ~~H630 Department of Education~~
 - ~~(a) Education Scholarship Trust Fund \$15,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) High Quality Instructional Materials \$41,585,026;~~
 - ~~(c) School of Workforce Innovation Pilot Phase 2 \$ 5,000,000;~~
- (3) ~~H620 First Steps~~
 - ~~Innovation Investments \$ 2,500,000;~~
- (4) ~~H710 Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School~~
 - ~~(a) Student Recreational \$ 125,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Building and Office Maintenance \$ 600,000;~~
- (5) ~~H750 School for the Deaf and the Blind~~
 - ~~(a) CLRC Roof Repairs \$ 1,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Walker Hall Maintenance and Repairs \$ 500,000;~~
 - ~~(c) HVAC Memminger Hall, CLRC, and Dobson House \$ 1,000,000;~~
- (6) ~~L120 Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe~~
 - ~~(a) De la Howe Hall Site Work \$ 2,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Campus Security Cameras Phase 2 \$ 400,000;~~
 - ~~(c) Meat Processing Lab and Cannery \$ 4,000,000;~~
 - ~~(d) Remodel Hester Cottage \$ 600,000;~~
- (7) ~~H670 Educational Television Commission~~
 - ~~(a) HVAC Replacement \$ 5,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Combined Control Room Modernization \$ 2,000,000;~~
 - ~~(c) Fire Suppression \$ 400,000;~~
 - ~~(d) Facility Security Update \$ 1,000,000;~~
- (8) ~~H640 Governor's School for Arts and Humanities~~
 - ~~(a) Film Equipment for New Art Program \$ 100,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Gallery/Flexible Instructional Space \$ 1,000,000;~~
- (9) ~~H650 Governor's School for Science and Mathematics~~
 - ~~Replacement of 6 Des Champs HVAC Units for Residence
Halls \$ 1,850,000;~~
- (10) ~~H090 The Citadel~~
 - ~~(a) Engineering Building Replacement \$12,900,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Renovation of Workforce Housing \$ 2,000,000;~~
 - ~~(c) Deas Hall Renovation \$ 7,000,000;~~
- (11) ~~H120 Clemson University~~
 - ~~(a) NextGen Computing Complex \$40,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement \$ 4,000,000;~~
- (12) ~~H150 University of Charleston~~
 - ~~Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement \$ 4,000,000;~~
- (13) ~~H170 Coastal Carolina University~~
 - ~~Wheelwright Auditorium Renovation \$ 4,488,000;~~
- (14) ~~H180 Francis Marion University~~
 - ~~(a) Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building
Renovation \$ 2,000,000;~~
 - ~~(b) Hyman Fine Arts Center Building Renovation \$ 5,000,000;~~
 - ~~(c) Highway 327 Crosswalks Project: Securing Safe Passage for~~

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	FMU Students and Staff.....	\$ 750,000;
(15)	H210 Lander University	
	(a) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 2,000,000;
	(b) Marion Carnell Learning Center Renovation.....	\$ 8,000,000;
(16)	H240 South Carolina State University	
	(a) Replacement of Smith Hammond Middleton Convocation Center.....	\$ 5,000,000;
	(b) Renovation of Dr. Maceo O. Nance Hall (Establishment of the New College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Science).....	\$15,000,000;
(17)	H270 University of South Carolina—Columbia	
	(a) Battery Center Facility.....	\$13,200,000;
	(b) Maintenance Repair and Renovation: Coker College Maintenance Renovation.....	\$ 2,000,000;
(18)	H290 University of South Carolina—Aiken	
	Science Building Enhancement and Modernization.....	\$ 8,350,000;
(19)	H340 University of South Carolina—Upstate	
	(a) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$10,000,000;
	(b) Recreation and Tourism Management Center.....	\$ 6,000,000;
(20)	H360 University of South Carolina—Beaufort	
	New Convocation Center.....	\$ 9,250,000;
(21)	H370 University of South Carolina—Lancaster	
	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 1,320,000;
(22)	H380 University of South Carolina—Salkehatchie	
	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 1,400,000;
(23)	H390 University of South Carolina—Sumter	
	(a) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 2,000,000;
	(b) Facilities Management Center.....	\$ 3,000,000;
	(c) Collaboration Lab.....	\$ 5,506,900;
(24)	H400 University of South Carolina—Union	
	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 2,000,000;
(25)	H470 Winthrop University	
	(a) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 4,000,000;
	(b) Administrative Building Renovation.....	\$ 4,620,000;
	(c) Academic Renovations & New Strategic Academic Programs	\$ 2,309,996;
(26)	H510 Medical University of South Carolina	
	(a) College of Medicine Academic Building.....	\$25,000,000;
	(b) Southeastern Health AI Consortium.....	\$ 6,600,000;
	(c) Lancaster Medical Center Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program.....	\$ 5,802,000;
(27)	H590 State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education	
	(a) SC WINS.....	\$34,232,473;
	(b) readySC.....	\$ 4,000,000;
	(c) Make It In SC.....	\$ 1;
	(d) SC Workforce Competitiveness Initiative.....	\$ 500,000;
	(e) Aiken Technical College	
	(i) Equipment Funding.....	\$ 1,818,550;
	(ii) ITC Roof Replacement.....	\$ 594,000;
	(iii) Demolition of the 100/200 and 300 buildings.....	\$ 606,000;
	(iv) Parking Lot Refurbishment.....	\$ 792,000;

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(v)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 2,900,000;
(f)	Central Carolina Technical College	
(i)	Kershaw Campus Expansion	\$ 5,000,000;
(ii)	Technical High School Workforce Center	\$15,000,000;
(iii)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 3,500,000;
(g)	Denmark Technical College	
New Building	Cybersecurity, Energy, Healthcare	\$ ——— 1;
(h)	Florence-Darlington Technical College	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 4,000,000;
(i)	Greenville Technical College	
(i)	Center for Industrial Cyber Security and AI	\$16,000,000;
(ii)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 8,000,000;
(j)	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	
(i)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 2,000,000;
(ii)	Equip Grand Strand Speir Healthcare Building	\$ 6,000,000;
(k)	Midlands Technical College	
(i)	Advanced Trades Center	\$16,000,000;
(ii)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$12,500,000;
(l)	Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	
(i)	Health Sciences Building	\$ 5,086,000;
(ii)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 2,800,000;
(m)	Piedmont Technical College	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 7,000,000;
(n)	Spartanburg Community College	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 9,200,000;
(o)	Technical College of the Lowcountry	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 1,000,000;
(p)	Tri-County Technical College	
(i)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 511,666;
(ii)	Forestry Technician Program Facility	\$ 6,000,000;
(iii)	Diesel Mechanic Training Facility	\$ 2,500,000;
(q)	Trident Technical College	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 4,271,487;
(r)	Williamsburg Technical College	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement		\$ 1,000,000;
(s)	York Technical College	
(i)	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	\$ 4,000,000;
(ii)	Trades Program Expansion	\$12,000,000;
(28)	H790 Department of Archives and History	
(a)	SC American Revolution Sestercennial Commission	\$ 4,000,000;
(b)	Exhibit Hall and Meeting Space Expansion	\$ 1,250,000;
(29)	H910 Arts Commission	
Support Grants for Community Arts Organizations		\$ 1,000,000;
(30)	H950 State Museum Commission	
(a)	Reimagine the Experience Permanent Gallery Improvement Project	\$20,000,000;
(b)	Security Alarm System & Wayfinding Emergency Public Announcement System	\$ 300,000;
(c)	Imagery Server Repository and Backup Expansion	\$ 100,000;
(31)	H960 Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission	

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	(a) International Aspect of the American Civil War Exhibit	\$ 750,000;
	(b) Conrad Wise Chapman Paintings	\$ 150,000;
	(c) South Carolina Vietnam Veterans' Oral Interviews	\$ 30,000;
	(d) Main Gallery Exhibits Updates	\$ 500,000;
(32)	J060 Department of Public Health	
	(a) Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies	\$ 1,600,000;
	(b) Modernizing IT Infrastructure Support Systems	\$10,000,000;
(33)	H730 Department of Vocational Rehabilitation	
	(a) Evaluation VR Center / State Office Repaving	\$ 150,000;
	(b) ITTC/Rehabilitation Engineering Building Repaving	\$ 150,000;
	(c) Dorm Building VR Center Heat Pump Unit Replacement	\$ 73,750;
(34)	J020 Department of Health and Human Services	
	(a) Children's Hospital Collaborative	\$ 2,000,000;
	(b) Statewide Pediatric Bed Enhancements	\$ 2,000,000;
(35)	J120 Department of Mental Health	
	(a) Berkeley and Orangeburg County Jail Based Programs	\$ 800,000;
	(b) Alternative Transportation Program	\$ 2,500,000;
	(c) Inpatient Services Capital Needs	\$ 9,370,000;
(36)	J160 Department of Disabilities and Special Needs	
	(a) Residential Services	\$ 5,000,000;
	(b) South Carolina Genomic Medicine Initiative	\$ 1,000,000;
(37)	L040 Department of Social Services	
	(a) Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM) — DDI Phase	
	\$ 18,590,812;	
	(b) SNAP Employment and Training Funding	\$ 400,000;
(38)	L080 Department of Children's Advocacy	
	IT Operations	\$ 77,000;
(39)	L320 Housing Finance and Development Authority	
	First time Homebuyers Workforce Housing	\$ 5,000,000;
(40)	P120 Forestry Commission	
	(a) Mechanic Recruitment and Retention & Vehicle and Supplies	\$ 63,000;
	(b) Forest Health Capacity	\$ 52,000;
	(c) Prescribed Fire Capacity	\$ 1,852,000;
(41)	P160 Department of Agriculture	
	(a) Equipment Replacement	\$ 1,400,000;
	(b) Regional Farmers Markets	\$ 2,000,000;
(42)	P200 Clemson University Public Service Activities	
	PSA Planned Maintenance and Critical Infrastructure	\$ 3,000,000;
(43)	P210 SC State University Public Service Activities	
	(a) Statewide Extension Agribusiness Development	\$ 650,000;
	(b) Agriculture Innovation Research	\$ 500,000;
	(c) Business Development Training and Assistance	\$ 525,000;
	(d) New Beginner Farmer Assistance	\$ 600,000;
	(e) Future Farm Planning	\$ 250,000;
	(f) Animal Research & Education Center (AREC)	\$ 2,500,000;
(44)	P240 Department of Natural Resources	
	(a) Law Enforcement Equipment	\$ 2,000,000;
	(b) Waterfowl Impoundments Infrastructure Maintenance	\$ 1,500,000;
	(c) Statewide Flood Inundation Map Modeling	\$ 1,500,000;
	(d) Field & Regional Building Maintenance & Construction	\$ 2,000,000;

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(e) State Lakes High Hazard Dams and Spillway Repair	\$27,755,000;
(f) Disaster Relief Grant Match Funding	\$13,333,333;
(g) Waterways Protection Fund (S.367)	\$ 750,000;
(45) P280 Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism	
(a) Agency Property Development	\$15,000,000;
(b) Sports Marketing	\$ 4,000,000;
(c) Destination Specific Marketing Grants	\$ 6,000,000;
(d) Beach Renourishment Grants	\$ 1,524,000;
(e) State Park Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 3,000,000;
(f) Film Incentives	\$ 4,000,000;
(g) SCATR Regional Promotions	\$ 1,100,000;
(h) Tourism Development	\$ 9,000,000;
(46) P320 Department of Commerce	
(a) LocateSC Site Readiness	\$80,000,000;
(b) Airport Enhancements	\$80,000,000;
(c) Irish Trade Commission	\$ 250,000;
(46.1) The funds in item (46)(b) shall be distributed to primary commercial airports as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which had a minimum of 100,000 enplanements per calendar year 2023 data available from the FAA. The funds shall be distributed pro rata based on 2023 FAA data based on fifty percent enplanements and fifty percent cargo with a minimum distribution per eligible airport of two million dollars. Further, the Secretary of Commerce may utilize up to ten million dollars of these funds for the purposes of airport enhancements to further aviation industry economic development at non-primary commercial airports owned by a subdivision of the State of South Carolina.	
(47) P400 SC Conservation Bank	
(a) Conservation Grant Funding	\$25,000,000;
(b) Working Ag Lands Grant Funding	\$ 8,000,000;
(c) State Resource Agency Strategic Land Acquisition	\$20,000,000;
(48) P450 Rural Infrastructure Authority	
(a) Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$12,000,000;
(b) Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	\$15,000,000;
(49) P500 Department of Environmental Services	
(a) Electrical Utilities Permitting	\$ 4,700;
(b) PFAS Pilot Program	\$ 350,000;
(50) B040 Judicial Department	
Case Management System Modernization	\$25,000,000;
(51) E200 Attorney General's Office	
(a) Crime Victim Assistance SAVS Program	\$19,452,149;
(b) Legal Fees	\$ 6,000,000;
(52) E210 Prosecution Coordination Commission	
Agency Operations	\$ 16,375;
(53) D100 State Law Enforcement Division	
(a) Agency Operating	\$ 1,000,000;
(b) Personnel Equipment	\$ 500,000;
(c) Agency IT Operating	\$ 1,000,000;
(54) K050 Department of Public Safety	
(a) School Safety Program	\$ 8,324,448;
(b) Law Enforcement Equipment	\$ 1,000,000;
(c) 9-1-1 IVR costs for SCDPS Implementation	\$ 1,000,000;
(d) Radio Replacement Life Cycling	\$ 500,000;

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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	(e) DMV Headquarters Ground Floor HVAC Renovation	\$ 2,400,000;
(55) N040	Department of Corrections	
	(a) Cell Phone Interdiction.....	\$ 3,500,000;
	(b) Prison Industries Operating Costs	\$ 1,000,000;
	(c) Security Equipment Replacement	\$ 500,000;
	(d) Deferred Maintenance	\$ 2,500,000;
(56) N080	Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services	
	(a) IT Modernization.....	\$ 750,000;
	(b) Agency Fleet Cost	\$ 350,000;
(57) N120	Department of Juvenile Justice	
	IT Ongoing Security Assessment and Remediation	\$ 1,300,000;
(58) R200	Department of Insurance	
	Safe Homes Program	\$ 3,000,000;
(59) R600	Department of Employment and Workforce	
	(a) Statewide Education & Workforce Development Portal.....	\$10,300,000;
	(b) Graduation Alliance.....	\$ 1,000,000;
(60) U120	Department of Transportation	
	(a) Bridge Modernization.....	\$200,000,000;
	(b) Off State Litter	\$ 1,000,000;
	(c) Hurricane Helene.....	\$35,000,000;
(61) U150	Infrastructure Bank Board	
	Act 37 Adjustments	\$ 1,300,000;
(62) U300	Division of Aeronautics	
	Airport Safety and Development.....	\$ 5,000,000;
(63) A010	The Senate	
	Operating Expenses	\$ 500,000;
(64) A050	House of Representatives	
	Operating Expenses	\$ 5,000,000;
(65) A170	Legislative Services Agency	
	Enterprise Software System.....	\$ 8,000,000;
(66) A200	Legislative Audit Council	
	Government Efficiency RFP Review	\$ 10,000;
(67) D300	Office of Resiliency	
	(a) Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund Replenishment..	\$40,000,000;
	(b) MUSC Charleston Medical District Elevated Walkway	\$18,000,000;
	(c) Data Collection/Coordination.....	\$ 1,000,000;
	(d) Watershed Coordination & Planning.....	\$ 5,000,000;
(68) D500	Department of Administration	
	(a) Modernized IT Service Management Platform	\$ 9,000,000;
	(b) Independent Compliance Consultant.....	\$ 1,800,000;
	(c) State Owned Buildings Security Upgrades	\$ 2,929,318;
	(d) State Facilities Master Planning	\$ 725,000;
(69) E240	Adjutant General's Office	
	(a) Armory Revitalization	\$ 2,000,000;
	(b) SCEMD Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund.....	\$ 1,000,000;
	(c) SCEMD SC Public Assistance Program	\$ 3,000,000;
	(d) Graniteville Land Purchase	\$ 185,000;
	(e) SCEMD Declared Disasters Relief	\$ 1;
	(f) Wireless Network support to NG Armories and key facilities .	\$ 1,963,800;
(70) E260	Department of Veterans' Affairs	

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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(a) Military Enhancement Fund	\$ 5,000,000;
(b) E. Roy Stone State Veteran Home Facility Maintenance Improvements	\$ 2,000,000;
(71) E280 Election Commission	
(a) State Matching Funds for 2023 HAVA Grant	\$ 200,000;
(b) Statewide voting system upgrade	\$10,970,755;
(c) Annual Election Costs	\$708,000; and
(72) E550 State Fiscal Accountability	
Authority SPro Procurement Module.....	\$ 3,200,000.

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

~~(D) For the purpose of all items in this provision, funds shall not be disbursed until verification that receiver's organization is registered as a business, nonprofit, or charitable organization with the South Carolina Secretary of State's office. This requirement does not apply to governmental entities or entities created by statute. Upon receipt and verification of all requirements in this act, the funds shall be transferred directly to the grant recipients within ten business days.~~

~~(E) For the purpose of this provision, the Executive Budget Office may authorize the transfer of items among state agencies upon request of the agencies after in consultation with the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.~~

118.21 AMEND NEW PROVISO (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) SFC: ADD new proviso to appropriate nonrecurring revenue to various agencies for Fiscal Year 2026-27, generated from specific sources.

SEN: AMEND new proviso to add directional language for funds in items (40), (44), and (93). Sponsors: Sens. Stubbs, Ott, Graham, and Davis

HOU2: AMEND new proviso to update funding items. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey

118.21. (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) (A) The source of revenue appropriated in subsection (B) is nonrecurring revenue generated from the following sources:

- (1) \$725,892,730 from Contingency Reserve Fund;*
- (2) \$600,781,836 from Fiscal Year 2025-26 Projected Surplus;*
- (3) \$6,782,604 from Litigation Recovery Account;*
- (4) \$2,261,872 from Fiscal Year 2025-26 Projected Debt Service Lapse;*
- (5) \$2,779,854 from Excess Statewide Employee Benefits;*
- (6) \$155,000,000 from FY 2025-26 Hex Fund Surplus;*
- (7) \$45,000,000 from Tax Relief Trust Fund Surplus;*
- (8) \$10,000 from Proviso 117.202 Redirect to General Fund; and*
- (9) any residual certified unappropriated general fund dollars.*

Any restrictions concerning specific utilization of these funds are lifted for the specified fiscal year. The above agency transfers shall occur no later than thirty days after the close of the books on Fiscal Year 2025-26 and shall be available for use in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

This revenue is deemed to have occurred and is available for use in Fiscal Year 2026-27 after September 1, 2026, following the Comptroller General's close of the state's books on Fiscal Year 2025-26.

(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.

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<u>(1) F010 General Reserve Fund</u>	
General Reserve Fund Contribution	\$144,779,082;
<u>(2) Income Tax Rate Reduction 6.0% to 5.21%</u> \$16,207,000;	
<u>(3) Aid to Fire Districts Formula</u> \$96,261,319;	
<u>(4) H630 Department of Education</u>	
(a) Rural and Charter Capital Funding	\$75,000,000;
(b) School Bus Lease/Purchase	\$28,000,000;
<u>(5) H750 School for the Deaf and the Blind</u>	
(a) Grounds Maintenance Equipment Replacement.....	\$ 300,000;
(b) Student Activities Center Improvements	\$ 75,000;
<u>(6) L120 Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe</u>	
Resurfacing Campus Roads and Building New Sidewalks	\$ 1;
<u>(7) H670 Educational Television Commission</u>	
Tower Monitoring and Analysis System	\$ 400,000;
<u>(8) H640 Governor's School for Arts and Humanities</u>	
Campus Access/Security Controls Replacement.....	\$ 250,000;
<u>(9) H030 Commission on Higher Education</u>	
Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP).....	\$ 9,000,000;
<u>(10) H090 The Citadel</u>	
(a) Deas Hall and Duckett Hall Renovations	\$ 4,000,000;
(b) Duckett Hall Renovation.....	\$ 1;
<u>(11) H120 Clemson University</u>	
(a) Clemson University Public Safety.....	\$ 1,786,000;
(b) NextGen Computing Complex	\$ 1;
(c) NextGen Computing Complex and Science Lab Bldg Construction	\$10,000,000;
<u>(12) H150 University of Charleston</u>	
(a) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 5,000,000;
(b) New School of Business Building.....	\$ 1;
<u>(13) H170 Coastal Carolina University</u>	
(a) Lib Jackson Student Union	\$ 1;
(b) Underwater Autonomous Vehicle	\$ 1,350,000;
<u>(14) H180 Francis Marion University</u>	
(a) HVAC Upgrades and Campus Infrastructure.....	\$ 1;
(b) Rogers Library Renovation.....	\$ 5,000,000;
<u>(15) H210 Lander University</u>	
Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....	\$ 7,000,000;
<u>(16) H240 South Carolina State University</u>	
(a) Police Department and Security Enhancements.....	\$15,000,000;
(b) Replacement of Smith Hammond Middleton Convocation/Academic Center.....	\$ 1;
<u>(17) H270 University of South Carolina - Columbia</u>	
(a) Anne Frank Center.....	\$ 750,000;
(b) Center for American Civic Leadership and Public Discourse	\$ 2,500,000;
(c) CPHE Accreditation	\$ 2,000,000;
(d) Institute of Geopolitics, Innovation, and Global Competition....	\$ 2,000,000;
(e) Pharmacy Building on Health Sciences Campus.....	\$ 1;
(f) Savannah River National Laboratory Collaboration	\$ 500,000;
<u>(18) H290 University of South Carolina – Aiken</u>	
(a) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 1;

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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	<u>(b) Penland Building Façade and Welcome Center</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
<u>(19) H340 University of South Carolina - Upstate</u>		
	<u>(a) Academic Health Sciences and Nursing Construction</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(b) Convocation Center</u>	<u>\$ 6,500,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Regional Hospitality and Tourism</u>	<u>\$ 6,000,000;</u>
<u>(20) H360 University of South Carolina - Beaufort</u>		
	<u>(a) Convocation Center and Athletics Complex</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(c) USCB Nursing Education & Simulation Center</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(21) H370 University of South Carolina - Lancaster</u>		
	<u>(a) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Security Call Boxes and Cameras</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(22) H380 University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie</u>		
	<u>Deferred Maintenance and Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(23) H390 University of South Carolina - Sumter</u>		
	<u>(a) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(b) Health, Wellness, and Athletics Center</u>	<u>\$ 8,000,000;</u>
<u>(24) H400 University of South Carolina - Union</u>		
	<u>(a) Construction of Gymnasium/Convocation/Civic Center</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(c) Historic Preservation - Dawkins House</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(25) H470 Winthrop University</u>		
	<u>(a) Administrative Building Renovation</u>	<u>\$ 6,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(c) Winthrop Lake Dam Renovation</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(26) H590 State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education</u>		
	<u>(a) readySC</u>	<u>\$1;</u>
	<u>(b) South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship</u>	
	<u>(SCWINS)</u>	<u>\$51,933,499;</u>
	<u>(c) Aiken Technical College Maintenance, Renovation, and</u>	
	<u>Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Technical College of the Lowcountry Maintenance, Renovation,</u>	
	<u>and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
	<u>(e) Northeastern Technical College Maintenance, Renovation, and</u>	
	<u>Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(f) Denmark Technical College</u>	
	<u>(i) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(ii) Renovation of Industrial Tech Building 200 and 300</u>	<u>\$ 1,750,000;</u>
	<u>(g) Florence-Darlington Technical College</u>	
	<u>(i) Darlington Campus</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(ii) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(h) Greenville Technical College</u>	
	<u>(i) Center for Industrial Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence</u>	<u>\$ 6,500,000;</u>
	<u>(ii) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
	<u>(i) Horry-Georgetown Technical College</u>	
	<u>(i) Construction of General Purpose Building - Conway</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(ii) Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(j) Midlands Technical College</u>	
	<u>(i) Building Renovation and Upfit for Advanced Manufacturing</u>	
	<u>Programs</u>	<u>\$ 6,000,000;</u>

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(ii)	<u>New addition to AMCS Building</u>	<u>\$ 6,000,000;</u>
(k)	<u>Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Advanced Manufacturing Building.....</u>	<u>\$ 8,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
(l)	<u>Piedmont Technical College</u>	
	<u>Technical Innovation Center Greenwood County</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(m)	<u>Spartanburg Community College</u>	
(i)	<u>Biles Campus Property Acquisition.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, Replacement, and Acquisition</u>	<u>\$ 7,000,000;</u>
(n)	<u>Central Carolina Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Broad Street Technical High School</u>	<u>\$12,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(iii)	<u>Renovation of AMTTC.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,694,431;</u>
(o)	<u>Tri-County Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Transportation/Logistics/Utilities Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(p)	<u>Trident Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(ii)	<u>Thornley Campus Buildings 700/800 Defense Sector</u>	
	<u>Advance Manufacturing - SCIEAT</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
(q)	<u>Williamsburg Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Auditorium/Community Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(r)	<u>York Technical College</u>	
(i)	<u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
(ii)	<u>Welding Renovations Building D (Phase 2)</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
(27)	<u>H790 Department of Archives and History</u>	
(a)	<u>Exhibit Hall and Meeting Space Expansion</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
(b)	<u>SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
(28)	<u>H950 State Museum Commission</u>	
(a)	<u>New HVAC Monitoring System.....</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
(b)	<u>Reimagine the Experience</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(c)	<u>Security Upgrades.....</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
(d)	<u>WiFi Expansion.....</u>	<u>\$ 50,000;</u>
(29)	<u>H960 Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission</u>	
	<u>Expansion of Relic Room.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,448,000;</u>
(30)	<u>J060 Department of Public Health</u>	
(a)	<u>Building Bright Beginnings For South Carolina Families</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(b)	<u>Disaster Readiness Fund</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
(c)	<u>Human Coalition Crisis Pregnancy Pilot.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
(d)	<u>Olmstead Act (Act 3 of 2025).....</u>	<u>\$ 577,157;</u>
(31)	<u>H730 Department of Vocational Rehabilitation</u>	
(a)	<u>Beaufort VR Center Repaving.....</u>	<u>\$ 168,750;</u>
(b)	<u>Muscular Development Center Reroofing</u>	<u>\$ 112,500;</u>
(c)	<u>State Office Building - Replacement of VAV Boxes</u>	<u>\$ 147,500;</u>
(32)	<u>J020 Department of Health and Human Services</u>	
	<u>Children's Hospital Collaborative.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(33)	<u>J080 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities</u>	
(a)	<u>Alternative Transportation Program</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(b)	<u>Information Technology and Cyber Security Modernization</u>	<u>\$14,100,000;</u>

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	<u>(c) OIDD Community Owned Homes.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(34) L040</u>	<u>Department of Social Services</u>	
	<u>(a) ESSAM.....</u>	<u>\$25,116,538;</u>
	<u>(b) Healthy Bucks.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(35) L240</u>	<u>Commission for the Blind</u>	
	<u>Contract for Blind and Visually Impaired Services.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(36) L080</u>	<u>Department of Children's Advocacy</u>	
	<u>(a) Children's Trust Federal Match.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
	<u>(b) New Hire Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 13,500;</u>
	<u>(c) South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
<u>(37) L320</u>	<u>Housing Finance and Development Authority</u>	
	<u>Made It Home!.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(38) P120</u>	<u>Forestry Commission</u>	
	<u>(a) Firefighting Air Water Tanker Contract.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(b) Information Technology.....</u>	<u>\$ 560,000;</u>
<u>(39) P160</u>	<u>Department of Agriculture</u>	
	<u>(a) Biofuel Agribusiness Development.....</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Farm Assistance and Resilience Measures Program (FARM)....</u>	<u>\$35,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Growing Agribusiness Fund.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(d) Microbiological Testing Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(40) P200</u>	<u>Clemson University Public Service Activities</u>	
	<u>Infrastructure and Safety Upgrades.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
<u>(41) P210</u>	<u>SC State University Public Service Activities</u>	
	<u>(a) Animal Research & Education Center (AREC).....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(b) Camp Daniels Health and Wellness Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(42) P240</u>	<u>Department of Natural Resources</u>	
	<u>(a) Agency Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Conservation Districts.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(c) Conservation Education.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Field and Regional Buildings.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(e) Fish Hatchery Renovations.....</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
	<u>(f) Lake Paul Wallace Dam and Other High Hazard Dams.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(g) Land Conservation.....</u>	<u>\$27,500,000;</u>
	<u>(h) Law Enforcement Equipment and Uniforms.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(i) Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping Project - Final Phase.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(j) Technology Equipment Replacement Cycle.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(k) Waterfowl Area Enhancements.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
<u>(43) P280</u>	<u>Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism</u>	
	<u>(a) Beach Renourishment Grants.....</u>	<u>\$ 7,500,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Destination Specific Tourism Marketing Grants.....</u>	<u>\$ 9,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Leisure Market Expansion.....</u>	<u>\$10,500,000;</u>
	<u>(d) New Welcome Centers Inflationary Construction Costs.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(e) Palmetto Trail.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(f) Play it Forward State Park Request.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(g) Regional Promotions.....</u>	<u>\$ 550,000;</u>
	<u>(h) Sports Marketing Grants.....</u>	<u>\$ 8,500,000;</u>
	<u>(i) Venues at Arsenal Hill Construction Project.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(44) P320</u>	<u>Department of Commerce</u>	
	<u>(a) Closing Fund.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
	<u>(b) LocateSC.....</u>	<u>\$1;</u>

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(c)	<i>Repay Intra-Agency Loan</i>	\$	1;
(d)	<i>Rural Development</i>	\$	1;
(e)	<i>SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership</i>	\$	1;
(45)	<i>P360 Patriots Point Development Authority</i>		
	<i>Multi-use Visitor Experience and Operational Facility</i>	\$10,000,000;	
(46)	<i>P400 SC Conservation Bank</i>		
(a)	<i>Agriculture - Farm Conservation Grants</i>	\$	1,000,000;
(b)	<i>Land Conservation</i>	\$35,000,000;	
(c)	<i>State Resource Agency Strategic Land Acquisition for DNR</i>	\$	1;
(d)	<i>State Resource Agency Strategic Land Acquisition for Forestry Commission</i>	\$	1;
(47)	<i>P450 Rural Infrastructure Authority</i>		
(a)	<i>Rural Infrastructure Fund</i>	\$10,000,000;	
(b)	<i>Statewide Water & Sewer Fund</i>	\$10,000,000;	
(48)	<i>P500 Department of Environmental Services</i>		
(a)	<i>Fleet Vehicle Replacement</i>	\$	1;
(b)	<i>Pinewood Site Custodial Trust</i>	\$	1;
(49)	<i>B040 Judicial Department</i>		
(a)	<i>Case Management System Modernization</i>	\$10,000,000;	
(b)	<i>Rural County Courthouse Stabilization Fund</i>	\$19,750,000;	
(50)	<i>E200 Attorney General's Office</i>		
(a)	<i>Attorney Fees</i>	\$	1,750,000;
(b)	<i>Building Lease Increase</i>	\$	550,000;
(c)	<i>Cyber Vault Storage Support for Ransomware Protection</i>	\$	2,650,000;
(51)	<i>E210 Prosecution Coordination Commission</i>		
	<i>Building Lease Increase</i>	\$	53,575;
(52)	<i>D100 State Law Enforcement Division</i>		
(a)	<i>AI Investigative Tool</i>	\$	150,000;
(b)	<i>Aviation Hangar Construction</i>	\$	1;
(c)	<i>Beverage Enforcement (H. 3924)</i>	\$	1;
(d)	<i>BWC Replacement</i>	\$	450,000;
(e)	<i>Higher Education Campus Mapping Data Program</i>	\$	1;
(f)	<i>Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs</i>	\$	3,000,000;
(g)	<i>Logistics Security Initiative</i>	\$	1;
(h)	<i>Service Contract 800MHz Expansion</i>	\$13,420,000;	
(i)	<i>Workers' Compensation and Insurance Reserve Fund Rate Increases</i>	\$	998,066;
(53)	<i>K050 Department of Public Safety</i>		
(a)	<i>Building Maintenance</i>	\$	750,000;
(b)	<i>Law Enforcement Equipment</i>	\$	1,920,653;
(c)	<i>Radio Replacement Life Cycle</i>	\$	1,000,000;
(d)	<i>Radio System Operation and Maintenance</i>	\$	1,901,303;
(e)	<i>Telecommunications Consoles Upgrades</i>	\$	1;
(54)	<i>N200 Law Enforcement Training Council</i>		
(a)	<i>Building Maintenance</i>	\$	252,810;
(b)	<i>East Dorm Restrooms Renovation and HVAC Replacement</i>	\$	841,036;
(55)	<i>N040 Department of Corrections</i>		
(a)	<i>Broad River Complex - New Secure Housing Unit</i>	\$	1;
(b)	<i>Deferred Maintenance</i>	\$15,000,000;	
(c)	<i>Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance</i>	\$	4,000,000;

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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<u>(56) N080 Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</u>	
(a) Digital Fingerprinting Contract Renewal	\$ 2,065,830;
(b) Operating - IT Needs	\$ 1;
<u>(57) N120 Department of Juvenile Justice</u>	
(a) Deferred Maintenance	\$ 4,500,000;
(b) Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs.....	\$ 3,000,000;
<u>(58) L460 Commission For Community Advancement & Engagement</u>	
(a) Agency Rebranding.....	\$ 250,000;
(b) Small Business Grants Program.....	\$ 250,000;
<u>(59) R280 Department of Consumer Affairs</u>	
211 Network (S. 697).....	\$ 1,200,000;
<u>(60) R360 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation</u>	
Technology Shared Services Implementation.....	\$ 2,578,357;
<u>(61) R400 Department of Motor Vehicles</u>	
Branch Office Security Upgrades.....	\$ 1;
<u>(62) R600 Department of Employment and Workforce</u>	
(a) Graduation Alliance	\$ 1,000,000;
(b) Technology Shared Services Implementation	\$ 887,000;
(c) SC Bio.....	\$ 500,000;
<u>(63) U120 Department of Transportation</u>	
(a) Bridge Modernization.....	\$50,000,000;
(b) Forced Relocation Program.....	\$ 1;
(c) Interstate Acceleration.....	\$25,000,000;
(d) Litter - Off Interstate.....	\$ 1;
(e) Road Buyback Program.....	\$12,500,000;
<u>(63.1) The funds in item (63)(c) shall be distributed to the Department of Transportation for the purpose of Interstate Acceleration. Of the funds appropriated, twelve million dollars shall be used for the purpose of funding the relocation of sewer and water infrastructure necessary to complete the department's project at the state's top interstate pinch point. The funds shall be used to relocate water and sewer infrastructure that is not eligible for full or partial cost reimbursement under Act 36 of 2019 in Section 57-5-880. The contracting and construction of the relocation shall be managed by the department.</u>	
<u>(64) U200 County Transportation Funds</u>	
CTC Acceleration	\$42,700,000;
<u>(65) U300 Division of Aeronautics</u>	
(a) Airport Development Program	\$ 1;
(b) Main Building Maintenance	\$ 1;
(c) Statewide Airport Infrastructure Improvements	\$60,000,000;
<u>(65.1) Of the funds appropriated in item (65)(a) and (c), the Florence Regional Airport shall receive \$8,000,000 for statewide airport infrastructure improvements. The remaining funds in item (65)(a) and (c) shall be distributed to primary commercial airports as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which had a minimum of 100,000 enplanements per calendar year 2023 data available from the FAA. The funds shall be distributed pro-rata based on 2023 FAA data based on fifty percent enplanements and fifty percent cargo with a minimum distribution per eligible airport of two million dollars.</u>	
<u>(66) A010 The Senate</u>	
Redistricting Litigation.....	\$ 1,000,000;
<u>(67) A050 House of Representatives</u>	
(a) Operating and Security Upgrades	\$ 2,460,000;
(b) Redistricting Litigation.....	\$ 1,000,000;

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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<u>(68) A170 Legislative Services Agency</u>	
<u>(a) Data Center Power Backup</u>	\$ 600,000;
<u>(b) Enterprise Software Systems</u>	\$ 8,000,000;
<u>(c) Other Operating Expenses</u>	\$ 500,000;
<u>(69) D050 Governor's Office - Executive Control of the State</u>	
<u>Administration Transition Costs</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
<u>(70) D300 Office of Resilience</u>	
<u>(a) Bridge Box Flood Monitoring Program</u>	\$ 1;
<u>(b) Captain Sam's Spit Settlement</u>	\$32,000,000;
<u>(c) River Debris Assessment</u>	\$ 1;
<u>(d) Statewide Mitigation Projects</u>	\$ 1;
<u>(e) City of Summerville Critical Public Safety Events</u>	\$ 4,000,000;
<u>(70.1) Of the funds appropriated for the City of Summerville in this item, the funds must be used to ensure critical systems and public safety campuses operate during hurricanes, severe weather, and prolonged power outages.</u>	
<u>(71) D500 Department of Administration</u>	
<u>(a) Office of Statewide Data</u>	\$ 4,000,000;
<u>(b) State House Security</u>	\$10,143,590;
<u>(72) D250 Office of Inspector General</u>	
<u>Investigative Capacity and Compliance Personnel</u>	\$ 38,156;
<u>(73) E240 Adjutant General's Office</u>	
<u>(a) SCEMD - Emergency Management Performance Grant Supplement</u>	
	\$ 1;
<u>(b) SCEMD - SC Public Assistance Program</u>	\$ 1;
<u>(c) SCEMD - State EOC Construction</u>	\$10,000,000;
<u>(74) E260 Department of Veterans' Affairs</u>	
<u>Military Enhancement Fund</u>	\$ 7,000,000;
<u>(75) E280 Election Commission</u>	
<u>(a) HAVA Grant Match</u>	\$ 54,545;
<u>(b) Statewide Voting System Upgrade</u>	\$10,587,378;
<u>(76) E550 State Fiscal Accountability Authority</u>	
<u>SCPro - SCEIS Procurement Module</u>	\$ 9,500,000;
<u>(77) F270 SFAA - State Auditor's Office</u>	
<u>Legal Fees</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
<u>(78) F500 Public Employee Benefit Authority</u>	
<u>JSRS Retirement For Family Court Judge Salaries</u>	\$ 3,896,000;
<u>(79) H630 Department of Education</u>	
<u>(a) City of Marion - Children's Education Outreach Partnership</u>	\$ 80,000;
<u>(b) SME Prime - Manufacturing Partnership with Mauldin High School</u>	\$ 400,000;
<u>(c) PRISMS Virtual Reality Headsets</u>	\$ 1,600,000;
<u>(d) Meyer Center - Relocation Costs</u>	\$ 3,000,000;
<u>(e) FIRST SC - Robotics Education and STEM</u>	\$ 150,000;
<u>(f) City of Charleston - Pink House Building Improvements</u>	\$ 135,000;
<u>(g) Rock Hill School District - Applied Technology Center</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
<u>(h) Jasper County School District - Real Champions, Inc</u>	\$ 550,000;
<u>(i) Pickens County School District - Gateway to Innovation</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
<u>(j) City of Greenville - Pleasant Valley Connections</u>	\$ 500,000;
<u>(k) Spartanburg School District Two - Chesnee High School Crosswalk</u>	\$ 750,000;

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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<i>(l) United Way of the Midlands - Young Men United.....</i>	<i>\$ 500,000;</i>
<i>(m) E3 Foundation - Parental and Youth Advocacy</i>	<i>\$ 400,000;</i>
<i>(n) Chesterfield County School District - ADA Compliance.....</i>	<i>\$ 1,500,000;</i>
<i>(o) Special Olympics of South Carolina.....</i>	<i>\$ 300,000;</i>
<i>(p) Spartanburg County - Daniel Morgan Technology Center</i>	<i>\$ 1;</i>
<i>(80) H030 Commission on Higher Education</i>	
<i> Riley Institute at Furman - South Carolina Afterschool Leaders</i>	
<i> Empowered.....</i>	<i>\$ 350,000;</i>
<i>(81) H120 Clemson University</i>	
<i> Due West Robotics - Palmetto Innovation and Technology Center</i>	<i>\$ \$350,000;</i>
<i>(82) H150 University of Charleston</i>	
<i> South Carolina African American Tourism Council</i>	<i>\$ \$100,000;</i>
<i>(83) H270 University of South Carolina - Columbia</i>	
<i> (a) Congaree Riverfront District Project</i>	<i>\$ 5,000,000;</i>
<i> (b) Safe Baby Court.....</i>	<i>\$ 500,000;</i>
<i> (c) Warfighters Musculoskeletal Strength and Injury Prevention</i>	
<i> Program</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000;</i>
<i>(84) H360 University of South Carolina – Beaufort</i>	
<i> (a) AI Innovation Institute</i>	<i>\$ 5,000,000;</i>
<i> (b) Alliance for Lowcountry Research Education and Research</i>	<i>\$ 500,000;</i>
<i>(85) H590 State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education</i>	
<i> Williamsburg Technical College –Commercial Driver's License</i>	
<i> Training Pad.....</i>	<i>\$ 428,695;</i>
<i>(86) H790 Department of Archives and History</i>	
<i> (a) South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial</i>	
<i> Commission</i>	<i>\$ 15,000;</i>
<i> (b) City of Greenville - Preservation of Historical Property</i>	<i>\$ 950,000;</i>
<i> (c) City of Loris - Loris High School Memorial Site.....</i>	<i>\$ 350,000;</i>
<i> (d) Pickens County - Hagood Mill Historic Site.....</i>	<i>\$ 2,000,000;</i>
<i> (e) Dorchester Heritage Center - Inland Lowcountry History and</i>	
<i> Event Facility.....</i>	<i>\$ 445,000;</i>
<i> (f) Town of Mount Pleasant - 1904 Long Point Schoolhouse.....</i>	<i>\$ 250,000;</i>
<i> (g) Richland County - Randolph Cemetery</i>	<i>\$ 100,000;</i>
<i>(87) H910 Arts Commission</i>	
<i> (a) City of Rock Hill - Marlie Center</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000;</i>
<i> (b) Arts Center of Coastal Carolina Renovations</i>	<i>\$ 1;</i>
<i>(88) H950 State Museum Commission</i>	
<i> South Carolina State Firefighters' Association –Fire Heritage</i>	
<i> Center and Museum.....</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000;</i>
<i>(89) J060 Department of Public Health</i>	
<i> (a) Town of Ridgeland - Operation Patriots FOB Wellness and</i>	
<i> Resource Center</i>	<i>\$ 2,500,000;</i>
<i> (b) Health Services District of Kershaw County –Health and</i>	
<i> Community Center.....</i>	<i>\$ 1,000,000;</i>
<i> (c) City of Aiken - Aiken's Center of Hope</i>	<i>\$ 2,000,000;</i>
<i> (d) Anderson County - Medical Emergency Shelter</i>	<i>\$ 891,455;</i>
<i> (e) Oconee County - Oconee Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>\$ 1;</i>
<i> (f) Charleston County - EMS Headquarters.....</i>	<i>\$ 1;</i>
<i> (g) Edgefield County EMS Headquarter Building</i>	<i>\$ 3,000,000;</i>
<i>(90) H730 Department of Vocational Rehabilitation</i>	

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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	<u>Trinity Educational Community Center Project TECH.....</u>	\$ 300,000;
(91)	<u>J020 Department of Health and Human Services</u>	
	<u>(a) Tender Hearts Maternity Home - New Maternity Home</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
	<u>(b) City of Aiken - Umoja Village Community Projects</u>	<u>\$ 300,000;</u>
	<u>(c) PRISMA Health - Sickle Cell Disease Lifespan Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Beaufort County - Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry</u>	<u>\$ 50,000;</u>
	<u>(e) Richland County - Wiley Kennedy Foundation Thriving Communities</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
	<u>(f) New Morning - Family Planning Initiative.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
(92)	<u>J080 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities</u>	
	<u>(a) FAVOR Upstate - Addiction Recovery Services</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Our Place of Hope - Mental Illness Support Programs</u>	<u>\$ 175,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Brain Injury Association of South Carolina – Outreach and Education.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Community Medicine Foundation - Sickle Cell.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
(93)	<u>L040 Department of Social Services</u>	
	<u>(a) City of Hardeeville - Bluffton Self-Help Fresh Food Program ...</u>	<u>\$ 50,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Colleton County - Johnsville Community Center</u>	<u>\$ 450,000;</u>
(94)	<u>L060 Department on Aging</u>	
	<u>Williamsburg County - Vital Aging Center ADA Compliance</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
(95)	<u>L320 Housing Finance and Development Authority</u>	
	<u>(a) City of Georgetown - Housing Redevelopment Authority.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
	<u>(b) City of Greenville - Neighborhood Infrastructure</u>	<u>\$ 1,600,000;</u>
	<u>(c) City of Columbia - Fairwold and College Place Housing.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
	<u>(d) City of Columbia - Neighborhood Revitalization</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(e) City of Lancaster - Ellen Dean Building Historic Renovation ...</u>	<u>\$ 991,000;</u>
	<u>(f) City of Hartsville - Residential Housing Repair</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
(96)	<u>P160 Department of Agriculture</u>	
	<u>(a) Town of Blythewood - Farmers Market Pavillion</u>	<u>\$ 650,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Laurens County - Agricultural Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) City of York - Project Green Landing.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
(97)	<u>P240 Department of Natural Resources</u>	
	<u>(a) Pawmetto Lifeline - Spaying and Neutering Programs</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Town of Port Royal - Shrimp Dock Redevelopment</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Florence County - Land Conservation</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Marlboro County - Animal Shelter</u>	<u>\$ 90,000;</u>
	<u>(e) City of North Charleston - Charleston Animal Society</u>	<u>\$ 1,250,000;</u>
(98)	<u>P280 Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism</u>	
	<u>(a) Williamsburg County - Muddy Creek Community Center and Park</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Williamsburg County - Chavis One Stop Complex Splash Pad... </u>	<u>\$ 350,000;</u>
	<u>(c) City of North Myrtle Beach - Boardwalk.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(d) City of Greenville - Visit Greenville (US Bowling Congress Open Champ).....</u>	<u>\$ 600,000;</u>
	<u>(e) City of Columbia - Sims Park Revitalization</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
	<u>(f) City of Columbia - Hampton Park Walking Path Restoration....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
	<u>(g) Town of Six Mile - Ponderosa Park Safety Lighting.....</u>	<u>\$ 300,000;</u>
	<u>(h) Town of Six Mile - Bryson Children's Park</u>	<u>\$ 75,000;</u>
	<u>(i) City of Travelers Rest - Community Recreation Center and Pool</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
	<u>(j) Lexington County - Ballpark Road Baseball Complex</u>	<u>\$ 1,342,563;</u>

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES
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<u>(k) Town of Springdale - Community Center</u>	<u>\$ 1,200,000;</u>
<u>(l) South Carolina National Heritage Corridor - SC 7</u>	<u>\$ 300,000;</u>
<u>(m) South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(n) Pickens County - YMCA Brotherton Family Child Development and Training Center</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(o) Greenville Zoo and Riverbanks Zoo</u>	<u>\$ 3,300,000;</u>
<u>(p) City of Seneca - Recreation Complex</u>	<u>\$ 800,000;</u>
<u>(q) City of Beaufort - Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park</u>	<u>\$ 5,000,000;</u>
<u>(r) Towns of Batesburg-Leesville - Haynes Auditorium Renovation</u>	<u>\$ 1,142,965;</u>
<u>(s) Town of Cameron - Pickleball Court Fencing.....</u>	<u>\$ 20,000;</u>
<u>(t) Horry County - Loris Recreation Center</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(u) City of Dillon - Recreation Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(v) Brookgreen Gardens - Purdy Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(w) Pickens County - Dacusville Community Center Repairs</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(x) York School District - Jefferson Field</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(y) Town of Lane - Digital Lane Youth Center Repairs</u>	<u>\$ 158,000;</u>
<u>(z) Florence County - Tennis Court Refurbishment</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
<u>(aa) Town of Kingstree - Recreation Center and Canteen Building Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(bb) Charleston County - Gullah Geechee Cultural Community Center</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(cc) Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium Commission - Renovation...</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(dd) Fairfield County - Ridgeway Playground.....</u>	<u>\$ 34,460;</u>
<u>(ee) Horry County - Carolina Forest Recreation Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(ff) Lancaster County - Flat Creek Park Walking Track.....</u>	<u>\$ 391,000;</u>
<u>(gg) City of Hartsville - The Center Theater Renovation.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(hh) Santee-Lynches COG - Historic Camden</u>	<u>\$ 260,000;</u>
<u>(ii) Spartanburg County - Daniel Morgan Trail System.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(jj) City of Goose Creek - Creekside Park Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
<u>(kk) City of North Charleston - Northwoods Park</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(ll) Spartanburg County - Youth Athletic Association.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(mm) York County - Worth Mountain Park</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(nn) Town of Cowpens - East Spartanburg Sports Center</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
<u>(oo) Town of Van Wyck - Park and Green Space.....</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(pp) City of Lancaster - Lindsay Pettus Greenway</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
<u>(qq) City of Hardeeville - Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
<u>(rr) Town of Bluffton - Pathway and Recreation Facilities.....</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(ss) Aiken County Public Schools - Midland Valley Recreation Association</u>	<u>\$ 70,000;</u>
<u>(tt) Sumter County - Pack's Landing Recreation Park</u>	<u>\$ 2,595,000;</u>
<u>(uu) York County - Catawba Bend Greenway.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(vv) Kershaw County - Knights Hill Park Walking Trail.....</u>	<u>\$ 185,000;</u>
<u>(ww) Kershaw County - Cassatt Park Walking Trail.....</u>	<u>\$ 120,000;</u>
<u>(xx) City of Columbia - Emily Douglas Park Renovations</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(yy) City of Columbia - Bridge to the Greenway</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
<u>(zz) City of Sumter - YMCA</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(aaa) City of Hanahan - Splash Pad</u>	<u>\$ 948,771;</u>
<u>(bbb) South Carolina Aquarium - Critical Building Infrastructure...</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(ccc) City of Mauldin - Multipurpose Stadium.....</u>	<u>\$ 6,000,000;</u>
<u>(ddd) City of Sumter - Broad Street Trailhead - Skate Park and</u>	

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	<u>Pump Track.....</u>	\$ 2,000,000;
<u>(eee)</u>	<u>City of Sumter - West End Park</u>	<u>\$ 1,250,000;</u>
<u>(fff)</u>	<u>City of Sumter - Riley Park Exterior Enhancements.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,250,000;</u>
<u>(ggg)</u>	<u>City of Darlington - Public Swimming Pool.....</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(hhh)</u>	<u>City of Clemson - Abernathy Park Enhancement Project</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(iii)</u>	<u>City of Westminster - Westminster Recreational Fields</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(jjj)</u>	<u>Edisto Island Community Recreation Area - Edisto Island</u>	
	<u>Youth Recreation</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(kkk)</u>	<u>Anderson County - McFall's Landing Renovations.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(lll)</u>	<u>Georgetown County - Murrells Inlet Landing Ramp</u>	
	<u>Replacement</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(mmm)</u>	<u>Berkley County - Live Oak Complex.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(nnn)</u>	<u>City of Conway - Historic Railroad Trestle Conversion to</u>	
	<u>ADA Accessible Pedestrian extension of Riverwalk.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(ooo)</u>	<u>City of Conway - Restoration of the Century Theatre</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(ppp)</u>	<u>Greenville Arena Special Purpose District - Renovations</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(qqq)</u>	<u>Richland County - Recreation Commission - Trenholm Park</u>	
	<u>Renovation Project.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(rrr)</u>	<u>Marion County - Community Center</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(sss)</u>	<u>City of Rock Hill - Lige Street Park.....</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(ttt)</u>	<u>City of Rock Hill - Southland Park.....</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(uuu)</u>	<u>Beach Cat Sailors of Hilton Head, LLC.....</u>	<u>\$ 300,000;</u>
<u>(99)</u>	<u>P320 Department of Commerce</u>	
	<u>(a) Myrtle Beach Cable Landing Site Prep.....</u>	<u>\$ 7,500,000;</u>
	<u>(b) SCTAC – Defense Aircraft Paint Hangar.....</u>	<u>\$ 7,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Town of Tatum - Commercial Site Project</u>	<u>\$ 90,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Lancaster County - Heath Springs Business Park Industrial</u>	
	<u>Site Readiness.....</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
	<u>(e) City of Columbia - Congaree Riverfront District</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(100)</u>	<u>P360 Patriots Point Development Authority</u>	
	<u>Medal of Honor Museum.....</u>	<u>\$ 7,924,492;</u>
<u>(101)</u>	<u>P450 Rural Infrastructure Authority</u>	
	<u>(a) City of Cayce - Floodwater Removal Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
	<u>(b) Lake Marion Regional Water Agency - Transmission Lines</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
	<u>(c) Town of Saint George - Water Tank Project</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(d) Easley Combined Utilities - Middle Branch Expansion</u>	<u>\$ 875,000;</u>
	<u>(e) City of Goose Creek - Stormwater Piping on SR-728.....</u>	<u>\$ 700,000;</u>
	<u>(f) James Island Public Service District - Wastewater Pump</u>	
	<u>Station Rehabilitation.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
	<u>(g) Pickens County - Regional Joint Water System.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
	<u>(h) City of Florence - Freedom Blvd Water Line Extension.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
	<u>(i) City of Lake City - Acline Avenue Drainage.....</u>	<u>\$ 550,000;</u>
	<u>(j) City of Florence - Water and Sewer Infrastructure.....</u>	<u>\$ 5,200,000;</u>
	<u>(k) Town of Kershaw - Little Lynches River Water Project</u>	<u>\$ 900,000;</u>
	<u>(l) Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority - Alljoy Sewer</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
	<u>(m) Clarendon County - Water Extension.....</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
	<u>(n) City of York - Wastewater Lift Station Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
	<u>(o) City of Sumter - Lift Station Improvement</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
	<u>(p) City of Sumter - Water & Sewer Rehabilitation.....</u>	<u>\$ 5,300,000;</u>
	<u>(q) City of Charleston - Orleans Road Drainage Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>

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(r)	<u>Greenville Water - Protective Drone System</u>	\$ 2,500,000;
(102)	<u>P500 Department of Environmental Services</u>	
(a)	<u>Horry County Soil and Water Conservation District - Fire Resilient</u>	\$ 15,000;
(b)	<u>USC Beaufort - Port Royal Sound Foundation</u>	\$ 100,000;
(c)	<u>Town of Pageland - Elevated Water Tower</u>	\$ 1;
(d)	<u>City of Isle of Palms - Stormwater and Drainage Infrastructure</u>	\$ 1;
(e)	<u>Town of Norway - Water/Wastewater</u>	\$ 1;
(f)	<u>City of Columbia - The Station at Congaree Point</u>	\$ 1;
(g)	<u>City of Cayce Avenues Drainage Project</u>	\$ 1;
(h)	<u>Town of Clover - Water System Infrastructure Rehabilitation</u> ...	\$ 1;
(i)	<u>Berkley County - Saint Stephen Wastewater Infrastructure</u>	\$ 1;
(j)	<u>Laurens County Water & Sewer - Gray Court Sewer Project</u>	\$ 1;
(k)	<u>City of Aiken - Waterline Infrastructure Replacement</u>	\$ 1;
(103)	<u>E200 Attorney General's Office</u>	
	<u>Attorney General - SC Child ID Program</u>	\$ 160,160;
(104)	<u>E210 Prosecution Coordination Commission</u>	
(a)	<u>4th Circuit Solicitor's Office - Security & Training</u>	\$ 250,000;
(b)	<u>State Prosecution College</u>	\$ 2,000,000;
(105)	<u>D100 State Law Enforcement Division</u>	
	<u>SASS Go - The Banks</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
(106)	<u>K050 Department of Public Safety</u>	
(a)	<u>Marion County Sheriff's Department - Life Center</u>	\$ 600,000;
(b)	<u>Town of Irmo Police Department - Flock Drone Responder</u>	\$ 375,000;
(c)	<u>Bamberg County Sheriff's Office - Camera System</u>	\$ 500,000;
(d)	<u>Serve & Connect - Police & Community Support</u>	\$ 1,000,000;
(e)	<u>Town of Mount Pleasant - Regional Public Safety Training Facility</u>	\$ 2,000,000;
(f)	<u>City of Anderson Police Department - Armored SWAT Vehicle</u> ..	\$ 332,800;
(g)	<u>Anderson County - Safe Streets for All</u>	\$ 140,000;
(h)	<u>City of Easley - Police Department</u>	\$ 500,000;
(i)	<u>County Coroner's Office - Vehicle Replacement</u>	\$ 58,531;
(j)	<u>Abbeville County - Emergency Response Team</u>	\$ 50,000;
(k)	<u>McCormick County Sheriff's Department - Equipment</u>	\$ 447,700;
(l)	<u>Town of Cameron - License Plate Reading Camera</u>	\$ 35,000;
(m)	<u>Town of North - Law Enforcement Equipment</u>	\$ 150,000;
(n)	<u>Hampton County Sheriff's Office - Equipment</u>	\$ 718,000;
(o)	<u>Dillon County - EMS</u>	\$ 200,000;
(p)	<u>Dillon County - Emergency Center</u>	\$ 625,000;
(q)	<u>City of Dillon - Public Safety Police Vehicle</u>	\$ 280,000;
(r)	<u>City of Dillon - Public Works Vehicle</u>	\$ 685,000;
(s)	<u>Town of Latta - Handheld Radios</u>	\$ 29,215;
(t)	<u>Town of Latta - Car Radios</u>	\$ 27,079;
(u)	<u>Dillon County Sheriff's Office - Equipment</u>	\$ 100,000;
(v)	<u>Spartanburg Police Department - Omegas of Spartanburg, Inc Building Renovation</u>	\$ 820,000;
(w)	<u>Beaufort County Sheriff's Office - Forensics Services Lab</u>	\$ 500,000;
(x)	<u>Town of Bluffton Police Department - AED Replacement</u>	\$ 100,000;
(y)	<u>Town of Harleyville Police Department - Officer Safety Project 2026</u>	\$ 75,000;

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<u>(z) Town of Ridgeville - Police Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 80,000;</u>
<u>(aa) Pine Ridge Police Department - Laptops</u>	<u>\$ 3,508;</u>
<u>(bb) Chester County Sheriff's Office.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(cc) Marlboro County Sheriff's Office - Equipment Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(dd) Lancaster County Coroner's Office - Mounted Response Unit....</u>	<u>\$ 50,000;</u>
<u>(ee) Lancaster County Sheriff's Office - Maintenance and Enhancements.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(ff) Kershaw County Sheriff's Office - Kershaw County Law Enforcement Memorial.....</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(gg) City of Lancaster - Police Fleet Vehicle Replacements.....</u>	<u>\$ 650,000;</u>
<u>(hh) City of Manning Police Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 410,000;</u>
<u>(ii) Clarendon County - Sheriff's Office.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(jj) Town of Clover - Police Department Headquarters.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(kk) Laurens County Sheriff's Office - Training Facility</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(ll) Sumter County Sheriff's Department</u>	<u>\$ 974,000;</u>
<u>(mm) City of Sumter - Police Department Equipment Funding.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,700,000;</u>
<u>(nn) City of Greer - Public Safety Training Center.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(oo) Lexington County Sheriff's Department - Body Cameras.....</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(pp) Town of Summerville - Public Safety Campus.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(qq) York County - Renovate Moss Justice Detention Center</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(rr) City of Greenville - Real Time Crime Center (RTCC)</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(ss) Town of Andrews - Andrews Public Safety Complex</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(tt) Chester County - Land Purchase for Detention/Law Enforcement.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(uu) Saluda County - Public Safety</u>	<u>\$ 800,000;</u>
<u>(vv) Florence County Sheriff's Office - Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(107) N120 Department of Juvenile Justice Town of Eastover - JUMPS</u>	<u>\$ 150,000;</u>
<u>(108) R360 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (a) Britton's Neck/Gresham Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 46,600;</u>
<u>(b) Irmo Fire District - Regional Training Facility</u>	<u>\$ 800,000;</u>
<u>(c) Town of Central - New Fire Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(d) Double Springs Fire Department - Tanker Fire Truck.....</u>	<u>\$ 700,000;</u>
<u>(e) Townville Fire Department - Quick Attack Fire Truck.....</u>	<u>\$ 150,850;</u>
<u>(f) Zion Volunteer Fire Department - Mini-Pumper Response Truck.....</u>	<u>\$ 165,500;</u>
<u>(g) City of Easley - Fire Department Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 515,000;</u>
<u>(h) City of Goose Creek - Fire Department Turnout Gear.....</u>	<u>\$ 254,728;</u>
<u>(i) Town of Moncks Corner - Fire Station Construction</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
<u>(j) Monterey Volunteer Fire Department - Equipment and Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 239,100;</u>
<u>(k) Antreville Volunteer Fire Department - Upgrades.....</u>	<u>\$ 205,000;</u>
<u>(l) Grove Fire Department - Rescue and Brush Truck.....</u>	<u>\$ 75,000;</u>
<u>(m) Town of Cameron - Fire Department</u>	<u>\$ 96,000;</u>
<u>(n) Horry County - Fire Station.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(o) Newport Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Boat</u>	<u>\$ 650,000;</u>
<u>(p) Berea Public Service District - Fire District Headquarters.....</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
<u>(q) Town of Hampton - Fire Cascade Fill Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 180,000;</u>
<u>(r) Dillon County - First Aid and Rescue Crew.....</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>

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<u>(s) Dillon County - Fire Services</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
<u>(t) Town of Lake View - Rescue Squad.....</u>	<u>\$ 12,197;</u>
<u>(u) Murrells Inlet - Garden City Fire District Operations Center</u>	<u>\$ 1,250,000;</u>
<u>(v) City of Georgetown - Fire Safety Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(w) Pine Ridge Fire Department - Station Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 62,000;</u>
<u>(x) Berkeley County Fire Department - Fire Station Emergency Backup Generators.....</u>	<u>\$ 55,000;</u>
<u>(y) West Chester Fire Department - Wilksburg Station</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(z) Boiling Springs Fire District - Heavy Rescue Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 450,000;</u>
<u>(aa) Fairfield County - Fire Service Extrication Tools.....</u>	<u>\$ 465,900;</u>
<u>(bb) Alligator Fire Dept - Air Pack Replacements.....</u>	<u>\$ 111,000;</u>
<u>(cc) City of Hartsville - Fire Department Radios</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(dd) Cherokee Springs Fire District - Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 350,000;</u>
<u>(ee) Spartanburg County - Trinity Fire Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 650,000;</u>
<u>(ff) Cherokee County - Corinth Volunteer Fire Department</u>	<u>\$ 180,000;</u>
<u>(gg) City of Gaffney Fire Department - Fire Training Center</u>	<u>\$ 395,000;</u>
<u>(hh) Town of Sharon - Volunteer Fire Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(ii) Cherokee County - DMV Volunteer Fire Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(jj) City of York - Fire Ladder Truck.....</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
<u>(kk) Colleton County - Firefighters Breathing Apparatus</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(ll) Dorchester County - Jedburg Fire and EMS Station.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(mm) Town of Williamston - Fire Department Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 115,000;</u>
<u>(nn) Anderson County - West Pelzer Fire Department Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 65,000;</u>
<u>(oo) City of Anderson - Fire Department Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 42,817;</u>
<u>(pp) Clear Springs - Fire and Rescue Infrastructure</u>	<u>\$ 2,481,600;</u>
<u>(qq) Lincolnville Volunteer Fire Department Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(rr) Dorchester County Fire Rescue.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(ss) Lugoff Fire District of Kershaw County - Training Facility</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(tt) Colleton County - SCBA Equipment.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(uu) Lake Cunningham Fire District (Greenville) Critical Fire Station</u>	<u>\$1;</u>
<u>(vv) City of Greer - City Projects/Fire & Police Training Facility</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(ww) City of Greenwood Fire Department.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(xx) City of Florence - Florence Fire Department Fire Engine</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(yy) City of Columbia – Air Drone First Responder Expansion 1</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(109) R600 Department of Employment and Workforce</u>	
<u>City of Columbia - DESA, Inc. SC Economic Mobility and Business Growth Initiative.....</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(110) U120 Department of Transportation</u>	
<u>(a) SCDOT - Railroad Crossing Safety Pilot</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
<u>(b) Charleston County - Hwy 61 Corridor Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(c) Lexington County - Calks Ferry Interchange</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(d) Edgefield County - Carey Hill Road Widening and Paving Project.....</u>	<u>\$ 900,000;</u>
<u>(e) Horry County - HWY 544 Socastee Bridge Resurfacing</u>	<u>\$10,000,000;</u>
<u>(f) Berkeley County - Bushy Park Road.....</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000;</u>
<u>(g) City of Charleston - Nabors Drive Sidewalk</u>	<u>\$ 268,000;</u>
<u>(h) US 378 Juniper Bay Intersection</u>	<u>\$ 3,700,000;</u>
<u>(i) City of Columbia - Devine Street Corridor</u>	<u>\$ 1,250,000;</u>
<u>(j) Sumter County - Patriot Park Emergency Access Road and Parking.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>

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<u>(k) Charleston County - Main Road Sidewalk Chisolm Road to Maybank Highway.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,400,000;</u>
<u>(l) City of Charleston - West Ashley Greenway Safety.....</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(m) City of Mauldin - Sidewalk Safety Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(n) City of Charleston - Secessionville Road Safety Improvements ..</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(o) Charleston County - Woodland Shores Pedestrian Safety Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(p) City of Folly Beach - West Ashley Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 475,000;</u>
<u>(q) Marine Transportation System for Beaufort and Jasper Counties.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(r) Town of Bluffton - Boundary Street Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(s) Town of Lexington - Hope Ferry Road at Sunset Blvd (US-378) Intersection Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(t) Town of Clover - Pedestrian Infrastructure/Sidewalk Repairs....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(u) Traffic Mitigation in Easley - Pickens County CTC.....</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(v) City of North Augusta - West Martintown Road/Knobcone Avenue Intersection Improvement</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(111) U300 Division of Aeronautics</u>	
<u>(a) McCormick County - Airport Capital Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(b) Sumter County Airport - Terminal.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,500,000;</u>
<u>(c) Greenville Downtown Airport - Corporate and Individual Hangar Development Areas</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(d) Florence County - PDRTA Stranded Passenger Transport Program.....</u>	<u>\$ 25,000;</u>
<u>(112) D300 Office of Resilience</u>	
<u>(a) Dorchester County - Eagle Creek Flood Control Project</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(b) Georgetown County - MLK Drive Drainage</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(c) City of Conway - Chestnut Bay Resilience Project – Flood Relief.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(d) Shutes Folly Castle Pinckney Resiliency</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(e) City of Columbia - Neighborhood Revitalization & Weatherization Program</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(f) Georgetown County - Murrells Inlet Dredging</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(113) D500 Department of Administration</u>	
<u>(a) City of Walhalla - Walhalla Core Function Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(b) Anderson County - CTC Matching Funds</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(c) Union County - New County Animal Shelter and Recycling Center</u>	<u>\$ 1;</u>
<u>(114) E240 Adjutant General's Office</u>	
<u>(a) Pickens County - Fort Prince George Reconstruction</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(b) Town of Mount Croghan - Emergency Shelter</u>	<u>\$ 131,000;</u>
<u>(115) E260 Department of Veterans' Affairs</u>	
<u>(a) Anderson County - Veterans Support Program.....</u>	<u>\$ 163,000;</u>
<u>(b) Dorchester County - Veteran's Service Center Parking Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(c) Town of Ridgeland - Operation Patriots FOB - Retreat and Wellness Program</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(116) X220 Aid to Subdivisions - State Treasurer</u>	
<u>(a) Chester County Emergency Management Division - Gateway</u>	

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<u>Conference Center Generator</u>	<u>\$ 280,000;</u>
<u>(b) Town of Bluffton - Rotary Community Center Renovation.....</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(c) Clarendon County - Infrastructure</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(d) City of Bishopville - Downtown Redevelopment.....</u>	<u>\$ 497,000;</u>
<u>(e) City of Myrtle Beach - Downtown Public Infrastructure.....</u>	<u>\$ 8,250,000;</u>
<u>(f) Abbeville County Magistrate's Court - Equipment Upgrades</u>	<u>\$ 22,000;</u>
<u>(g) Abbeville County - Courthouse Restoration</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(h) Town of North - Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 50,000;</u>
<u>(i) City of Loris - Downtown Redevelopment</u>	<u>\$ 560,000;</u>
<u>(j) Town of Lake View - Street and Maintenance Department</u>	<u>\$ 20,000;</u>
<u>(k) Town of Lake View - Excavator and Trailer.....</u>	<u>\$ 171,509;</u>
<u>(l) Town of Bluffton - Historic Bluffton Foundation Colcock Teel House Building Renovation</u>	<u>\$ 350,000;</u>
<u>(m) Town of McClellanville - McClellanville Middle School Projects - Phase 2.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000;</u>
<u>(n) City of Liberty - Liberty Municipal Complex.....</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000;</u>
<u>(o) Town of Harleyville - Emergency Shelter.....</u>	<u>\$ 80,000;</u>
<u>(p) Allendale County - Community Center</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(q) Town of Blackville - Revitalization.....</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(r) Town of Fairfax - Revitalization.....</u>	<u>\$ 300,000;</u>
<u>(s) Town of Williston - Sidewalk Development</u>	<u>\$ 100,000;</u>
<u>(t) Town of Norway - Revitalization</u>	<u>\$ 250,000;</u>
<u>(u) City of Inman - Police, Fire, and City Hall Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
<u>(v) Town of Pamplico - Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 170,000;</u>
<u>(w) Town of Fort Mill - Downtown Master Plan</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(x) Town of Fort Mill - Academic Hub.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(y) Town of Jenkinsville - Outdoor Restrooms and Handicapped Ramps</u>	<u>\$ 30,000;</u>
<u>(z) Town of Winnsboro - Downtown Revitalization</u>	<u>\$ 400,000;</u>
<u>(aa) Town of Winnsboro - Town Hall Upgrade</u>	<u>\$ 200,000;</u>
<u>(bb) City of Camden - Downtown Revitalization.....</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000;</u>
<u>(cc) Town of Ravenel - Town Hall</u>	<u>\$ 750,000;</u>
<u>(dd) City of Mauldin - Town Hall Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 500,000;</u>
<u>(ee) City of Simpsonville - Infrastructure Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000;</u>
<u>(ff) City of Sumter - South Sumter Community Improvements.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,700,000;</u>
<u>(gg) City of Sumter - Lincoln Museum</u>	<u>\$ 700,000;</u>
<u>(hh) Fountain Inn - Municipal Complex.....</u>	<u>\$500,000; and</u>
<u>(ii) Lexington County - Mission Lexington Community Service Facility.....</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000.</u>

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

118.22 ADD (SR: Admissions Tax) **SFC:** ADD proviso to clarify that “paid admissions” for admissions tax purposes includes only the ticket’s stated price for entry to an event. Directs that additional charges, such as service, processing, delivery, convenience, or membership fees, are considered incidental and are not taxable under the admissions tax.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

118.22. (SR: Admissions Tax) For purposes of the admissions tax imposed pursuant to Sections 12-21-2410 and 12-21-2420, and notwithstanding any administrative interpretation,

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advisory opinion or revenue ruling of the Department of Revenue to the contrary, the term “paid admissions” shall be limited solely to the stated price of the ticket for the right or privilege to enter a place of amusement. The measure of the tax shall not include any separate or additional charges, regardless of whether such charges are mandatory or a condition of purchase including, but not limited to, service fees, convenience fees, processing fees, delivery fees, handling charges, credit card or payment processing fees, or fees associated with memberships or subscriptions required to purchase tickets. Any such charges shall be deemed incidental to the admission and not subject to the admissions tax.

- 118.23** **ADD** (SR: Sales Tax Assessments–Contract for Services) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that sales tax assessments shall not apply to amounts paid for contracts for services entered into by the State for Emergency Services IP Network.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

118.23. (SR: Sales Tax Assessments–Contract for Services) Notwithstanding any administrative interpretation, advisory opinion, or revenue ruling of the Department of Revenue to the contrary, sales tax assessments shall not apply to amounts paid for contracts for services entered into by the State, or political subdivisions thereof, for Emergency Services IP Network, also known as ESInet, in support of Next Generation 911 in South Carolina.

- 118.24** **ADD** (SR: Sales Tax Assessments–Insurance Products) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that sales tax assessments shall not apply to insurance products purchased separately for a product purchased and which sales tax was collected.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.

118.24. (SR: Sales Tax Assessments–Insurance Products) Notwithstanding any administrative interpretation, advisory opinion, or revenue ruling of the Department of Revenue to the contrary, sales tax assessments shall not apply to insurance products purchased separately for a product purchased and which sales tax was collected. Any such products shall be deemed incidental and separate to the purchase and not subject to sales tax.

- 118.25** **ADD** (SR: ARPA Funds) **SFC:** ADD proviso to direct that beginning July 15, the DOA may reallocate unused ARPA funds among previously authorized projects to cover items with higher-than-expected reimbursements, prioritizing specified agencies. Additionally, the RIA may award water and sewer infrastructure grants exceeding \$10 million per project or application.
SEN: ADOPT new proviso.
HOU2: ADOPT proviso as amended. Sponsors: Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt and Caskey **Note: Proviso 118.22 in HOU2.**

118.25. (SR: ARPA Funds) (A) To ensure that the State of South Carolina maximizes the use of federal funds authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), beginning July 15 of the current fiscal year, the Director of the Department of Administration is authorized to reallocate any unused authorization in a particular enumerated item in Act 239 of 2022, Act 244 of 2022, Act 6 of 2023, or any other act through which ARPA funds were appropriated to any enumerated item of the aforementioned acts for which approved reimbursements exceed the authorization. The Director shall reallocate any unused authorization according to the following prioritization:

- (1) Department of Public Health;
- (2) Department of Transportation;
- (3) Department of Environmental Services;

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(4) Office of Regulatory Staff;

(5) Office of Resilience; and

(6) Rural Infrastructure Authority.

(B) Applicants for Water and Sewer Infrastructure grants administered by the Rural Infrastructure Authority may exceed ten million dollars per project or application.

- 118.26** **ADD** (SR: Delinquent Tax Penalty) **SEN:** ADD proviso to direct that no county or municipality shall impose or collect delinquent tax penalties on real or personal property tax bills that exceed the amount of the delinquent tax due. Sponsor: Sen. Matthews

118.26. (SR: Delinquent Tax Penalty) No county or municipality in this State shall impose or collect a delinquent tax penalty on any personal property tax bill that exceeds the amount of the underlying delinquent tax due. Any penalty assessed or collected in violation of this provision shall be refunded to the taxpayer, and no interest shall accrue on such improperly assessed penalty.

- 118.27** **ADD** (SR: Liability Insurance Coverage) **SEN:** ADD proviso to suspend Section 61-2-145 relating to liability insurance coverage. Sponsor: Sen. Massey

118.27. (SR: Liability Insurance Coverage) For the current fiscal year, Section 61-2-145 of the S.C. Code is suspended.