

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

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.

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 |
| 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 |

THE BELOW CONSTITUTED SUMMARY IS NOT THE EXPRESSION OF THE LEGISLATION'S SPONSOR(S) OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IT IS STRICTLY FOR THE INTERNAL USE AND BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED BY A COURT OF LAW AS AN EXPRESSION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

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| | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 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 |
| | <u>CLASS 3</u> | <u>CLASS 1</u> | <u>CLASS 7</u> | <u>CLASS 8</u> |
| | <u>BACHELORS</u> | <u>MASTERS</u> | <u>MASTERS</u> | <u>DR</u> |
| <u>YRS</u> | <u>DEGREE</u> | <u>DEGREE</u> | <u>DEGREE</u> | <u>DEGREE</u> |
| <u>EXP</u> | | | <u>+ 30 HOURS</u> | |
| <u>0</u> | <u>\$50,500</u> | <u>\$54,500</u> | <u>\$56,000</u> | <u>\$58,500</u> |
| <u>1</u> | <u>\$50,750</u> | <u>\$54,750</u> | <u>\$56,250</u> | <u>\$59,000</u> |
| <u>2</u> | <u>\$51,000</u> | <u>\$55,000</u> | <u>\$56,500</u> | <u>\$59,500</u> |
| <u>3</u> | <u>\$51,250</u> | <u>\$55,250</u> | <u>\$56,750</u> | <u>\$60,000</u> |
| <u>4</u> | <u>\$51,500</u> | <u>\$55,500</u> | <u>\$57,000</u> | <u>\$60,500</u> |
| <u>5</u> | <u>\$52,500</u> | <u>\$56,500</u> | <u>\$57,500</u> | <u>\$61,000</u> |
| <u>6</u> | <u>\$53,000</u> | <u>\$57,000</u> | <u>\$58,000</u> | <u>\$61,500</u> |
| <u>7</u> | <u>\$53,500</u> | <u>\$57,500</u> | <u>\$58,500</u> | <u>\$62,500</u> |
| <u>8</u> | <u>\$54,000</u> | <u>\$58,000</u> | <u>\$59,000</u> | <u>\$64,000</u> |
| <u>9</u> | <u>\$54,500</u> | <u>\$58,500</u> | <u>\$59,500</u> | <u>\$65,500</u> |
| <u>10</u> | <u>\$55,500</u> | <u>\$59,500</u> | <u>\$60,500</u> | <u>\$66,750</u> |
| <u>11</u> | <u>\$56,000</u> | <u>\$60,000</u> | <u>\$61,500</u> | <u>\$68,000</u> |
| <u>12</u> | <u>\$56,500</u> | <u>\$60,750</u> | <u>\$62,500</u> | <u>\$69,250</u> |
| <u>13</u> | <u>\$57,000</u> | <u>\$61,500</u> | <u>\$63,500</u> | <u>\$70,500</u> |
| <u>14</u> | <u>\$57,500</u> | <u>\$62,250</u> | <u>\$64,500</u> | <u>\$71,750</u> |
| <u>15</u> | <u>\$58,000</u> | <u>\$63,000</u> | <u>\$65,500</u> | <u>\$73,000</u> |
| <u>16</u> | <u>\$58,500</u> | <u>\$63,750</u> | <u>\$66,500</u> | <u>\$74,250</u> |
| <u>17</u> | <u>\$59,000</u> | <u>\$64,500</u> | <u>\$67,500</u> | <u>\$75,500</u> |
| <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> |

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| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <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 taxing 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 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 weighted pupils for students attending a brick and mortar or virtual school as determined in this subitem divided by total 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:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| <u>(1) Enrolled in brick-and-mortar school</u> | <u>1.25</u> |
| <u>(2) Enrolled in virtual charter school</u> | <u>0.50</u> |

(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

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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 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~~

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(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.

(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.

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~~(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.~~

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 1A.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.

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

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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 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

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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.

(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

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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.

(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.

1.69 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.

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.

(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

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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.

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.

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 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.~~

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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.

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.

(B) School facilities eligible for safety upgrades under ~~this subsection~~ *subitem (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. 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.

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~~(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 fiscal year reference.

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.

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 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

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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.

~~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.~~

- 1.96 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.

~~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;~~

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~~(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.~~

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.

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) Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, with funds appropriated and with funds carried forward from the prior fiscal year, a public school student who is not a qualifying student who does not 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. If necessary, the Department of Education shall provide federal funds that have been disbursed to the Department of Education for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to cover the cost of providing one breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying

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student under this provision. If federal funds appropriated to the Department of Education for a child nutrition program are insufficient to cover the cost of providing one breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student, 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 each public school student who is not a qualifying student.

- 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.

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.

- 1.112** **ADD** (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.

1.112. (SDE: Employment Contract) With funds appropriated, a local school district board of trustees shall include a term in all district superintendent 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 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** **ADD** (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

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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.

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 experience in educational facilities appointed by the State Superintendent of Education, who serves as chair;

(2) one individual with at least ten 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; and

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

(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.

(D) Charter schools that have an academic achievement rating of good on the most recent South Carolina School Report Card, school districts, and special schools are eligible to receive funding from the committee.

(E) In order for a project to be considered by the committee, the applicant must conduct a facility capacity study 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.

(F) The committee shall develop the criteria to consider for determining awards. Criteria must include, but is not limited to:

(1) the local support of the project, expressed by resolutions by the governing bodies, or for charter schools, by the charter school governing board in the areas in which the project will be located;

(2) maximum academic benefit and enhancement of school safety, with regards to the ability of the project to optimally use, close, or consolidate existing buildings to accommodate current and projected student enrollment;

(3) the financial or in-kind contributions to the project;

(4) greater weighting in recommending priorities for eligible projects to areas of the State experiencing critical need as defined by criteria which may include, but is not limited to, local property wealth per student, per capita income, poverty, or other relevant measures;

(5) the results of the school's facility capacity study.

(G) 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.

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

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

(J) 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 ADD** (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.

1.114. (SDE: Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit) (A) For the current fiscal year, the Office of School Facilities within the Department of Education is directed to establish a specialized Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit. The unit shall operate as a statewide resource and, upon request, provide services to public school districts throughout the State.

(B) Services provided by the Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit shall include, but are not limited to, preventative, routine, and emergency maintenance, assessment, mitigation, and repair services related to indoor air quality and mold for all public schools and school administrative facilities.

(C) The Department of Education shall develop and implement policies and procedures governing how school districts may request services from the Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit, including prioritization of requests and coordination with local school district personnel.

(D) The Indoor Air Quality and Mold Remediation Unit shall maintain all appropriate and required professional certifications and credentials related to indoor air quality assessment and mold remediation.

- 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.

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.

- 1.116 ADD** (SDE: Education Scholarship Trust Fund Assessment) **WMC:** ADD proviso to direct that funds for the administration of the ESTF program within the Department of Education must include \$250,000 for EOC to collect, analyze, and publicly report assessment, graduation, and

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participation data for scholarship students while ensuring student privacy. Education service providers must submit student assessment results to the EOC, which will publish aggregated program outcomes and administer an annual parent satisfaction survey. Participating students in grades 3–8 must take approved state or nationally norm-referenced assessments aligned with state standards, and grades 9–12 must take approved end-of-course or college- or career-readiness assessments, with exemptions for certain students with disabilities. Sponsor: Rep. Collins

1.116. (SDE: Education Scholarship Trust Fund Assessment) (A) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Education for the administration of the Education Scholarship Trust Fund Assessment (ESTF) program, \$250,000 must be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) for collection and reporting of data from education service providers and parents of students participating in the ESTF program. Approved education service providers who provide full-time academic instruction shall provide assessment results directly to the EOC. The EOC shall:

(1) ensure compliance with all student privacy laws;

(2) collect all test results;

(3) provide the test results, associated learning gains, and graduation rates at a state level to the public via a state website after the third year of test- and graduation-related data collection. The findings shall be aggregated by the students' grade level, gender, family income level, number of years of participation in the scholarship program, and race;

(4) provide rates for on-time high school graduation, college attendance the fall after high school graduation, persistence, and college graduation for participating students to the public via a State website after the third year of test and test-related data collection; and

(5) administer an annual parental satisfaction survey that shall ask parents of students receiving education savings accounts to express:

(a) their satisfaction with the program; and

(b) their opinions on other topics, items, or issues that the State finds would elicit information about the effectiveness of ESTF and the number of years their child has participated in the program.

(B) As a condition of participating in the ESTF program, students in grades three through eight must be administered annually the SC READY assessments for mathematics and English Language Arts or take a nationally norm-referenced summative assessment annually or a formative assessment at the beginning of the school year, at the end of the first semester, and at the end of the school year. The assessment must be aligned with state standards, include a linking study procured by the EOC, and be approved by the EOC before it can be used as an approved assessment for the ESTF program.

(C) Scholarship students in grades nine through twelve must take the State-approved End-of-Course Program (EOCEP) in English/language arts or mathematics or a nationally norm-referenced assessment, formative assessment, or assessment approved by the EOC that demonstrates the student's college or career readiness as is verified to meet state standards via a linking study procured by the EOC. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement.

1.117 ADD (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

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1.117. (SDE: Imagination Library) Remaining funds received by the Department of Education for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Act No. 69 of 2025 shall be transferred to First Steps to support and administer the Imagination Library program.

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.

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

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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 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.

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

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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 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.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.

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

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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 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

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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

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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.

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.

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.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.

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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 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.

~~(3)~~(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.

~~(4)~~(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:

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~~(1)~~(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.

~~(2)~~(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.

~~(3)~~(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.

~~(4)~~(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.

(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.

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(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.

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.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.

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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

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, 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) \$5,000,000 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; and
- (9) \$2,200,000 to the Department of Education for Amira.

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.

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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. Sponsor: Reps. Whitmire, Cobb-Hunter, and Dillard.

1A.67. (SDE-EIA: Developmental Education and Therapy Services) 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~~ for 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 ~~150~~ 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~~ Palmetto Goodwill Excel Center in full not later than December 1, and the district shall remit the total allocation to the schools within 30 calendar days.

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.

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

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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.

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.

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;

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(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.

1A.74 ADD (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.

1A.74. (SDE-EIA: ESTF Parent Satisfaction Survey) For the current fiscal year, the Education Oversight Committee is directed to provide the results of the Education Scholarship Trust Fund Parent Survey by June 30.

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.

~~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.~~

~~(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;~~

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~~(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.~~

~~(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.~~

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~~(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 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~~

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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; |
| (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; |

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| | |
|---|------------------------|
| (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. |
|--|--------------------------|

~~(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.~~

3.7 **ADD** (LEA: Vending Machine Sale of Lottery Tickets) **WMC:** ADD proviso to authorize the Education Lottery Commission to regulate the sale of lottery tickets through automated vending machines, including setting policies for their placement, operation, security, and monitoring. Directs that vending machines must verify a purchaser's age by scanning a valid government-issued photo ID before completing any sale. Sponsor: Rep. Ballentine

3.7. (LEA: Vending Machine Sale of Lottery Tickets) (A) The South Carolina Education Lottery Commission is authorized to permit and regulate the sale of lottery tickets through automated vending machines. The commission shall promulgate policies and procedures governing the placement, operation, security, and monitoring of such vending machines to ensure compliance with all applicable state laws and lottery regulations.

(B) Vending machines authorized under this provision must be equipped with technology that requires the scanning and verification of a valid, government-issued photo identification prior to the completion of any lottery ticket sale, for the purpose of confirming that the purchaser is at least eighteen years of age. No sale may be completed unless age verification is successfully obtained.

(C) The commission shall approve all vending machine models, vendors, and retail locations participating in the program and may suspend or revoke authorization for any vending machine or retailer found to be in violation of commission policies or state law.

3.8 **ADD** (LEA: 2026-27 Lottery Funding) **WMC:** ADD proviso update expenditures of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Sponsor: Rep. Ballentine

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

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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.

(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 Section 59-111-75..... \$ 6,200,000;
- (8) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships..... \$ 24,717,547;
- (9) South Carolina State University..... \$ 2,500,000;
- (10) Commission on Higher Education – Nursing Initiative..... \$ 10,000,000;

and

- (11) Commission on Higher Education – Meeting Street College Scholarships \$ 15,000,000.

(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..... \$ 18,348,954;

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and

(3) Commission on Higher Education – College Transition

Program Scholarships..... \$ 3,551,046.

(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.

(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

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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 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

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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.

(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.

8.6. (ETV: Local Programming 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 programming.

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.

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~~

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~~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.

~~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 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.

~~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.

~~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.~~

- 20.9 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.

~~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~~

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~~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.~~

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

~~**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.

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~~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

25.8 **DELETE** (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.

~~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 **DELETE** (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.

~~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.

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.

~~**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.

~~**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.~~

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31.49 **ADD** (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.

31.49. (DPH: Disaster Readiness Fund) (A) There is established within the Department of Public Health (DPH) the Disaster Readiness Fund, which shall be interest bearing. Monies in the fund may be expended by the department exclusively for the purpose of supporting the department's emergency response responsibilities including, but not limited to, medical sheltering, Medical Equipment Power Shelters (MEPS), and other related disaster response activities.

(B) All funds appropriated for Disaster Readiness in Fiscal Year 2026–27 shall be deposited into the Disaster Readiness Fund as initial funding. The department may also deposit into the fund any other monies appropriated, received, or otherwise available for the same purpose.

(C) Fund balances shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and used for the same purpose. Any reimbursements or recoveries of costs for expenditures made from the Disaster Readiness Fund must be deposited back into the fund to support ongoing availability of resources for future disasters.

31.50 **ADD** (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.

31.50. (DPH: Health Systems Modernization) (A) From the funds appropriated and authorized to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Administration's Office of Technology and Information Services shall provide project oversight related to any upgrades to DPH's electronic health records (EHR) system and pharmacy tools; expansion of patient portals, virtual visits, and online tools; digitization of historical paper records; automating of workflows and ongoing system maintenance; and any other similar undertaking, including information technology related procurements of services, licenses, infrastructure, maintenance, support, etc. for DPH's Health Systems Modernization.

(B) As part of providing project oversight and guidance for DPH's efforts to implement a modernized EHR system, the Department of Administration's Office of Technology and Information Services should, to the extent possible, seek to coordinate DPH's efforts with other agencies' existing EHR systems or those agencies' efforts to implement new or modernized EHR systems to promote cohesive care through standardized platforms, data sharing and classification, common user interface, and security and privacy standardization for the benefit of clients receiving services from multiple agencies.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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(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 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

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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 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

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 *\$2,500,000 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.

**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

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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.

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 a 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

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 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

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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.

~~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 AMEND** (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

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, as well as required training for staff.

- 34.35 ADD** (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.

34.35. (BHDD: Collaboration Technology) (A) Prior to expending any funds appropriated or authorized in this act for the procurement of collaboration technology required by Section 44-

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12-40(3), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities shall consult with the Department of Administration regarding the scope of work and selection criteria for potential vendors. The Department of Administration's consultation shall include, but not be limited to, review and approval of the general scope of any solicitation, the scope of work/specifications as supported by sufficient market research, and the award criteria contained in any Request for Proposals, or any other vendor selection method used by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the procurement of the required technology. No solicitation of any kind shall be published by or on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities without the Department of Administration's approval. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities shall also consult with the Department of Administration regarding the composition and number of members of any evaluation panel established to review vendor proposals received as the result of an approved solicitation.

(B) Unless expressly stated above, nothing in this proviso affects the application of the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code to any procurement required by Section 44-12-40(3).

- 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.

34.36. (BHDD: FTE Management) (A) The following Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions authorized and for which funds are appropriated in Part IA 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.

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:

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| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| ages 0 – 5 | \$ 700 733 | per month |
| ages 6 - 12 | \$818856 | per month |
| ages 13+ | \$ 863 904 | 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.

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

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*

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

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.

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 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 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

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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** **ADD** (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 or following fiscal year. Requested by the Department on Aging.

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 or subsequent fiscal year, the Department on Aging may return the unused funds to other agency reserves.

- 40.12** **ADD** (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.

40.12. (AGING: Grant Forgiveness) The Senior Center Permanent Improvement Grant awarded to the Town of Pacolet in 2013 for the renovation of the Pacolet Mill Cloth Room is hereby forgiven.

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

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:

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(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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

SECTION 47 - P240 - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

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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~~2027, on the implementation of the pilot program and the grants awarded.

- 47.20** **ADD** (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

47.20. (DNR: Invasive Plant Eradication) The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to establish a Pilot Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program to identify and eradicate newly established invasive plant species. These are species that have been found to be reproducing in South Carolina, outside of cultivation, only within the last decade, i.e., newly arrived, non-native species. For this purpose, the department may utilize funds provided by other state or federal agencies to hire staff and procure equipment and supplies. Department personnel are authorized to perform invasive species control work on both public and private lands, provided that work on those properties is conducted only with the consent of the landowner. No fees shall be charged to landowners for participation in this program.

- 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

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.

SECTION 48 - P260 - SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

- 48.3** **ADD** (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.

48.3. (SGC: Return of Funds) For the current fiscal year, if the Sea Grant Consortium receives federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), any

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nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act shall be remitted to the State Treasurer and credited to the General Fund by June 30, 2027.

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

- 49.19** (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 qualification of the rebate program.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.

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~~2026-27, 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.

(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.

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.

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49.24 **ADD** (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.

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 Fiscal Year 2026-27, 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

(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.

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.

~~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~~

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~~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.

~~**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 re-purposed 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 ADD** (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.

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50.26. (CMRC: Commerce NBIF Loan) Of the excess debt service funds available in the current fiscal year, up to twenty-five percent (25%) of said amount shall be used to pay down the intra-agency loan made to Palmetto Railways related to the Navy Base Intermodal Facility and shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce.

- 50.27** **ADD** (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.

50.27. (CMRC: Nuclear Advisory Council) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall reimburse the South Carolina Department of Commerce for expenses associated with the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council from the South Carolina Energy Office's radioactive waste funds.

- 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.

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.

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

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.

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~~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.

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 ADD** (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.

55.25. (DES: State Water Plan Funds) 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.

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.

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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.

~~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.

~~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 ADD (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.

57.23. (Jud: Family Court Judges) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 14-1-200, the South Carolina Judicial Department is authorized to pay family court judges ninety-five percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

SECTION 61 - E230 - COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

61.14 ADD (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.

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61.14. (INDEF: Public Defender Technology and Digital Storage) The \$1,382,000 appropriated shall be apportioned among the circuits in quarterly disbursements. The first \$720,000 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis at \$45,000 per circuit, and the remaining \$662,000 shall be distributed on a per capita basis.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

67.6. (DJJ: Juvenile Arbitration/Community Advocacy Program) (A) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for the Juvenile Arbitration Program 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~~ \$120,000 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.

(C) 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.

(D) 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.

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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

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.

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 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 82 - R400 - DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

82.16 **ADD** (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.

82.16. (DMV: Electronic Titling) *Up to \$1,000,000 shall be appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of hiring contract computer programmers for the*

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creation 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 June 30, 2027.

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.

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.

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 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

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

91.13. (LEG: In-District Compensation) All members of the General Assembly shall receive an in-district compensation of ~~\$2,500~~ \$1,000 per month.

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.

92D.1. (SCOR: Catastrophic Weather Event) (A) Any improvements made to real property or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, 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

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home or manufactured housing unit. The reassessed value shall remain the same for the current fiscal year unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs.

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.

~~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 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.~~

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~~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.

~~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.

~~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.

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.

~~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.~~

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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 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.

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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.

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 ~~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~~ 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.

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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.

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.

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.

SECTION 108 - F500 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFIT AUTHORITY

- 108.1 AMEND** (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.

108.1. (PEBA: ~~Lottery, Infrastructure Bank, and Magistrates Health~~ Insurance *Eligibility*) 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. *Municipal court judges 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.*

- 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.

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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.

~~**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 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.

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.

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.

109.17. (DOR: Emergency Commodity Assistance Program) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, federally-earned emergency commodity assistance program funds from the United States Department of Agriculture are exempt from state income taxes.

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.

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

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

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.

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~~

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2027, and “prior fiscal year” means the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, and ending June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

- 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.

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 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.

117.112. (GP: South Carolina Telemedicine Network) 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. 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) 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) 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 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

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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) 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.

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.

(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.

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(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 (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

~~**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 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~~

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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.

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.

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.

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117.144. (GP: Homestead Exemption Fund) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~ 2026-27, Section 11-11-156(C) is suspended.

117.149 (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.

117.149. (GP: ~~In-State Tuition Mitigation~~ *SC First Funding Innovation and Realignment for in-demand Skills and Talent*) (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~~ exclusively in support of programs that instruct undergraduate students in the critical workforce disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); as well as education and training, government and public administration, health science, and human services:

| | |
|--|--|
| (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> |
| (8) University of South Carolina-Columbia | \$ 14,436,186 <u>7,218,093;</u> |
| (9) University of South Carolina-Aiken | \$ 2,361,911 <u>1,180,955;</u> |
| (10) University of South Carolina-Upstate | \$ 3,173,940 <u>1,598,970;</u> |
| (11) University of South Carolina-Beaufort | \$ 1,077,571 <u>538,785;</u> |
| (12) University of South Carolina-Lancaster | \$ 640,000 <u>320,000;</u> |
| (13) University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie | \$ 411,995 <u>205,997;</u> |
| (14) University of South Carolina-Sumter | \$ 686,882 <u>343,441;</u> |
| (15) University of South Carolina-Union | \$ 608,475 <u>304,237;</u> |

and

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (16) Winthrop University | \$ 2,330,588 <u>1,165,294;</u> |
|--------------------------|---|

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and

~~(17) Medical University of South Carolina~~ ~~\$-12,529,269.~~

(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) Institutions must identify and suspend new admissions for at least fifty percent of all academic programs that operate at a financial loss for at least four academic years.

(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 of each fiscal year, detailing the programs discontinued or consolidated, the cost savings achieved, and the programmatic enhancements implemented under this initiative.

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.

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.

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WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and Indigent Defense.

~~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.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

117.164. (GP: Prostate Cancer Study Committee) (A) For the current fiscal year, the South Carolina Prostate Cancer Study Committee shall continue to address, but is not limited to addressing, 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.

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(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.

(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)~~(F) No later than December 31, ~~2025~~2026, 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.

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

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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.

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.

(C) A progress report on the viability of the permit program shall be submitted to the General Assembly no later than June 30, ~~2026~~2027.

- 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.

~~**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

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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.

~~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 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.

~~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 AMEND (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.

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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~~2027.

117.187 AMEND (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 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.

117.187. (GP: Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts) For Fiscal Year ~~2025-26~~2026-27, 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~~2027.

117.188 AMEND (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.

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~~2027, 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.

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- 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.

~~**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

117.194. (GP: AI Appropriations) (A) 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.

(B) For the current fiscal year, any funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of AI Modernization and reducing permitting timeframes are exempt from the requirements of this proviso.

- 117.195 ADD** (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 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.

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 Fund 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

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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. 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.

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.

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.

- 117.198 ADD** (GP: Office of Statewide Data) **WMC:** ADD proviso to establish the Office of Statewide Data within the Department of Administration to coordinate statewide data sharing, management, and transparency, and direct state agencies to collaborate with the office by providing data inventories, complying with data standards and security policies, entering data-sharing agreements, and participating in the development of a statewide data strategy to support effective public policy and artificial intelligence implementation. Requested by the Department of Administration.

117.198. (GP: Office of Statewide Data) From the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 93, the Department of Administration shall establish the Office of Statewide Data (OSD). State agencies must coordinate and collaborate with OSD 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:

(1) assist OSD in maintaining an enterprise data inventory by providing descriptions of data created or collected by the agency as requested;

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(2) comply with all rules, standards, plans, policies, and technical terminologies established by OSD 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 OSD educational opportunities.

117.199 ADD (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

117.199. (GP: Hospital Emergency Bed Placement) (A) For the current fiscal year, 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 the on-site emergency department physician determines and documents, within seven calendar days of the start of the justified emergency, on a 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 emergency department physician on site 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.

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(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.

(G) The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation may promulgate emergency regulations or issue interpretive guidance as necessary to implement this provision. 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 ADD (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

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, 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. Procurements by SLED for the administration and coordination of the Palmetto 800 radio system are exempt from the purchasing procedures of the Consolidated Procurement Code in Chapter 35 of Title 11.

(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.

117.201 ADD (GP: Firearm Safety Pilot) WMC: ADD proviso to direct the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, to determine the earliest appropriate grade for firearm safety instruction and, beginning in 2027–2028, to establish a firearm safety pilot program for eligible districts, prioritizing counties with the highest rates of childhood firearm injury or death. Requires participating districts to provide age-appropriate, viewpoint-neutral firearm safety instruction beginning at the identified grade and continuing through grade twelve, prohibits the use of live firearms or ammunition, and directs the agencies to develop and require use of an approved, unbranded curriculum. Sponsor: Rep. Collins

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117.201. (GP: Firearm Safety Pilot) (A) The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, shall determine the earliest grade in which it is appropriate for students to begin receiving instruction on firearm safety. In determining the earliest appropriate grade for instruction on firearm safety, the agencies shall study all relevant data and risk factors, including the earliest age at which incidents of injury involving firearms are reported and the earliest age at which children are susceptible to harm from found firearms.

(B) Beginning with the 2027-2028 School Year, the Department of Education shall establish a firearm safety pilot program for which districts or charter schools may elect to apply. Priority for involvement in the pilot should be based on the counties with the highest rate of childhood injury or death from firearms. The department may limit the number of districts accepted in the pilot. The instruction must begin with the earliest appropriate grade, as determined by the agencies under item (A), and must continue in each subsequent grade through grade twelve.

(C) The instruction required under item (B) must:

(1) teach students:

(a) safe storage of firearms;

(b) school safety relating to firearms;

(c) how to avoid injury if the student finds a firearm;

(d) to never touch a found firearm; and

(e) to immediately notify an adult of the location of a found firearm;

(2) be viewpoint neutral on political topics, such as gun rights, gun violence, and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

(3) not include the use or presence of live ammunition, live fire, or live firearms.

(D) The Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall develop a curriculum or program of instruction on firearm safety that meets the requirements of this proviso and that districts are required to implement for purposes of providing the instruction required under item (B). The agencies shall not use a curriculum or program of instruction if the curriculum, program of instruction, or any of the instructional materials used as part of the curriculum or program of instruction bear a brand or organizational affiliation other than the logos of the Department of Education and the Department of Natural Resources.

(E) The instruction required under item (B) may be provided in a classroom setting, through the viewing of a video, or through the review of online resources or materials, as determined by the department of education.

(F) Each district accepted into the pilot shall determine how best to incorporate the instruction required under item (B) into the school year.

117.202 ADD (GP: Redirect of Funds) WMC: ADD proviso to redirect funds that were previously appropriated. Sponsor: Rep. Bannister

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)(wwwwww) to the Town of McColl for Downtown Improvements shall be redirected to be used for the purpose of 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

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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.

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.

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.

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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.

- 118.19 DELETE** (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.

~~**118.19.** (SR: Homestead Exemption Fund) The source of revenue appropriated in subsection (B) is revenue generated from the following source:~~

~~\$124,319,000 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 and shall be available for use in Fiscal Year 2025-26 after September 1, 2025, following the Comptroller General's close of the State's book on Fiscal Year 2024-25.~~

~~The State Treasurer shall disburse \$124,319,000 to Part 1A General Fund to provide income tax relief by September 30, 2025.~~

- 118.20 DELETE** (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) Appropriates nonrecurring revenue to various agencies for Fiscal Year 2025-26, generated from specific sources.
WMC: DELETE proviso.

~~**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.~~

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

~~The State Treasurer shall disburse the following appropriations 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;~~

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| | |
|---|---------------|
| (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 | |
| 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; |

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| (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; |
| (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; |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | | |
|------|--|---------------|
| | (ii) Trades Program Expansion | \$12,000,000; |
| (28) | H790 Department of Archives and History | |
| | (a) SC American Revolution Sestercentennial 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 | |
| | (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 | |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| (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; |
| (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; |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| (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; |
| | (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; |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|----------------|
| (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 Resilienee | |
| (a) Disaster Relief and Resilienee 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 | |
| (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 SCPro 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 ADD (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) WMC: ADD proviso to update nonrecurring funding amounts for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Sponsors: Reps. Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe, Ballentine, Crawford, Moss, Hewitt, and Caskey

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

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) \$3,972,661 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; and
- (6) 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.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>(1) F010 General Reserve Fund</u> | |
| <u>General Reserve Fund Contribution.....</u> | <u>\$144,779,082;</u> |
| <u>(2) Income Tax Rate Reduction 6.0% to 5.39%.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,253,000;</u> |
| <u>(3) Aid to Fire Districts Formula.....</u> | <u>\$96,261,319;</u> |
| <u>(4) H630 Department of Education</u> | |
| <u>(a) Rural and Charter Capital Funding.....</u> | <u>\$75,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) School Bus Lease/Purchase.....</u> | <u>\$28,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(5) H750 School for the Deaf and the Blind</u> | |
| <u>(a) Grounds Maintenance Equipment Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 300,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Student Activities Center Improvements.....</u> | <u>\$ 75,000;</u> |
| <u>(6) H670 Educational Television Commission</u> | |
| <u>Tower Monitoring and Analysis System.....</u> | <u>\$ 400,000;</u> |
| <u>(7) H640 Governor's School for Arts and Humanities</u> | |
| <u>Campus Access/Security Controls Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 250,000;</u> |
| <u>(8) H030 Commission on Higher Education</u> | |
| <u>Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP)....</u> | <u>\$ 9,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(9) H090 The Citadel</u> | |
| <u>Duckett Hall Renovation.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(10) H120 Clemson University</u> | |
| <u>(a) Clemson University Public Safety.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,786,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) NextGen Computing Complex.....</u> | <u>\$10,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(11) H150 University of Charleston</u> | |
| <u>Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(12) H170 Coastal Carolina University</u> | |
| <u>(a) Lib Jackson Student Union.....</u> | <u>\$ 3,650,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Underwater Autonomous Vehicle.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,350,000;</u> |
| <u>(13) H180 Francis Marion University</u> | |
| <u>(a) HVAC Upgrades.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Rogers Library Renovation.....</u> | <u>\$ 3,000,000;</u> |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| <u>(14) H210 Lander University</u> | |
| <u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(15) H240 South Carolina State University</u> | |
| <u>(a) Public Safety Building Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 8,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Soldier's Hall ROTC Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(16) H270 University of South Carolina - Columbia</u> | |
| <u>(a) Information Technology Infrastructure and Security.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Institute of Geopolitics, Innovation, and Global Competition .</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Pharmacy Building on Health Sciences Campus</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(d) Savannah River National Laboratory Collaboration.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(17) H290 University of South Carolina - Aiken</u> | |
| <u>Penland Building Façade and Welcome Center.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(18) H340 University of South Carolina - Upstate</u> | |
| <u>(a) Convocation Center.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,500,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Regional Hospitality and Tourism.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(19) H360 University of South Carolina - Beaufort</u> | |
| <u>Convocation Center and Athletics Complex.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(20) 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>(21) H380 University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie</u> | |
| <u>Deferred Maintenance and Upgrades</u> | <u>\$ 400,000;</u> |
| <u>(22) H390 University of South Carolina - Sumter</u> | |
| <u>Health, Wellness, and Athletics Ceter.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(23) H400 University of South Carolina - Union</u> | |
| <u>Construction of Gymnasium/Convocation/Civic Center</u> | <u>\$ 500,000;</u> |
| <u>(24) H470 Winthrop University</u> | |
| <u>Administrative Building Renovation.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(25) H590 State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education</u> | |
| <u>(a) South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship</u> | |
| <u>(SCWINS).....</u> | <u>\$51,933,499;</u> |
| <u>(b) Aiken Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Building D Renovation (1200 Building).....</u> | <u>\$ 4,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Technical College of the Lowcountry</u> | |
| <u>Renovate Buildings 2 and 6 Exteriors</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(d) Northeastern Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Cheraw Campus Maintenance.....</u> | <u>\$ 500,000;</u> |
| <u>(e) Denmark Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Renovation of Industrial Tech Building 200 and 300</u> | <u>\$ 1,750,000;</u> |
| <u>(f) Florence-Darlington Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(g) Greenville Technical College</u> | |
| <u>New Dental Education Building</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(h) Horry-Georgetown Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Acquisition of Real Property, land/building Georgetown.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(i) Midlands Technical College</u> | |
| <u>New addition to AMCS Building.....</u> | <u>\$ 6,000,000;</u> |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| <u>(j) Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Advanced Manufacturing Building.....</u> | <u>\$ 4,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(k) Piedmont Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Technical Innovation Center Greenwood County.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(l) Spartanburg Community College</u> | |
| <u>Biles Campus Property Acquisition.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(m) Central Carolina Technical College</u> | |
| <u>(i) Broad Street Technical High School.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(ii) Renovation of AMTTC.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,694,431;</u> |
| <u>(n) Tri-County Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(o) Trident Technical College</u> | |
| <u>(i) Thornley Campus Buildings 700/800 Defense Sector</u> | |
| <u>(ii) Advance Manufacturing - SCIEAT.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(p) Williamsburg Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Auditorium/Community Center.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(q) York Technical College</u> | |
| <u>Welding Renovations Building D (Phase 2).....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(26) H790 Department of Archives and History</u> | |
| <u>(a) SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) SCDAH Exhibit Hall and Meeting Space Expansion.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(27) H950 State Museum Commission</u> | |
| <u>(a) New HVAC Monitoring System.....</u> | <u>\$ 250,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Security Upgrades.....</u> | <u>\$ 400,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) WiFi Expansion.....</u> | <u>\$ 50,000;</u> |
| <u>(28) H960 Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission</u> | |
| <u>Expansion of Relic Room.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,448,000;</u> |
| <u>(29) J060 Department of Public Health</u> | |
| <u>(a) Disaster Readiness Fund.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Human Coalition Crisis Pregnancy Pilot.....</u> | <u>\$ 500,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Olmstead Act (Act 3 of 2025).....</u> | <u>\$ 577,157;</u> |
| <u>(30) H730 Department of Vocational Rehabilitation</u> | |
| <u>(a) Beaufort VR Center Repaving.....</u> | <u>\$ 168,750;</u> |
| <u>(b) Muscular Development Center Reroofing.....</u> | <u>\$ 112,500;</u> |
| <u>(c) State Office Building - Replacement of VAV Boxes.....</u> | <u>\$ 147,500;</u> |
| <u>(31) J080 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities</u> | |
| <u>Information Technology and Cyber Security Modernization.....</u> | <u>\$14,100,000;</u> |
| <u>(32) L040 Department of Social Services</u> | |
| <u>ESSAM.....</u> | <u>\$25,116,538;</u> |
| <u>(33) L240 Commission for the Blind</u> | |
| <u>Contract for Blind and Visually Impaired Services.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(34) L080 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>(35) P120 Forestry Commission</u> | |
| <u>(a) BMP Road Mat Cost Share Program.....</u> | <u>\$ 500,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Information Technology.....</u> | <u>\$ 560,000;</u> |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| <u>(36) P160 Department of Agriculture</u> | |
| <u>(a) Growing Agribusiness Fund</u> | \$ 5,000,000; |
| <u>(b) Microbiological Testing Equipment</u> | \$ 750,000; |
| <u>(37) P200 Clemson University Public Service Activities</u> | |
| <u>Infrastructure and Safety Upgrades</u> | \$ 2,500,000; |
| <u>(38) P210 SC State University Public Service Activities</u> | |
| <u>422 Crossroads Agriculture Center</u> | \$ 6,000,000; |
| <u>(39) P240 Department of Natural Resources</u> | |
| <u>(a) Agency Equipment</u> | \$ 2,000,000; |
| <u>(b) Field and Regional Buildings</u> | \$ 2,000,000; |
| <u>(c) Fish Hatchery Renovations</u> | \$ 5,000,000; |
| <u>(d) Land Conservation</u> | \$27,500,000; |
| <u>(e) Waterfowl Area Enhancements</u> | \$ 1,500,000; |
| <u>(40) P260 Sea Grant Consortium</u> | |
| <u>General Sea Grant Funding</u> | \$ 1,600,000; |
| <u>(41) P280 Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism</u> | |
| <u>(a) Beach Renourishment Grants</u> | \$ 7,500,000; |
| <u>(b) Destination Specific Tourism Marketing Grants</u> | \$ 9,000,000; |
| <u>(c) Leisure Market Expansion</u> | \$ 9,350,000; |
| <u>(d) Regional Promotions</u> | \$ 550,000; |
| <u>(e) Sports Marketing Grants</u> | \$ 8,500,000; |
| <u>(42) P360 Patriots Point Development Authority</u> | |
| <u>Multi-use Visitor Experience and Operational Facility</u> | \$10,000,000; |
| <u>(43) P400 SC Conservation Bank</u> | |
| <u>(a) Agriculture - Farm Conservation Grants</u> | \$ 1,000,000; |
| <u>(b) Land Conservation</u> | \$35,000,000; |
| <u>(44) P450 Rural Infrastructure Authority</u> | |
| <u>(a) Rural Infrastructure Fund</u> | \$ 7,250,000; |
| <u>(b) Statewide Water & Sewer Fund</u> | \$ 7,228,105; |
| <u>(45) B040 Judicial Department</u> | |
| <u>(a) Case Management System Modernization</u> | \$20,000,000; |
| <u>(b) Rural County Courthouse Stabilization Fund</u> | \$19,750,000; |
| <u>(46) E200 Attorney General's Office</u> | |
| <u>Building Lease Increase</u> | \$ 550,000; |
| <u>(47) E210 Prosecution Coordination Commission</u> | |
| <u>(a) Building Lease Increase</u> | \$ 53,575; |
| <u>(b) Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage</u> | \$ 6,000,000; |
| <u>(48) E230 Commission on Indigent Defense</u> | |
| <u>Public Defender Technology and Digital Storage</u> | \$ 1,382,000; |
| <u>(49) D100 State Law Enforcement Division</u> | |
| <u>(a) AI Investigative Tool</u> | \$ 150,000; |
| <u>(b) BWC Replacement</u> | \$ 450,000; |
| <u>(c) Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs</u> | \$ 3,000,000; |
| <u>(d) Service Contract 800MHz Expansion</u> | \$13,420,000; |
| <u>(e) Workers' Compensation and Insurance Reserve Fund Rate</u> | |
| <u>Increases</u> | \$ 998,066; |
| <u>(50) K050 Department of Public Safety</u> | |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>(a) Building Maintenance.....</u> | <u>\$ 750,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Law Enforcement Equipment.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,920,653;</u> |
| <u>(c) Radio Replacement Life Cycle.....</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(d) Radio System Operation and Maintenance</u> | <u>\$ 1,901,303;</u> |
| <u>(51) N200 Law Enforcement Training Council</u> | |
| <u>(a) Building Maintenance.....</u> | <u>\$ 252,810;</u> |
| <u>(b) East Dorm Restrooms Renovation and HVAC Replacement</u> | <u>\$ 841,036;</u> |
| <u>(52) N040 Department of Corrections</u> | |
| <u>(a) Deferred Maintenance</u> | <u>\$15,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs.....</u> | <u>\$ 5,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance</u> | <u>\$ 4,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(53) N080 Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</u> | |
| <u>Digital Fingerprinting Contract Renewal</u> | <u>\$ 2,065,830;</u> |
| <u>(54) N120 Department of Juvenile Justice</u> | |
| <u>(a) Deferred Maintenance</u> | <u>\$ 4,500,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs.....</u> | <u>\$ 3,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(55) L460 Commission For Community Advancement & Engagement</u> | |
| <u>(a) Agency Rebranding</u> | <u>\$ 250,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Small Business Grants Program.....</u> | <u>\$ 250,000;</u> |
| <u>(56) R360 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation</u> | |
| <u>Technology Shared Services Implementation.....</u> | <u>\$ 2,578,357;</u> |
| <u>(57) R600 Department of Employment and Workforce</u> | |
| <u>(a) Graduation Alliance</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Technology Shared Services Implementation</u> | <u>\$ 887,000;</u> |
| <u>(58) U120 Department of Transportation</u> | |
| <u>(a) Bridge Modernization.....</u> | <u>\$60,447,863;</u> |
| <u>(b) Interstate Acceleration</u> | <u>\$125,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Road Buyback Program.....</u> | <u>\$25,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(58.1) The funds in item (58)(b) 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>(59) U200 County Transportation Funds</u> | |
| <u>CTC Acceleration</u> | <u>\$100,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(60) U300 Division of Aeronautics</u> | |
| <u>Airport Development Program</u> | <u>\$60,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(61) A050 House of Representatives</u> | |
| <u>Operating and Security Upgrades</u> | <u>\$ 2,460,000;</u> |
| <u>(62) A170 Legislative Services Agency</u> | |
| <u>(a) Data Center Power Backup.....</u> | <u>\$ 600,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) Enterprise Software Systems.....</u> | <u>\$ 8,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(c) Other Operating Expenses.....</u> | <u>\$ 500,000;</u> |
| <u>(63) D050 Governor's Office - Executive Control of the State</u> | |
| <u>Administration Transition Costs</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000;</u> |

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2026-27
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <u>(64) D300 Office of Resilience</u> | |
| <u>Captain Sam's Spit Settlement</u> | <u>\$32,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(65) D500 Department of Administration</u> | |
| <u>Office of Statewide Data</u> | <u>\$ 4,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(66) D250 Office of Inspector General</u> | |
| <u>Investigative Capacity and Compliance Personnel</u> | <u>\$ 38,156;</u> |
| <u>(67) E240 Adjutant General's Office</u> | |
| <u>(a) SCEMD - FEMA Match for Federally Declared Disasters</u> | <u>\$17,200,000;</u> |
| <u>(b) SCEMD - State EOC Construction</u> | <u>\$10,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(68) E260 Department of Veterans' Affairs</u> | |
| <u>Military Enhancement Fund</u> | <u>\$ 7,000,000;</u> |
| <u>(69) E280 Election Commission</u> | |
| <u>(a) HAVA Grant Match</u> | <u>\$ 54,545;</u> |
| <u>(b) Statewide Voting System Upgrade</u> | <u>\$10,587,378;</u> |
| <u>(70) E550 State Fiscal Accountability Authority</u> | |
| <u>SCPro - SCEIS Procurement Module</u> | <u>\$9,500,000; and</u> |
| <u>(71) F500 Public Employee Benefit Authority</u> | |
| <u>JSRS Retirement For Family Court Judge Salaries</u> | <u>\$ 3,896,000.</u> |
| <u>(C) Unexpended funds appropriated pursuant to this provision may be carried forward to succeeding fiscal years and expended for the same purposes.</u> | |