

**PUBLIC EDUCATION & SPECIAL SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE
BOND BILL REQUESTS**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

\$95,000,000 - School Buses

Description of the request: The state utilizes 5,582 school buses for regular routes and as spares. Of significant concern are issues related to the age of the buses in the fleet, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining maintenance technicians and drivers, areas of rapid student growth, and student ride times in excess of ninety minutes. Although the average age of the buses in the fleet is 15.5 years, the manufacture dates of these buses ranges almost thirty years, from 1988 to 2016. In 1994, the state enacted a bond bill that led to the purchase of over 2,100 buses. Those 21-year old, Type D, rear-engine buses have served our state well; however, they are now having significant issues. The rear-engine configuration also makes these buses more difficult to inspect, service, and maintain. The occurrence of bus fires and dangerous overheating (collectively called “thermal events”) has increased over the years. Since 2012, the incidence of thermal events is again on the rise. Type D, rear-engine transit-style buses, which are more than one-third (34.5 percent) of the fleet, were involved in 79.6 percent of the thermal events since 1995. This request would complete purchases of new buses to replace all 1995-96 Type D buses.

Explanation of the request:

- Replace 1,140 (100%) of the 1995-96 Type D buses.

STATE MUSEUM COMMISSION

\$10,000,000 - Permanent Gallery Renovation

Description of the request: The museum’s fourth floor history exhibits are in need of renovation to better represent its expanding collection, replace outdated exhibit delivery systems and bring a 1980’s building infrastructure into the new millennium. More than half of the total museum collection remains in storage. Renovated galleries will allow for better representation of its rich history and the lessons we can learn from it and updated exhibit techniques will allow audiences to access information through a variety of mediums, ranging from dynamic displays to engaging interactives to innovative media presentations. Additional media also allows the museum to easily update content, whether in the form of touch screens, theaters or projection-mapped immersive environments. The building’s flooring and wall treatments are showing their age and an inefficient lighting system should be replaced with a more efficient and cost-effective LED system offering better conditions for artifact preservation. Creating a larger multi-use gallery on each floor will add the ability to present more content and provide additional income through increased rental opportunities. Finally, the galleries are in need of updated environmental graphics, signage and way-finding that complement the design language of the recent Windows to the World expansion.

Explanation of the request:

- South Carolina Museum Foundation would contribute \$5,000,000 to the project bringing the total project cost to \$15,000,000 Foundation sources would include private, foundation and corporate support
- This project begins phase two of the complete renovation of the museum. Phase 1 (\$23.5 million) was opened in August of 2014 and included the addition of a

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planetarium, 4D theatre, observatory, telescope gallery and guest service and rental enhancements

- Phase 2 will transform the existing 3 floors of permanent exhibits to the same standard of quality as the WTNW components. No additional operating costs are needed. The construction would be phased so the museum would not close during the renovations as we would do one floor at a time.