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State Senate
Press Office

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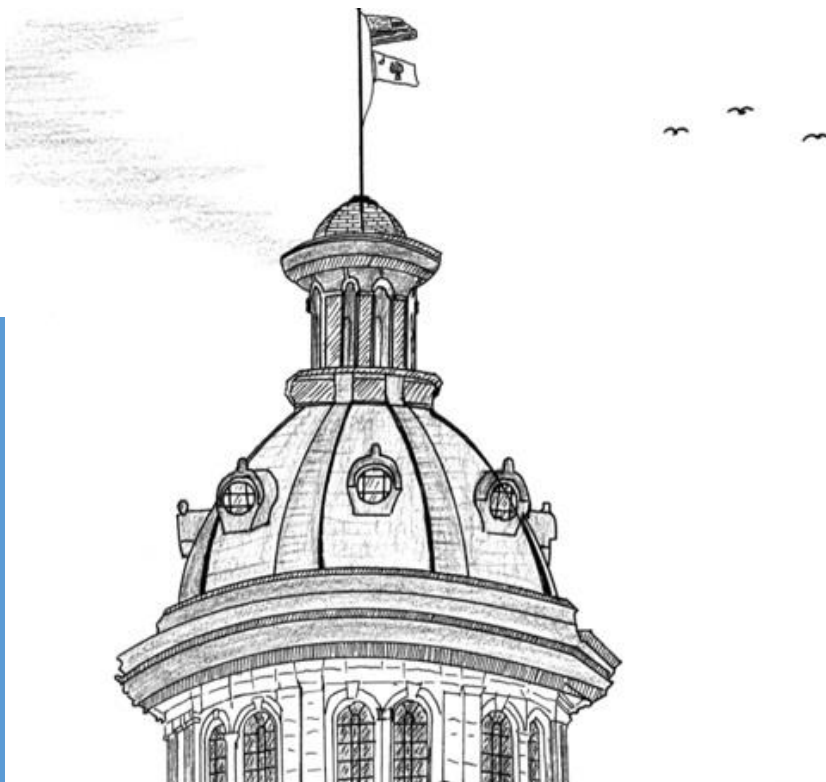


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This week in the Senate

April 25 - April 29, 2016

It was a frenzied week for the Senate as bills raced to meet the General Assembly's crossover deadline of May 1. Any bill that hasn't been moved between the two chambers at this point is considered to have a much smaller chance of passing by the end of session on June 2.

The Senate also approved two major ethics reform bills. One - [H. 3186](#) - requires elected officials and candidates to disclose sources of income. The second bill - [H. 3184](#) - sets up a new independent investigation process for ethics complaints against legislators.

Additionally, the Senate passed the "Farm Aid Bill," [H. 4717](#), which provides \$40 million to farmers who can verify agricultural losses following last October's flooding. Senators voted 33-3 on the legislation, which allows farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for up to \$100,000 in grants covering up to 20 percent of crop losses.

Bills passed by the Senate this week include:

[S. 561](#), after being amended this week, the bill clarifies the lines of authority between the SCDOT Commission and the department secretary. The secretary will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the highway system, allowing the Commission to focus on setting policies and long-term priorities of the agency. This bill is sponsored by Senators Larry Grooms, Tom Davis, Greg Gregory, Harvey Peeler, Gerald Malloy, Paul Campbell, Ray Cleary and Sean Bennett.

[S. 1016](#), establishes regulations and requirements for the sale of prescription eyewear. This bill is sponsored by Senators Ray Cleary, Darrell Jackson, John Matthews, Paul Campbell, Tom Davis, John Scott, Ross Turner, Luke Rankin and Thomas Alexander.

[S. 908](#), sponsored by Senator Wes Hayes: establishes a framework by which Internet users have the power to plan for the management and disposition of their digital assets - such as banking data and social media information - if they should die or become incapacitated.

[S. 1015](#), sponsored by Senators Hugh Leatherman and Kevin Johnson: makes it unlawful to knowingly or intentionally import, manufacture, sell or install a counterfeit or nonfunctioning airbag in a motor vehicle.

[S. 1023](#), sponsored by Senators Brad Hutto and Thomas McElveen: allows retired justices, judges, solicitors, assistant solicitors, and Workers' Compensation Commissioners to carry a concealed weapon if they possess a valid permit.

[S. 339](#), sponsored by Senators Joel Lourie and John Scott: known as "Hope's Law," this bill requires mammogram providers to supply each patient with a report that includes patient-specific information about breast density and provides conspicuous notice when a mammogram shows the presence of dense tissue.

[S. 139](#), sponsored by Senator Ray Cleary: freezes a building restriction line along the coast from being moved inward toward the sea after the date of Dec. 31, 2017. By law, state regulators have to reset this building line every 8 to 10 years. This bill, however, is intended to set a permanent line and restrict the construction of new hotels, condominiums and other developments that may be built farther toward the ocean.

[S. 371](#), sponsored by Senator Kevin Bryant: Allows the Board of Nursing to revoke a nurse's license to practice in the state if it finds that the nurse misread a physician's order and over-medicated and under-medicated a patient.

[S. 986](#), increases the penalties for the solicitation of prostitution, establishing or keeping of a brothel or house of prostitution, and for causing or inducing another to participate in prostitution. This bill is sponsored by Senators Katrina Shealy, Larry Martin, Chip Campsen, Turner, Tom Young, Thomas McElveen, Margie Bright Matthews and Kent Williams.

[S. 980](#), sponsored by Senators Vincent Sheheen and Thomas McElveen: requires all prescription drugs dispensed to an animal's owner to be labeled in accordance with state and federal law and provides penalties for any violation.

[S. 1092](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hutto: conforms the language of trafficking in illegal drugs to the language of the provisions concerning possession and distribution of Schedule I(b), I(c), and Schedule II narcotic drugs, including opiates, heroin, and related synthetic drugs.

[S. 1170](#), sponsored by Senators Greg Gregory and Katrina Shealy: bars court from considering the past, present, or anticipated earnings of a subsequent spouse in the event of remarriage when determining, modifying or terminating alimony.

[S. 227](#), sponsored by Senators Paul Campbell, Luke Rankin and Larry Grooms: This bill amends current law to extend the allocation of individual tax withholdings equal to five percent of all wages paid to federal employees at a closed or realigned military installation. This allocation is currently set to expire at the beginning of 2017. This bill would extend this allocation by 20 years, to 2037. This bill applies to the Charleston Naval Complex, the Savannah River Site, and the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

[S. 1037](#), sponsored by Senator Thomas Alexander: Exempts physicians from getting a license to practice in South Carolina during a sporting event if they hold an active license to practice somewhere else, engage in the active practice of medicine in another jurisdiction and is employed or designated as the team physician by an athletic team.

[S. 1177](#), sponsored by Senator Thomas Alexander: provides modifications to the South Carolina Architectural Practice Act to include the Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure, which offers the ability to complete the requirements for architectural licensure at the time of graduation. In order for Clemson University's School of Architecture to offer this program, modifications are required to this act.

[S. 922](#), sponsored by Senator Kevin Bryant: provides that an operator of a concession stand operated by the Commission for the Blind may not subcontract the installation or operation of the concession stand to a person who is not blind or does not have a severe visual disability.

[S. 356](#), sponsored by Senator Luke Rankin: states that any Native American Indian Group that has been recognized by the Commission of Minority Affairs remains and continues to be recognized as a Native American Indian Group and is eligible to exercise the privileges and obligations authorized by that designation. The commission must eliminate the eligibility for additional Native American Indian Groups to receive official recognized status in the state and cease to recognize additional entities as Native American Indian Groups.

[S. 1127](#), sponsored by Senator Ray Cleary: Allows a debtor's Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to be exempt from a creditor's attachment, levy and sale. A claimed exemption may be reduced or eliminated by the amount of a fraudulent conveyance into the IRA.

[S. 1139](#), sponsored by Senator Allen: Amend the law enforcement and public safety code to require that SLED provide documentation to the Department of Revenue on all criminal convictions and legal pleas resulting from events occurring on the premises of businesses that possess alcohol beverage licenses within ten days of the conviction or plea.

[S. 1258](#): This bill would send a portion of the fine and fee revenue from the DMV to the State Highway Fund to be used on infrastructure projects in the state. The other portion of that revenue would be transferred to the State Infrastructure Bank for projects approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee. The first \$50 million sent to the SIB must be used to finance bridge replacement, rehabilitation projects, and expansion and improvements on existing roads in the State Highway System. Funds in excess of \$50 million must be used to finance expansion and improvements to existing interstates.

[S. 1205](#), sponsored Senator Greg Hembree: provides that DNR enforcement officers are not required to obtain certain bonds and that officers shall be covered by a surety bond of not less than \$2,000.

[S. 1252](#), sponsored Senators Shane Martin, Kevin Bryant and Harvey Peeler: Requires the state fire marshal to issue a license for a community fireworks display if certain safety conditions and other requirements are met.

[S. 981](#), sponsored Senator Vincent Sheheen: creates a state license plate touting “No More Homeless Pets.”

[S. 1182](#), sponsored by Senators Katrina Shealy, Joel Lourie, Mike Fair and Brad Hutto: Requires each county coroner to establish a child fatality review committee to perform a review of a case where a child under age 18 dies in the county that the coroner serves.

[S. 916](#), sponsored by Senators Gerald Malloy, Mike Fair and Margie Bright Matthews: This bill changes the juvenile justice code definition of child and juvenile from less than 17 years old to less than 18 years old.

[S. 685](#), Senators Hugh Leatherman, Thomas Alexander, Paul Campbell, Shane Martin, Floyd Nicholson and William O'Dell: The bill rewrites regulations for membership on the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors and deletes the section of the code which would have prohibited considering price as part of a public entity RFP or bid process

[S. 680](#), sponsored by Senators Luke Rankin and Greg Hembree: Allows entities given custody of an animal in cruelty cases to petition to a court for reimbursement of animal care costs.

[H. 3036](#): Declares Jan. 17 of each year as "Eartha Kitt day" in honor of the actress, singer, and native South Carolinian.

[H. 5100](#), revise the definition of "emergency medical provider" relating to definitions in the Access to Emergency Medical Care Act to include oral surgeons and dentists licensed by the State Board of Dentistry.

Look ahead to next week and beyond:

The General Assembly will be preparing for the last full month of the 2016 session. Any bills that could become laws have likely crossed to the opposite chamber because of the May 1 deadline.

Senate budget deliberations will start Tuesday. The Senate's version of the roughly \$7.5 billion appropriation bill puts an additional \$217 million into the public school base-student costs, adds additional dollars for repairing, widening and improving the state's infrastructure, and includes a 4 percent pay raise for state employees.

Senators Ray Cleary, Larry Grooms and Brad Hutto, along with three members of the House, are part of a conference committee trying to hammer out difference on H. 3579, a bill that reforms the governing structure of the Department of Transportation.

Also, a portrait of fallen Senator Clementa Pinckney will be unveiled during a ceremony in the Senate on May 25.