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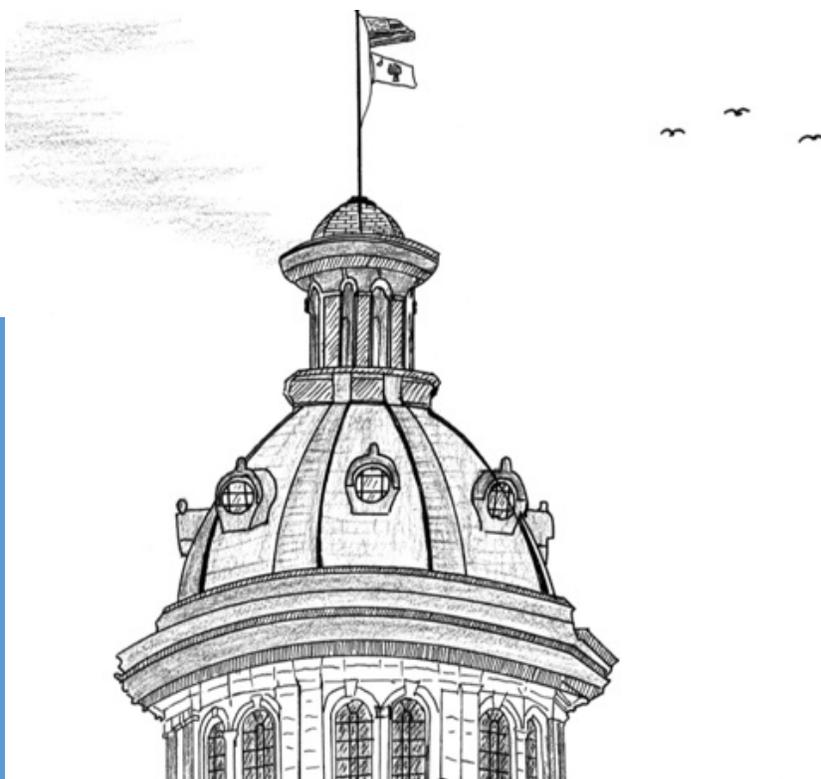


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This week in the Senate

March 21 - March 25, 2016

The Senate wrapped up debate this week on [S. 997](#), approving the bill with a 39-6 vote.

The bill - sponsored by Senators Lee Bright, Shane Martin, Harvey Peeler, Mike Fair, Larry Grooms, Tom Corbin, Danny Verdin and Kevin Bryant - requires refugees coming to South Carolina through the federal Refugee Resettlement Program to register with the state and holds their sponsors liable for any damages caused by the refugees.

The bill now moves to the House. Earlier language in the bill - including a requirement that no state money be spent on refugees and a provision that would have made the registry public - was removed after debate on Wednesday.

The bill received third reading during a perfunctory session on Thursday.

Bills passed by the Senate this week include:

The Senate passed [S. 1112](#), sponsored by Senator Chip Campsen, amending the size limits of Southern flounder that may be lawfully taken, landed or sold. Wildlife biologists have promoted this measure to help protect the species, a popular one among fisherman and the seafood industry.

[S. 973](#), sponsored by Senators Ronnie Cromer and Thomas Alexander, was also approved, extending the date that a certain portion of revenue from the insurance premium tax be sent to the South Carolina Forestry Commission to the year 2027.

Also, [H. 4816](#) was passed, designating June 27th of each year as South Carolina Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day.

Receiving second reading:

The Senate approved [S. 1111](#), which revises the method by which certain fees for automobile manufacturing license plates are calculated and credited and sets the license plate fee for 2017 and 2018.

[H. 3788](#) was also passed. The bill is related to the enforcement of motor vehicle express warranties by revising the definitions of “motor vehicle” and a “new motor vehicle.”

[H. 3911](#) was also approved. This measure revises the interval by which the state DMV must reissue a license plate from six years to 10 years. This change is expected to save taxpayers approximately \$4 per license plate.

Look ahead to next week and beyond:

The Senate voted Wednesday to meet in perfunctory session - under the provisions of Rule 1B - on Monday, March 28, Tuesday, March 29, Wednesday, March 30, Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1 - for the purpose of taking up local matters and uncontested matters which have previously received unanimous consent.

The Senate will meet again in regular statewide session Tuesday, April 5, at noon.

The Senate’s next bill set for special order is [H. 3184](#), also known as the Ethics Reform Act.

Other bills of note include:

[S. 913](#) sponsored by Senators Larry Martin, Tom Davis and Greg Hembree. This bill would require the release of police dashboard camera video in officer-involved shootings. It received a favorable report with amendment out of the Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

[H. 3147](#) received a favorable report with amendment from the Finance Committee on Wednesday. The bill would exempt certain military retirement pay on income taxes, which would impact thousands of retirees in South Carolina.