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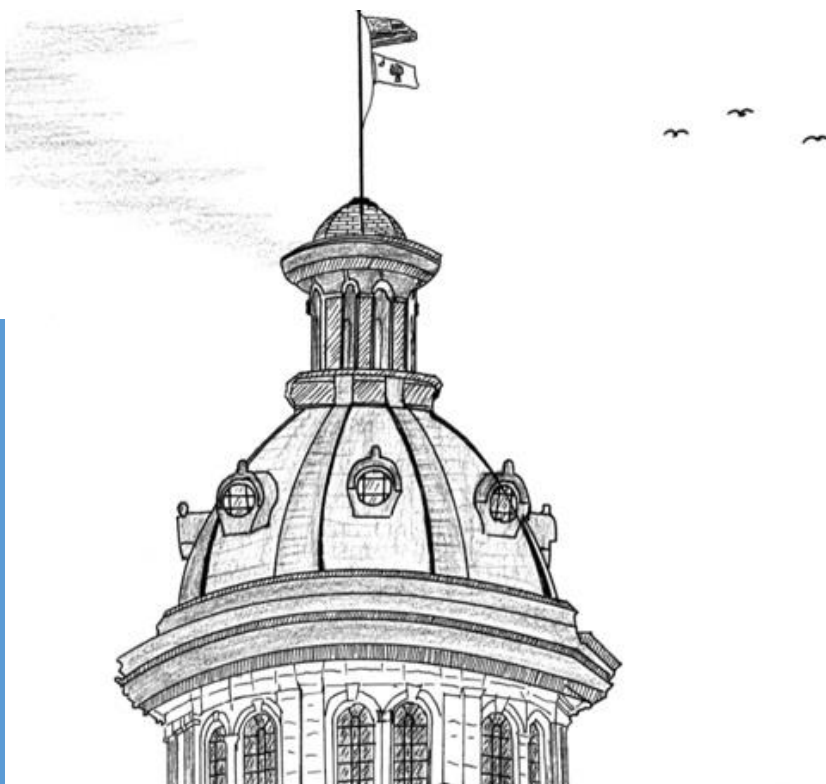


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# This week in the Senate

## May 16 - May 20, 2016

The Senate voted this week to override the governor's veto of [H. 4717](#), also known as the Farm Aid Bill, which provides \$40 million in assistance to farmers following last October's flooding. Senators voted 39-3 to override the veto of the legislation, which allows farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for up to \$100,000 in grants that would cover up to 20 percent of crop losses.

The Senate also gave third reading to [H. 4548](#), known as the dealer closing fee bill. This legislation responds to two lawsuits filed by consumers claiming that the fee, charged to finalize purchases of cars, didn't relate to any real closing expenses. This bill clarifies what dealers can count as closing costs and calls for lawsuits brought under the closing fee statute to only be heard individually rather than as a group.

The Senate also overrode the governor's veto on [S. 1016](#), known as the "Eye Care Consumer Protection Law," which establishes regulations and requirements for the sale of prescription eyewear in the state.

## **Other bills passed by the Senate this week include:**

### Third Reading:

[S. 936](#) - Sponsored by Senators Katrina Shealy, Kevin Bryant, Greg Hembree, Thomas Alexander and Gerald Malloy: This bill, which is targeted to assist foster parents, allows minors to be able to apply for a beginner's permit, instruction permit, or driver's license under the authorization of a responsible adult.

[H. 5024](#) - Tasks the Department of Education with providing training to all literacy coaches and teachers in kindergarten through third grade on dyslexia and related reading disorders before the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

[H. 4999](#) - Places free healthcare provider services within the scope of "The Good Samaritan" law, allowing them to be immune from civil damage liability unless there's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

[H. 4817](#) - Requires bondsmen to provide their business address, email, mailing and residential street address on their license application with the Department of Insurance

[H. 4138](#) - Establishes requirements for licensed heating, ventilating and air conditioning contractors to display their licenses in a conspicuous manner at their business.

[H. 3891](#) - Allows rental companies renting vehicles for 90 days or less to charge separately stated fees to cover certain taxes and fees.

[H. 4932](#) - Provides specifications regarding the maximum lengths and weights of vehicles that may be operated on state highways to maintain consistency with federal requirements.

[H. 3849](#) - Exempts educator evaluations that include personally identifiable information from public disclosure under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. This bill was requested by the Department of Education, which has advised that ensuring the confidentiality of such information is standard practice in other states and would promote more candid feedback.

[H. 3653](#) - Clarifies existing law for law enforcement agencies that enter into mutual aid agreements or multijurisdictional task force agreements with other law enforcement providers as may be necessary for public safety.

[H. 3560](#) - Allows teachers the opportunity for a hearing with a School Board or its designee if they have received written notice of dismissal.

[H. 4939](#) - Establishes a committee to review the education statutes in South Carolina to determine which ones are obsolete and report the findings to the General Assembly by December 31, 2016.

[H. 4938](#) - Directs the Department of Education to conduct a survey of college students currently in a teacher education program to address teacher recruitment issues in rural and economically-challenged districts.

[H. 4413](#) - Requires locations that serve as safe havens to post a notice stating that the location is a safe haven where a person may leave an infant.

Second reading:

[S. 1204](#), sponsored by Senator Vincent Sheheen, requires schools that offer instruction in marching band consider it the equivalent of physical education instruction when it comes to class credits.

## **Look ahead to next week and beyond:**

The House amended [H. 5001](#) and [H. 5002](#), the state appropriations and capital reserve fund bills. Conference committees on those bills are expected to begin working next week.

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. [S. 1258](#), a Finance Committee bill, is working its way through the House and will likely be a part of the ultimate solution to reforming DOT and providing additional revenue to repair the state's roads and bridges.

[H. 3799](#), dealing with concealed weapon permit reciprocity, has priority status on the Senate's calendar after being placed on special order. This legislation requires South Carolina to recognize concealed weapons permits from Georgia and North Carolina.

[H. 3184](#), which sets up a new independent investigation process for ethics complaints against public officials, was approved by the House last week and sent back to the Senate.

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