**Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

**(Statewide Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

 The Senate assembled at 1:00 P.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

 A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

Psalm 9:1

 The Psalmist proclaims: “I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.”

 Let us pray: O gracious God, amid all of the issues and pressures and conflicts which often confront them, may these Senators and aides, like the Psalmist, never fail to cherish the wonders You have created. For indeed, the glory of creation is on full display everywhere we turn. So, loving Lord, let us all routinely praise You for the natural beauty that surrounds us -- from the foothills to the sea. Truly, no matter what debates or controversies unfold, may no one ever stop caring for and protecting the incredible but fragile world You have given us. Further, grant that these leaders likewise do all they can to bring rich and marvelous blessings to each and every one of our citizens, as well. And as always, to You be the glory, O Lord. Amen.

 The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

**Call of the Senate**

 Senator SETZLER moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Davis

Fanning Gambrell Garrett

Grooms Gustafson Harpootlian

Hutto *Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell

Kimpson Loftis Malloy

Martin Massey McElveen

Peeler Reichenbach Rice

Senn Setzler Shealy

Talley Turner Williams

Young

 A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander

President of the Senate

State House, Second Floor

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and members of the Senate:

 I write to withdraw my April 5, 2023, appointment of Hugh L. Willcox, Jr., Esquire to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Public Service Authority (“Santee Cooper”), representing the Seventh Congressional District. For ease of reference, a copy of my April 5, 2023, correspondence regarding Mr. Wilcox’s appointment is enclosed herewith.

 I appreciate Mr. Wilcox’s willingness to serve the State of South Carolina in this capacity, and I trust that the Senate would have given favorable consideration to his nomination to serve as a member of Santee Cooper’s Board of Directors; however, due to unanticipated health concerns, Mr. Wilcox has requested that I withdraw the aforementioned appointment at this time. I intend to submit a new appointment to the Senate as soon as is practicable.

 By copy of this letter, I am simultaneously notifying the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (“PURC”) of this action. Should the Senate or PURC have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

 Yours very truly,

 Henry McMaster

Enclosure

Cc w/enc: State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

 State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

April 24, 2023

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

 I am transmitting herewith notice of my intent to withdraw my nomination of Mr. Hugh L. Wilcox, Jr., Esquire for appointment to the SC Public Service Authority.

 Respectfully,

 Henry Dargan McMaster

**Withdrawal of Statewide Appointment**

 On motion of Senator RANKIN, the Senate acceded to the Governor's request and the Clerk was directed to return the appointment to the Governor.

Initial Appointment, Board of Directors of the South Carolina Public Service Authority, with the term to commence January 1, 2023, and to expire January 1, 2027

7th Congressional District:

Hugh L. Wilcox, Jr., 500 East Howe Springs Street, Florence, SC 29505 *VICE* Merrell W. Floyd

**COMMUNICATION**

**1st Congressional District Legislative Delegation**



The Honorable Henry D. McMaster The Honorable Jeffrey S. Gossett

State House, First Floor 401 Gressette Building

Columbia, SC 29201 Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Mark Hammond The Honorable Charles F. Reid

1205 Pendleton Street 213 Blatt Building

Columbia SC 29201 Columbia, SC 29201

April 26, 2023

**RE: Approval of Mr. T.J. Johnson, 1st District DOT Commission**

Gentlemen:

 Pursuant to Section 57-1-325 et. seq., members of the General Assembly representing the 1st Congressional District met to consider the above referenced appointment on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. The meeting was publicly posted and members of the Senate and House of Representatives met jointly.

 As Chairman of the 1st District Delegation, I certify that Mr. T.J. Johnson received a majority of the weighted vote of only the Senators in the delegation and a majority of the weighted vote of only the members of the House of Representatives in the delegation. Details of the appointment are below:

Initial appointment to the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission, with a term to commence February 15, 2020, and to expire February 15, 2024

1st Congressional District:

Mr. Thomas J. Johnson, 1303 Kings Court, Mt. Pleasant, S.C. 29464

*Vice*: Robby Robbins

 Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Grooms

**REGULATION WITHDRAWN**

 The following was received:

Document No. 5134

Agency: South Carolina Aeronautics Commission

Chapter: 4

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 55-1-1 et seq., 55-5-80(A), 55-5-80(N), and 55-5-280(D)

SUBJECT: Use of the State Aviation Fund; Procedure for Compliance with Land Use in the Vicinity of Airports

Received by President of the Senate January 10, 2023

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Legislative Review Expiration: Permanently Withdrawn

Permanently Withdrawn April 25, 2023

**REGULATION WITHDRAWN AND RESUBMITTED**

 The following was received:

Document No. 5145

Agency: Department of Social Services

Chapter: 114

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 43-5-580(b), 63-17-470(D), and 45 CFR 302.56

SUBJECT: Child Support Guidelines

Received by President of the Senate January 10, 2023

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Legislative Review Expiration May 10, 2023

Withdrawn and Resubmitted April 26, 2023

**Doctor of the Day**

 Senator SETZLER introduced Dr. Melanie Lobel of West Columbia, S.C., Doctor of the Day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator ALLEN, at 4:08 P.M., Senator SCOTT was granted a leave of absence until 6:20 P.M.

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED**

The following co-sponsors were added to the respective Bills:

S. 305 Sen. Rankin

S. 634 Sen. Grooms

S. 739 Sens. Williams and Davis

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

 The following were introduced:

 S. 751 -- Senator Turner: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE RED CLAY STRAYS, TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR RECENT SUCCESS, AND TO WELCOME THEM TO THE CITY OF GREENVILLE.

sr-0384km-vc23.docx : b87b9657-7efb-4301-987f-10df3e16bea1

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 752 -- Senator Gustafson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE NICOLE FOULKS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS MIDLANDS REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

sr-0381km-hw23.docx : bcde8eba-3744-43d8-bbdc-3d4673e80230

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 753 -- Senator Alexander: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE LYNN LOCKABY WILSON UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

sr-0383km-hw23.docx : 2a838a8a-3470-4ecb-8212-082e6eecb7de

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 754 -- Senators Alexander, Bennett, Turner, Setzler, Kimpson, Senn, Grooms and Rankin: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CATHERINE SANDLIN DORITY, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING FOR EXPLORE CHARLESTON, AND TO COMMEND HER FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY.

sr-0382km-hw23.docx : b9085cd5-72a9-4f50-be22-f964274ed590

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable report on:

 S. 634 -- Senators Kimbrell, Rice, Climer, Loftis, Corbin, M. Johnson, Peeler, Turner and Grooms: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE DEDICATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT A CORPORATION THAT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, OR POLITICAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, OR OUTCOMES.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 S. 739 -- Senators Setzler, Alexander, Peeler, Williams and Davis: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A ONE-TIME AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF CERTAIN REMAINING SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSING TAX CREDITS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1.B.1 OF ACT 202 OF 2022, CERTAIN REMAINING SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSING TAX CREDITS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-6-3795 FOR THE TAX YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND NOT EXCEEDING $25 MILLION IN ONE-TIME, NON-RECURRING FUNDING FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSING TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF CHAPTER 13, TITLE 31 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, ALL FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ADDRESS ESCALATIONS AND OTHER COSTS FOR CERTAIN MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator RANKIN from the Committee on Judiciary submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 H. 3691 -- Reps. G.M. Smith, M.M. Smith, Davis, B.L. Cox, Pace, Guest, Leber, J.E. Johnson, Pope, Brittain, McGinnis, Hardee, Hewitt, Jordan, Thayer, Anderson, Rutherford, Trantham, Bailey, Schuessler, Gagnon, Beach, Oremus, Forrest, S. Jones, Taylor, Hixon, Blackwell, Collins, Bannister, Hiott, Carter, O'Neal, Ligon, Guffey, Sessions, T. Moore, Nutt, Hayes, Yow, Mitchell, Connell, Hager, B. Newton, White, Landing, Kirby, Moss, Bustos, Long, Caskey, Cromer and Weeks: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 17‑5‑135 SO AS TO ALLOW CORONERS TO POSSESS AND ADMINISTER OPIOID ANTIDOTES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; BY ADDING SECTION 44‑130‑90 SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID ANTIDOTES BY CORONERS AND THE REPORTING OF THEIR USE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 17‑5‑510, RELATING TO DUTIES OF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CORONERS ARE CONSIDERED PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS IF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator RANKIN from the Committee on Judiciary submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 H. 3890 -- Reps. Rose, Murphy, Brewer, Mitchell, Robbins, Schuessler, Guest, King and B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 22‑5‑920, RELATING TO YOUTHFUL OFFENDER ELIGIBILITY FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF CERTAIN OFFENSES, SO AS TO ALLOW EXPUNGEMENT FOR CONVICTIONS INVOLVING A DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION OFFENSE.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 H. 3908 -- Reps. Collins, G.M. Smith, Bannister, Erickson, Whitmire, Felder, Bernstein, Ott, Haddon, W. Newton, Carter, Elliott, Crawford, Ballentine, Caskey, Wetmore, Stavrinakis, Mitchell, Yow, M.M. Smith, Willis, Vaughan, Cobb-Hunter, Oremus, McGinnis, Trantham, Calhoon, Gatch, Weeks, Rose, Alexander, Tedder, Garvin, Murphy, Sandifer, Hartnett, Robbins, Brewer, Pope, Pace, Henegan, Williams, Wheeler, Wooten, T. Moore, Hyde and Lawson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 8‑11‑151 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS AND TO PROVIDE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE UPON THE BIRTH OF A CHILD OR INITIAL LEGAL PLACEMENT OF A FOSTER CHILD FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 8‑11‑156 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS AND TO PROVIDE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE UPON THE INITIAL LEGAL PLACEMENT OF A CHILD BY ADOPTION FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable report on:

 H. 4017 -- Rep. Ballentine: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12‑6‑40, RELATING TO APPLICATION OF FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO STATE TAX LAWS, SO AS TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO THE YEAR 2022 AND TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTIONS ADOPTED BY THIS STATE ARE EXTENDED, THEN THESE SECTIONS ALSO ARE EXTENDED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

**Appointments Reported**

 Senator SHEALY from the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, with the term to commence May 19, 2022, and to expire May 10, 2026

6th Congressional District:

Mathias G. Chaplin, 7740 Exeter Lane, Columbia, SC 29223-2518 *VICE* Peter Smith

Received as information.

Initial Appointment, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, with the term to commence May 19, 2022, and to expire May 19, 2026

4th Congressional District:

Erica James, 901 Jenkins Street, Greenville, SC 29601-3920 *VICE* Mary S. Sonksen

Received as information.

**Appointment Reported**

 Senator RANKIN from the Committee on Judiciary submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointment**

Initial Appointment, South Carolina State Accident Fund, with the term to commence June 11, 2022, and to expire June 11, 2028

Director:

Erin Farrell Farthing, 213 Leventis Lane, Lexington, SC 29072-3961 *VICE* Amy Cofield

Received as information.

**Message from the House**

Columbia, S.C., April 26, 2023

Mr. President and Senators:

 The House respectfully informs your Honorable Body that it concurs in the amendments proposed by the Senate to:

 H. 3605 -- Reps. G.M. Smith, Sandifer, Carter, Kirby, Oremus, Magnuson, Pace, Long, Elliott, Burns, May, Beach, Forrest, Blackwell, B. Newton, Caskey and Ligon: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑80, RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS OF LICENSEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO SEND INFORMATION REGARDING AN INVESTIGATION TO THE LICENSEE; BY ADDING SECTION 40‑1‑85 SO AS TO ESTABLISH INFORMAL CONFERENCES; BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑90, RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEEDINGS, SO AS TO ALLOW A LICENSEE TO REQUEST CERTIFICATION OF AN INVESTIGATION FROM THE DIRECTOR; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑140, RELATING TO EFFECT OF PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OF APPLICANTS, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE DENIAL OF A LICENSE BASED SOLELY OR IN PART ON A PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

and has ordered the Bill enrolled for Ratification.

Very respectfully,

Speaker of the House

 Received as information.

**HOUSE CONCURRENCE**

 S. 750 -- Senator Grooms: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MRS. MARILYN MYERS BAKER ON HER FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY WORKING FOR THE TOWN OF MONCKS CORNER.

 Returned with concurrence.

 Received as information.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO A CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED LOCAL AND STATEWIDE CALENDAR.**

**READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

The following Bills were read the third time and ordered sent to the House:

 S. 542 -- Senator Davis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE “SOUTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACT”; AND BY ADDING CHAPTER 39 TO TITLE 6 SO AS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, CREATE AND ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM, PROVIDE FOR APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION, ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ASSESSING AND COLLECTING LIENS, PROVIDE FINANCING, AND TO DEVELOP STANDARDS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

 S. 601 -- Senator Young: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 73, TITLE 39 SO AS TO TRANSFER THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE STATE COMMODITY CODE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-310, RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR TO INVESTIGATE, THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION, POWERS AND PROCEDURES, AND COURT ORDERS TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE, SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-315, RELATING TO ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR TO PREVENT VIOLATION OR IMMINENT VIOLATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS AND TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE AND ENFORCEMENT; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-320, RELATING TO LEGAL, EQUITABLE, AND SPECIAL REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO A COURT FOR ENFORCEMENT, AND SECTION 39-73-325, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR WILFUL VIOLATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR ACTIONS TAKEN UPON VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-350, RELATING TO APPLICABILITY OF SECTIONS 39-73-20, 39-73-50, AND 39-73-60 TO PERSONS WHO SELL, BUY, OR OFFER TO SELL OR BUY COMMODITIES IN THIS STATE, SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR APPLICABLE RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMUNICATIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-360, RELATING TO JUDICIAL REVIEW, SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES; BY ADDING SECTION 39-73-375 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY RETAIN ALL FINES AND PENALTIES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER; BY ADDING SECTION 39-73-400 SO AS TO PROVIDE A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 39-73-355 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, NOTICE, HEARING, AND ORDER.

 S. 610 -- Senators Cromer, Shealy and Climer: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE “PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING COMPACT ACT” BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 TO CHAPTER 75, TITLE 40 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSE, FUNCTIONS, OPERATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS FOR THE COMPACT.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 640 -- Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO WATER CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5119, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Resolution was carried over.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 95 -- Senators Campsen, Senn, Verdin, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Gustafson, Young, Grooms, Fanning, Loftis and Garrett: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7, ARTICLE VI OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS OF THIS STATE, SO AS TO DELETE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL FROM THE LIST OF STATE OFFICERS WHICH THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES TO BE ELECTED AND PROVIDE THAT THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE FOR A TERM COTERMINOUS WITH THE GOVERNOR UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF THE

COMPTROLLER GENERAL SERVING IN OFFICE ON THE DATE OF THE RATIFICATION OF THIS PROVISION.

 Senator CASH objected to consideration of the Resolution.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 514 -- Senators Hutto, Jackson, Sabb, Senn and Shealy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 16‑17‑500, 16‑17‑501, 16‑17‑502, 16‑17‑503, 16‑17‑504, AND 16‑17‑506, RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO AND OTHER NICOTINE PRODUCTS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF “TOBACCO PRODUCT” AND ADD DEFINITIONS FOR “TOBACCO RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT” AND “TOBACCO RETAILER”; TO PROHIBIT MINORS FROM ENTERING A TOBACCO RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT; TO CHANGE CERTAIN PENALTIES FOR TOBACCO RETAILER VIOLATIONS; TO REQUIRE TOBACCO RETAILERS TO SECURE AND DISPLAY A TOBACCO RETAIL SALES LICENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TO ESTABLISH AN ASSOCIATED FEE AND A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑1‑380, RELATING TO THE MANDATORY PUBLIC SCHOOL TOBACCO‑FREE CAMPUS POLICY, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

 Senator CASH objected to consideration of the Bill.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 710 -- Banking and Insurance Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - CONSUMER FINANCE DIVISION, RELATING TO CHECK-CASHING SERVICE: PURCHASE OF GOODS OR SERVICES, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5141, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

 On motion of Senator GAMBRELL, the Resolution was carried over.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 711 -- Banking and Insurance Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - CONSUMER FINANCE DIVISION, RELATING TO CHECK-CASHING SERVICE, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5140, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

 On motion of Senator GAMBRELL, the Resolution was carried over.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 305 -- Senators Young, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Turner, Fanning, Climer, Stephens and Rankin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59‑25‑60 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL’S PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE MAY BE AWARDED ON AN INITIAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE IF THE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS IN OR RELATED TO THE CONTENT FIELD OF THE CERTIFICATE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT EXISTING CERTIFICATE HOLDERS MAY ALSO RECEIVE THE SAME CREDIT FOR PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE.

 Senator SETZLER objected to consideration of the Bill.

**CARRIED OVER**

 H. 3951 -- Reps. Haddon, G.M. Smith, Bannister, Hiott, Ligon, Hixon, Leber, Erickson, Forrest, Brewer, Murphy, Robbins, Willis, Calhoon, Pope, Davis and M.M. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE “WORKING AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION ACT” BY ADDING CHAPTER 57 TO TITLE 46 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS, ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE, AND OUTLINE PROGRAM CRITERIA, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Bill was carried over.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 639 -- Senator Climer: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 7‑7‑530, RELATING TO DESIGNATION OF VOTING PRECINCTS IN YORK COUNTY, SO AS TO REDESIGNATE THE MAP NUMBER ON WHICH THESE PRECINCTS MAY BE FOUND ON FILE WITH THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Bill was carried over.

**OBJECTION**

 H. 3952 -- Reps. G.M. Smith, Bannister, Bradley, Crawford, Herbkersman, W. Newton, Felder, Alexander, Wetmore, Hyde, Sessions, Guffey, Connell, Hager, Atkinson, Moss, Stavrinakis, Yow, Mitchell, Ligon, B. Newton, Williams, T. Moore, Robbins, Brewer, Murphy, Wooten, Cromer, Magnuson, Pope, Hixon, Forrest, M.M. Smith, Davis, Ballentine, Erickson, Guest, Ott, Willis, Sandifer, White, Lawson, Hardee and Long: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 37‑1‑102, RELATING TO THE PURPOSES OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION CODE, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION FOR CONSUMERS, BEST PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES, AND TO MEDIATE COMPLAINTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 37‑6‑106, RELATING TO INVESTIGATORY POWERS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE PRESENTATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE BEFORE BEGINNING AN INVESTIGATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 37‑6‑108, RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT ORDERS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INFORMATION BE PROVIDED BEFORE A CEASE AND DESIST IS ISSUED TO A BUSINESS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 37‑2‑307, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE SALES CONTRACT CLOSING FEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE CLOSING FEE TO BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED WITH THE ADVERTISED PRICE.

 Senator MALLOY objected to consideration of the Bill.

**THE CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED CALENDAR HAVING BEEN COMPLETED, THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO THE MOTION PERIOD.**

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 At 1:44 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to dispense with the balance of the Motion Period.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO A CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS RETURNED FROM THE HOUSE.**

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 120 -- Senators Hembree, Campsen and Martin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 24‑3‑580, RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITIES OF EXECUTION TEAM MEMBERS AND THE PENALTIES FOR THE UNLAWFUL DISCLOSURE, SO AS TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE IDENTITY OF PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING OR ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXECUTION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS CONFIDENTIAL; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES; TO PROVIDE THE PURCHASE OR ACQUISITION OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE STATE PROCUREMENT CODE; TO PROVIDE THE OUT‑OF‑STATE ACQUISITION OF DRUGS INTENDED FOR USE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL STATE LICENSING PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OR ANY OTHER AGENCY, AS WELL AS REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD OF PHARMACY; TO PROVIDE PHARMACIES OR PHARMACISTS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLYING, MANUFACTURING, OR COMPOUNDING OF DRUGS INTENDED FOR USE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ARE EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN LICENSING PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION; TO PROVIDE, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, NO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY SHALL DISCLOSE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTION TEAMS OR THE DETAILS REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN DRUGS USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY; AND TO PROVIDE THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION IS TO ENSURE THE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENTIALITY OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF PERSONS OR ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OR EXECUTION OF A DEATH SENTENCE.

 On motion of Senator HEMBREE, the Bill was carried over.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO THE SPECIAL ORDERS.**

**DEBATE INTERRUPTED**

 H. 3774 -- Reps. McCravy, G.M. Smith, Hiott, W. Newton, Pope, Yow, M.M. Smith, Hardee, J.E. Johnson, Hixon, Bustos, Erickson, Landing, Davis, Crawford, B.L. Cox, Connell, Vaughan, Ligon, T. Moore, Moss, Lawson, Hyde, Leber, B.J. Cox, Wooten, Whitmire, Long, Gagnon, Bradley, Herbkersman, Nutt, Mitchell, B. Newton, Jordan, Brewer, Murphy, Gilliam, Willis, Blackwell, Elliott, Guest, Oremus, Felder, Chapman, Haddon, S. Jones, Pace, Gibson, Robbins, Burns, Chumley and Forrest: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE “HUMAN LIFE PROTECTION ACT”; BY ADDING ARTICLE 7 TO CHAPTER 41, TITLE 44 SO AS TO BAN ABORTIONS IN THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE BAN ON ABORTIONS, TO PROTECT THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, TO PROVIDE PENALTIES, TO PROVIDE A CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE, TO PROVIDE THAT A WOMAN CANNOT BE PROSECUTED FOR HAVING AN ABORTION, TO PROVIDE THAT PHYSICIANS OR OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONALS SHALL LOSE THEIR LICENSE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A WOMAN’S NAME MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS IN PROCEEDINGS INITIATED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE; BY ADDING SECTION 44‑41‑90 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM MAY NOT PAY FOR ABORTIONS, TO PROHIBIT STATE FUNDS FROM BEING USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FETAL TISSUE OR FETAL REMAINS OBTAINED FROM AN ABORTION, AND TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD; BY ADDING SECTION 63‑17‑325 SO AS TO REQUIRE A BIOLOGICAL FATHER TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT BEGINNING AT CONCEPTION; BY ADDING SECTION 38‑71‑146 SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE AND HMO POLICIES TO COVER CONTRACEPTIVES; BY REQUIRING THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFIT AUTHORITY TO COVER PRESCRIBED CONTRACEPTIVES FOR DEPENDENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑41‑710, RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION AND APPLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE, SO AS TO REMOVE LANGUAGE RELATED TO IMPLICIT REPEAL; BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑41‑480, RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION AGAINST IMPLICIT REPEAL OF EXISTING LAW, SO AS TO REMOVE LANGUAGE RELATED TO IMPLICIT REPEAL; BY REPEALING SECTION 44‑41‑20 RELATING TO LEGAL ABORTIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑41‑70, RELATING TO PROMULGATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION OF HOSPITALS AND OTHER FACILITIES, SO AS TO DELETE A REFERENCE TO SECTION 44‑41‑20; AND BY PROVIDING AN UNCONDITIONAL RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN CHALLENGES TO THIS ACT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

 The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Bill.

 Senator CASH spoke on the Bill.

**Point of Order**

 Senator HUTTO raised a Point of Order that the Senator speaking on the Bill was being tedious and superfluous.

 The PRESIDENT took the Point of Order under advisement.

**Remarks by Senator CASH**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. I believe the Bible teaches that we are to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. And that's what I’m going to do today. If there is anyone who cannot speak for themselves, it is the unborn baby in the womb. Any advocacy for the unborn child must be made by those who can speak. I have been involved with the issue of the killing of unborn children all my adult life, and I have always believed in until this day that the discussion should begin properly with trying to answer the question, when does a human life begin? When does a human life begin? And I don't think it is any great mystery as to when a human life begins. Science is clear that when the sperm and the ovum unite, a new living organism of the species homo sapiens is created with its own unique DNA -- the beginning of a new individual human life.

 Now, I know there have been attempts among the scientists who politically support abortion to actually try to redefine the beginning of human life, maybe to the point of implantation. But I would submit to you that that is simply a position of convenience; it is not a position rooted in science. And that we should be at least honest enough to just deal with when does a human life begin -- no matter how you feel that we're going to either protect that life or not protect that life from that point forward. Professor Emeritus of Human Embryology at the University of Arizona School of Medicine, Dr. Ward Kischer, affirms every human embryologist worldwide states that the life of the new individual human being begins at fertilization. That's a pretty incredible statement -- that every human embryologist worldwide agrees that the life of a new individual is at the point of fertilization. There are lots of quotes I could read to you from people who appeared before the United States Congress testifying about life. Dr. Jerome Lejeune, Professor of Genetics at the University of Descartes in Paris was to discover the chromosome pattern of Down Syndrome. He testified to the Judiciary subcommittee after fertilization is taken place, a new human being has come into being. Each individual has a very neat beginning at conception.

 The first point in the discussion is when does a human life begin? Not what do you think about whether a woman has a right to have an abortion, when does a human life begin? We can get on to the other discussion presently about whether that human life in its earliest stages has any rights whatsoever. I would hope we could agree in this Body that the point of fertilization, however, is the beginning of new human life. By way of common sense, and not in any way meaning to be crude about it, why do those who employ the condom method of contraception use that method? To prevent the sperm and the egg from uniting contraception. Because everybody knows once that takes place, unless something interrupts that life, nine months later there is going to be a newborn baby in this world. A completely different individual from anyone that has ever existed before -- begins at that point in time.

 So that brings us to another central question which is, “When should a human life receive legal protection?” A life begins at conception when does it deserve legal protection? I'll make just a few references to our founding documents. The quote from the Declaration about unalienable rights -- the foremost of which is the right to life. We know by common sense if you don't have the right to life none of the other rights that we believe are attributed to humans make any difference whatsoever. Constitutional principles call for equal protection of the laws for all persons -- due process of the law. So now we get to the question in our Constitution that to have protection of the Constitution under the 5th and 14th Amendments, you have to be recognized as a person. We all know that our Nation had an imperfect founding. People who were slaves when this Nation was founded, were not considered to be persons, constitutionally, other than for purposes of apportionment. It was an imperfect beginning, but we are by no means the only Nation in the world to go through periods where people who are human beings are declassified or never classified as persons. You can look as recently as the last century -- the gradual depersonalization of the Jewish people in Hitler’s Germany. Because if you can stigmatize a group of people as somehow less than human, less than deserving of personhood, well then anything at that moment in time becomes possible. Personhood, something I have long argued for in application to the unborn child.

 I once looked up the definition of person in the dictionary and guess what it said -- A human being. If you are a human being, you are a person, if you are a person, you are a human being. I understand this is not a Personhood Bill. But we are discussing a similar concept of protecting the unborn child from that point in time to which pregnancy is clinically diagnosable and so we wrestle with this weighty question, “Is the unborn child worthy of protection, and, if so, at what point in time?”

 I do not believe that the founding documents are the only important guidance that we have. This Nation has a Judeo-Christian heritage -- primary sacred text of our Nation has always been the Bible -- the Old and the New Testaments. If I were to ask for a show of hands, a great majority of the Senators in this Body would say that they are church members and regular churchgoers. The Bible has throughout the centuries shaped our culture -- shaped our worldview -- worldview is just a fancy way of saying the lens, the perspective from which you look upon life. And by the way, everybody has a worldview. Some people are more conscious of their worldview than others, but everybody has one.

 So, I do think the biblical texts are instructive. And I will begin with the one that's most foundational, which is thou shalt not murder. The Bible prohibits the intentional killing of an innocent person. It is a blanket prohibition. Why? Why is the Bible insistent upon that? It has something to do with the concept, and I’m no Latin scholar, but the Latin of which is Imago Dei, in the image of God. Genesis 1 tells us God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God He created him male and female. He created them. We don't find anywhere else in the Scripture, any other part of the creation, any other -- any animal, any anything, that bears the image of God. Only mankind bears the image of God. The Bible is full of a lot of beautiful poetry, Psalms 8 says, “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who displayed thy splendor above the heavens. From the mouths of infants and nursing babes thou established strength to make the enemies and the vengeful cease. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou take thought of him? Or the son of man, that thou care for him? Yet thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and majesty. Thou hast make him to rule over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field; the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!” Thou hath made him a little lower than the angels. Mankind was created a little lower than the angels and higher than the animals. Mankind occupies that unique place in creation -- being the image bearer of God. You are all familiar with Psalms 139, which speaks of God's omniscience, and God's creation -- again, some majestic poetry, “Without its form, inward parts, weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” I can find no point in time from the initiation of human life until old age at which I can reflect upon the scriptures and find therein any principle that would suggest that it is okay to intentionally kill a baby in a mother's womb. I will simply say I don't believe in euthanasia -- at the beginning of life. I don't believe in euthanasia at the end of life. God has not given us that authority. From the New Testament I will simply quote John 10, verse 10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly.” I cannot think of a more fitting description of abortion than this description about what the enemy has come to do -- to steal, to kill and to destroy. The place where the baby should be the safest -- by the way, anyone wants to see fetal models of what a baby looks like at a month or two or three months or four months -- you are welcome to wander over there and look at them -- little models there of the baby nestled in the womb -- place of safeness, place of nurturing, the place of life.

 I’m going to move on to statistics. Over the past 50 years, we have killed 65 million unborn babies in this Nation. Approximately 420,000 inside South Carolina alone. There is a famous, infamous quote actually attributed to Stalin. He said, “The death of one man is a tragedy. The death of a million is a statistic.” That is where we have arrived in America 2023. Say 65 million human beings killed in the womb and the number just goes right over our head -- makes no impression on most people. 420,000 unborn babies at least have been killed in South Carolina. Did you know that the Civil War attributes 18,000 deaths in South Carolina -- soldiers killed in battle -- 18,000. In all the Civil War, north and south, the best estimate is 620,000 deaths. Yet 420,000 unborn babies have been killed in this State over the past 50 years. So, I've got another display on my desk. It is a little box filled with forty-six little baby models -- forty-six little baby models. Forty-six is about the number of babies that are going to die today in South Carolina because of abortion. Forty-six is about the number that are going to die tomorrow and the number that are going to die the day after that -- forty-six -- five days a week. Approximately a thousand a month. Again, we've become numb to these numbers -- absolutely numb. We talk about being pro-life. We talk about in the Republican Party how we value the life of that baby in the womb. We get a little agitated when people want to talk about that too much. Would we be agitated if there were a school shooting and forty-six people were killed today? We would be. If forty-six were killed tomorrow and the day after that, everything in this State would come to a stop until we did something.

 The Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 had the result that within five years of Roe v. Wade, we had surpassed over a million abortions a year in this country. Within five years by 1978, we were committing a million abortions in this country every year. In 1980, Ronald Reagan became the first openly, proudly pro-life Republican president. In 1980, the Republican Party endorsed the Human Life Amendment at the federal level which should have amended the United States Constitution to protect human life. The protection of innocent human life has been part in parcel of the Republican Party platform since that time. Every four years we'd have an election and among Republicans one of the things that was always being considered and weighed by pro-life voters was whether or not this candidate would appoint people to the bench who were, what we would call, strict constructionists. People who would not read into the Constitution what they wanted to be there. So, it went one election after another. Until in the providence of God, Donald Trump was elected and appointed three people to the bench who became part of the majority that struck down Roe v. Wade and the Dobbs Decision in 2022 -- which is what kicked off all this activity last summer.

 Last June when that decision came down, for the first time in almost 50 years, states were put back in charge of writing the law on the killing of unborn babies. So, we had a special session. And the Senate most definitely deferred to the House to write the Bill. There is no doubt about that. The Senate wanted the House to write the Bill and the House wrote the Bill. It came to us last September. I'm just going to tell you a few honest facts about what happened last year. The first one I will tell you, I’m shocked, shocked to this day that we could not pass the House Bill last September. When we began the special session, I and probably many of you, thought the debate in this Chamber would center around and hinge upon the exceptions that were going to be put into the Bill or not put into the Bill. I have been here six years, going on seven years, so I have been through some of these abortion Bills. We always end up discussing that. What has seemed to be implied from the Republican side of the aisle is, you know, this is an uncomfortable topic. But we can be a little more comfortable passing a law if it has exceptions in it. But the way things unfolded, the House Bill got to the floor and was filibustered in a Body of thirty republicans in a process that only takes twenty-six people to end the filibuster. We could not end the filibuster. Quite honestly, we didn't try very hard. We didn't try very hard. I think it was about fifteen minutes-- maybe thirty tops -- where we took votes and said that is all we are going to do on that. Let's pass this language that might hopefully fix the Heartbeat Bill. So, we had several votes after that -- a vote in October, a vote or two in November. After that initial attempt was filibustered the language was never something the Republicans in this Body were willing to accept because the exceptions language and other issues like the definition of rape were not satisfactory for enough members. So, at the end of the day we could not come to any agreement with the House and the Bill was not passed.

 At the beginning of this year the Senate drafted another Heartbeat Bill. The House drafted another Human Life Protection Act and the approach of the House when they drafted their Bill was to say, let's write our Bill to satisfy all the exception language that seem to be causing problems and hangups in the Senate. The author of that Bill was not happy to do that by any means. He was simply trying to give the Senate a Bill with exceptions in it for rape, incest and fatal fetal anomaly with the definition of rape -- that was thought had to be changed. The idea from the House sponsor and those who assisted him was to compromise with the Senate on a Human Life Protection Act that would have all the exceptions and language in it that would satisfy the Senators. That is the Bill we have before us. So, is it far from a perfect Bill? Is it a Bill I will support and vote for? It is. Does it violate some of the very scriptural principles I have articulated? It does. It grieves me that the Republican Party has said this is the best we can do. Although, we believe life begins at conception, everybody has an inalienable right to life. This is the best we can do. But that is the Bill we have before us. From the time of Ronald Reagan until now the GOP has been largely a pro-life party. People might have argued and taken different stands on the exception, but it has been the GOP platform to protect human life from conception. My entire adult life I have never heard a Republican candidate run for office saying, I’m running on a pro-life platform. Given the chance, I will protect life from the first trimester forward, or after the first trimester, or after the first six or eight weeks -- never heard that spoken. It's always been understood that Republican Party candidates say I’m pro-life and believe life begins at conception. At the very least minimally, they might say with a few exceptions that politically we have to have. I challenge anyone to find any rhetoric, any writings anywhere from the GOP since 1980 that would say oh, it is the platform of our party to protect life after six weeks -- after eight weeks -- after twelve weeks. What we are engaged in here is this -- to use a sports analogy, there are people in the Republican Party who are trying to move the goal posts. They are trying to say, I’m pro-life but in the Republican Party that I represent that means we are going to protect life after six weeks or eight weeks or twelve weeks. Well, folks, I got news for y'all. They're pro-life too. They just picked a different point in time.

 I've read the Bill by Senator HUTTO. He wants to protect life after twenty weeks. We are going to do that; we don't need any Bill at all. We are already doing that, right? It is just a matter of where you are picking the point, is it not? I'm not willing to sit by and let the goal post be moved on what it means to be pro-life in the Republican Party. This Bill in and of itself is a compromise. I have compromised what I believe -- even think of supporting and voting for this Bill. I certainly have no intention of compromising further. I'm not going to take questions right now, thank you. So my position is I support this Bill -- I will vote for this Bill, and colleagues, we have an obligation for those who are pro-life to wave the Republican Party banner for their pro-life platform because we have an obligation to try to pass this Bill. I have no intention of simply going through the motions, so we can kick the ball back across the hall in the House and wash our hands of it and say now it's up to them to do something. That's not my intention. My intention is to try to pass the Bill. I'm not intending to filibuster the Bill; I think there is a group that's going to filibuster the Bill. So, I'll just say if you're going to filibuster the Bill, I'm happy to stay here as long as you want to talk -- night and day starting now if you want to filibuster the Bill. I'm happy to fight any motion for adjournment starting now. The Bill deserves a vote. The Republican Party should pass the Bill. Any move to adjourn this Body because of a filibuster at this time or tonight or tomorrow is simply premature. It's up to us to try to pass the Bill to bring to an end any filibuster that might be coming to protect life in the womb in South Carolina. Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

 On motion of Senator GARRETT, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator CASH were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator SHEALY spoke on the Bill.

**Remarks by Senator SHEALY**

 For the record, I don't plan on filibustering the Bill, just thought I would tell you all that. It's been said that doing the same thing over and over again -- y'all have heard this -- and expecting a different result is a sign of insanity. How many times is this now? You can change what you call it, but it is still the same. This time we are calling it the Human Life Protection Act, before it was Personhood. It's been called the Heartbeat Bill, it’s been called a lot of things. The biggest proponents of the Human Life Protection Act are also the same proponents of constitutional carry, school choice, parental rights, and regulating vaccines for everyone, especially children. These are the folks that don't want the government regulating masks or licensing any business. They all think the government should leave our property alone. All these things are clear human rights, rights to privacy. I believe, in most of these cases, they are right. They should leave them alone.

 But when it comes to a woman's body, when she becomes pregnant, she suddenly belongs to the government. Once somebody rapes her or she becomes a victim of incest, she would now belong to the government. Once a woman became pregnant for any reason, she would now become property of the State of South Carolina. If the Human Life Protection Act were to come into law, she could no longer make decisions on her own or at the advice of her well-trained doctor. Every female, regardless of her age, would suddenly become subject to the power of a code book regarding her health.

 Maybe I’m confused about this Legislation or maybe the men who wrote it know more about pregnancy than the women in this Chamber or across this State or the country who can actually get pregnant and give birth. Women don't want to get raped. They don't want to get pregnant from living in the horror of an incestuous family. Women don't have sex just so they can go have an abortion. Just like men, I don't think they have sex to get pregnant every time. They don't want to go out every night and have sex just to get a woman pregnant, maybe, I don't know. If the House of Representatives wants to cut the number of abortions happening in this State, they have Legislation we sent them earlier this year that gives a ban on abortions after a fetus heartbeat is detected. That is the same thing this Bill is doing. I hate to break it to y'all, actually this gives a time certain. If you are saying you can tell when a fetus is detectable or you can tell when it is viable, it is not going to be until there is a heartbeat. This is giving a time certain of six weeks.

 The House doesn't want to save lives, the House just wants to prove a point. One of their very own loudest advocates has said, and I heard it so I’m not making this up, if a house were on fire and there are six children on the first floor and four on the second and they knew they could only save those on the first floor, they would have to let all the children burn up because they couldn't save them all. That is exactly what they are doing. They don't care about the children. They care about a victory, if they were to receive it. Say this passes and a thousand more babies are born a year in South Carolina, or maybe two thousand, they will forget about them after they are born. They will not want to feed them or educate them or fill their needs in foster care if a mother or family cannot care for them. Once they are no longer the unborn and are the born, they will walk away unless let's just say, except those waiting in line to adopt a newborn, yes, only a newborn will do. You must be a newborn. Even though there are hundreds of children up for adoption in South Carolina right now, only a newborn will do.

 I went to the zoo this year with the heart gallery. If y'all haven't done that, you need to do it. I walked around with some children who were looking for their forever home through DSS. All they want is a loving family, but no one wants to adopt them because they aren't a newborn. I walked around with three little boys, they are all brothers, one looked at me and said, “Lady, all I want is a dad. I just want a dad but nobody wants me because I'm too old.”

 Last week I was given a spine by one of these lobbying groups, one of the organizations pushing this Bill. I found that to be an inspiration to stand up in support of all issues that have no huge lobbying groups to support them. Lobbying groups for foster care, lobbying groups for free lunch and lobbying groups for children who were abducted by human trafficking. The kids I support don't threaten you if you don't support them. They don't send you hate filled letters or protest in front of your church calling you nasty names in front of your family. They don't send gifts, because they can't afford that. They look at you with sad eyes or heart felt hope for a better day when maybe, just maybe they can have a dad -- a dad to walk around with them, a dad who can play baseball with them, a dad who can throw them the football. They are not a newborn though. They want a day when somebody will want them, not just a newborn. Just stop and look at what you are doing. Don't call me a baby killer. That is the worst insult anybody's ever said to me. It's been said to me many times when I walk up and get off the escalator and someone stands there and calls me a baby killer. Call me a child saver, I have worked with and saved more lives my eleven years here than most of you could do in a lifetime just by working with DSS, DJJ and the disabled or the underserved. You just want to have a newborn for a friend or a family member to adopt. God, that is a great thing. Adoption is wonderful. People want to do it and I'm thankful for those people who want to. Remember the House Bill, as the House right now has a Bill to save lives that we sent over that possibly could get past the Supreme Court. They could have already saved over 2,500 lives if they had passed that Bill in February. H. 3774 will have no chance of standing up before the courts and once again, they will make us look like the whipping posts for the House in the lobby. This Bill will be just another kick of the mule. That mule is starting to hurt, thank you.

 On motion of Senator MARTIN, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator SHEALY were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator GUSTAFSON spoke on the Bill.

**Remarks by Senator GUSTAFSON**

Here we are again for the third time discussing how to restrict abortions in South Carolina. Both the South Carolina House and Senate have offered multiple Bills, but all of them died due to restrictions on some level. I would like to usually start whatever I am saying with some consensus building so we can at least start on some basic agreement on some things. So, I am an optimist, I usually focus on the positive. I will start with that.

I think everyone can acknowledge the fact that overnight South Carolina has become a destination abortion state. You may not like that term and that is fine, but it is happening in scary numbers. Over half of the people who have gotten an abortion since are not from our State, which is where the destination part comes from. From what I heard from Senator MASSEY, we are tracking about 12,000 or more abortions taking us back to numbers we saw in 1990s, that is over 30 years ago. We can agree on things as Republicans or Democrats. We can agree on things as women and men. We can also agree that there are too many unwanted pregnancies today. We can agree that adoption law sometimes inhibits procedures, we can agree that this is an extremely difficult topic, but one we must come to some conclusion to as a South Carolina Legislature. That is our job, and we must do it. Emotions run high and political companies are built upon major concerns such as these. Unfortunately, some of these considerations have turned very personal. I have been disappointed. I have to say this. I have been disappointed in the attacks, the mailers, and the attitudes of those so entrenched in their stances that they no longer listen to anything.

Even at this point, I am still listening, but I must admit that part is challenging for me too. So, what I’m going to try to do so I don't tune anybody out or make anyone mad from the get-go and divide the room immediately, I’m going to try to frame my statement in a nondevisive, nonjudgmental manner. With that I must say I respect our colleagues, I respect our constituents, and I respect our God too. As our Senate Majority Leader pointed out yesterday, yes, I agree. I think we do have a responsibility as Christians to restrict abortions, but we are Legislators. Most of us are not preachers, so we legislate. Whereas I am one of the few nonlawyers in this Body, in this Chamber. I can fully embrace the possibility that this Legislation can and will be challenged in South Carolina Supreme Court, just like S. 1, and we thought S. 1 was a good solid Bill. I voted for that. I voted for the Senate Bill we passed six or eight weeks ago. I voted for that one too. So, what we need to do -- needs to be strong for the State and needs to be strong legally. First, I am going to talk about the basics. Let us get beyond abortion or let us look behind abortion because all we hear is abortion, abortion, abortion -- kill a baby, let the baby live. It is a very black and white kind of remark, so this may seem elementary to some of you, but we all know fewer pregnancies prevent abortions. The only thing that leads to abortion is a pregnancy. Three things can affect and prevent pregnancy. I am going to go through this and be incredibly detailed in my remarks. I am not filibustering; I am speaking to the Bill and fully explaining how I feel. I did not do this on S. 1 when I was first elected. I deferred to female legislators; I do not think I spoke at all the first time.

This is daunting for all of you out there, this is not easy, but this is what I was elected to do, and this is what we are here to do. I am going to talk about some things. What can prevent pregnancies -- contraception, access to contraception, and education. Not the kind of education that promotes to certain sexual persuasion but about biology. There are two kinds of birth control -- reversible and permanent. Reversible birth control includes long-acting birth control such as an IUD. I know there are people who have no idea what an IUD is. It is made of copper and plastic, the copper in it is the spermicide that prevents pregnancy. Women can get an implantable rod that contains the hormone progestin, and it is put under the skin just underneath the upper arm. It keeps ovaries from releasing eggs, because you must have an egg to be fertilized. Then, there are shots we could get -- injections of progestin about every three months. I have never used any of those personally. Another kind of reversible birth control includes a short-acting birth control, where hormones are used. This is what people know about most. We have the birth control pill; those contain either estrogen and progestin or just progestin. I was on birth control pills for decades. There is also a birth control patch a woman can wear; it is used in a four-week cycle -- wear for three weeks and comes off for a week. Then there is something called a vaginal ring, a small flexible plastic ring placed in a woman's body. There are barrier methods, these are also reversible.

I finally get to talk about a male, there is a male condom. There is a diaphragm and a cervical cap, there are also female condoms, and there is a sponge with spermicide. So, those are reversible and temporary types of birth control. There's permanent birth control too including tubal ligation, which is when your tubes are tied, so to speak. Except when I went to school with a Dr. Charlie Monteith, he was a brilliant boy in high school, now a brilliant doctor because he can reverse a tubal ligation. One of the few in the United States that can do that, so I am not so sure that is permanent. There are vasectomies too, which is cutting or tying or blocking the vas deferens, the two tubes that carry sperm to the penis. I have described twelve ways to prevent pregnancy and there are a few more, so I will add those to the list. Abstinence. The only 100% effective way to protect against pregnancy. This is the number one thing we should be preaching and teaching to our teenagers and preteens. Abstinence is the best choice if you do not want to be pregnant. There is also natural family planning and fertility awareness, lactational amenorrhea method, and withdrawal. Now, that makes sixteen ways to prevent a pregnancy. Only three of those sixteen even involve a man. So, it is on us, it really is on us. We have skipped the part about talking about what pregnancy means to a woman's body.

There might be somebody out there who does not really know this stuff. Somebody would learn something new today. Maybe, I can change a mind or two and persuade them to see things as I see them. First, I just want to dispel the myth that we know we are pregnant the second we get pregnant. There is something where all the women in this Chamber go, “Oh, no!” Some women are pregnant for six months and do not know, that is a fact. We are not making that up. We do not know when we are pregnant when we get pregnant. Even when we are planning to get pregnant with a loving partner, we still do not know. I want to describe a normal, average, good pregnancy. First trimester there is an amazing transformation that happens, but it is invisible. It is physical and emotional. The first signs of pregnancy are tender and swollen breasts, which is from hormonal changes. Women miss periods but a lot of women do not have regular periods so they would not miss it. Nausea with or without vomiting, increased urination, fatigue, food cravings, aversions, heartburn and constipation.

I have had one baby vaginally. My husband and I have three children together, my husband's ex-wife who cared for twins, God bless her. I had a wonderful pregnancy. I was happy, healthy, and my baby was healthy. On these first signs of pregnancy, I will tell you what I saw; tender, swollen breasts, missed period, nausea, fatigue, weird food cravings, heartburn, and constipation, so I got it all. Emotionally women are happy, exhilarated, exhausted, and emotionally stressed out, balancing the demands of family and career often time, there are mood swings and they must adjust to the idea of parenthood, either alone or with support. Women need prenatal care, treatment, education and assurance. A lot of people either cannot get it, cannot afford it, or do not know they need it. Doctors are there to assess your overall health, identify risk factors and determine the baby's gestational age. The first thirty weeks we go to checkups about once a month, so things are going along well. The good news is most of that nausea I talked about for most people has passed, there is a renewed sense of well-being and a growing belly. This can be good or not good, depending on who the lady is. The breasts are growing, and the uterus expands, that is an internal organ expanding inside a woman's body on its own. At this point a woman might experience Braxton Hicks’ contractions, if you have heard of them and do not know what they are, I will explain.

They are mild, irregular contractions. It feels like a tightness in the abdomen, it usually happens at night, after physical activity or sex. If it becomes regular, the person could have preterm labor. So, if the woman starts having contractions and they are irregular, that is okay; but if these contractions are very regular, you need a doctor and you might be in preterm labor, which is extremely dangerous. Our skin changes because of the hormones. Melanin in our skin produces brown patching. A lot of times there is a dark line that forms down the abdomen, and the sun can aggravate these patches. I do not know about you all, but I have a lot of stretch marks. I had a huge baby. Purple lines where the skin has stretched fast, usually occur on a woman's thighs, buttocks or breasts. In the second trimester women have nasal problems because of hormone increases where the body makes more blood, so there is swelling and bleeding in the mucus membranes, and the nose bleeds. I had two of those, I believe. Sometimes there are dental issues because our gums become sensitive and there is minor bleeding. If a woman has a problem with nausea and vomiting, it might affect her tooth enamel -- dizziness, because there are so many changes in our circulation. They tell us to lie down on one side if we are feeling that way -- leg cramps are quite common at night, so we are told to stretch before bed and wear comfortable shoes -- vaginal discharge, some of that is normal but it can become sticky, clear or white and strong smelling. Sometimes there are UTI's, they are common. you will feel a common and extraordinarily strong urge to urinate, when you do it is extremely painful. Sometimes there's fever and a backache along with that but if untreated a UTI can lead to kidney infection and stronger things. In the second trimester we have caught up on our rest -- a little less tired. People a lot of times start taking baby classes, finding a doctor and trying to manage their anxiety. As far as prenatal care is concerned, again, appointments will focus on the baby's growth, hearing the baby's heartbeat and finding out what the baby's sex is. This is also the time when a lot of tests are done on the pregnancy to determine various problems with the baby.

If you are so blessed to make it to a third trimester -- first, let me just say, my mother would reassure me, this is not a permanent condition, you will have the baby. I worked every single day of my pregnancy, in fact, I worked up until my due date. On my due date, I was working. I finally said, okay, I need to go home and wait for this baby. The third trimester is the most physically and emotionally draining time. It is extremely hard for a woman to get comfortable. The due date might come and go and that brings on a special kind of anxiety, I cannot even explain. My son's due date was in November, my child William, did not want to be born. I do not know what the deal was, but I stayed pregnant, and it was three weeks after the due date. He was fine. My doctor finally said, okay, we need to induce pregnancy and you are going to have to have a C-Section and go to the hospital. So, it was planned, at 11:30 the night before I went into labor, I had my baby by 6:32 a.m. the next morning, so I did not have to have a C-Section. I went into natural labor, and I had my wonderful, beautiful, perfect baby. It is exciting during the third trimester because they have these 3-D cameras now where you can see babies' movements, you can see their sensations, and see them reacting in the womb. It is phenomenal. Braxton Hicks' contractions may continue. I had Braxton Hicks’ contractions for four months and it drove me crazy. I finally ignored them because they were not regular. Emotions are all over the map, hormones are running wild, there's anticipation, fear and wondering how long the pregnancy will last and coping with that anxiety. Again, some of these women are alone, some of them are not. Thankfully, I was not alone, I had a loving husband at the time. During the third trimester, some women develop gestational diabetes. My grandmother almost died from that. All those physical changes and all those hormonal changes in our bodies -- let us talk about labor for a minute, too. So, we have labor and delivery and postpartum care. Labor can be natural, can be unique, people do it in, like, baby tubs. It truly is a test of a mother's physical and emotional stamina. The first stage of labor, you get persistent contractions. Then the cervix dilates, which means it opens and it softens and shortens so the baby can move through the birth canal. It is a natural, physical thing that happens to women to give childbirth. God made us this way. It is the longest stage of labor and can last from hours to days -- days. I know people who were in the hospital for days in labor, then finally active labor. The cervix will dilate from six centimeters to ten centimeters. I did not bring a measuring stick or a ruler because I thought that would be a little much. Most of you know what ten centimeters look like. Right? The body adjusts and gets ready for the baby. We are not allowed to eat anything, because if we have a C-Section -- you are not allowed to eat if there is a possibility of surgery. So, we get ice chips and clear liquids, and popsicles. There is not much we get, so there is no eating involved. The last part of active labor is what you see on T.V. with the screaming ladies, and I must tell you, I do not think I screamed. I did not have any breath to scream, but the last part of active labor is a very intense and very painful. The contractions are lasting sixty to ninety seconds, a minute to a minute and a half of intense pain. There's pressure on the lower back and on the rectum, but you cannot push too soon, and you will want to do that, that is the natural response to all this. If you push too soon, the cervix can swell and then mess up the vaginal birth. So, this is when the doctors tell you to pant and blow. This transition lasts about fifteen minutes to an hour and then we have the baby. It just takes a few minutes to a few hours. You push, and your baby is here, and it is over. Except it is not over, there is more. Many people do not understand, or know that after the birth of the baby, they must do a second birth. They must deliver the placenta. This is a natural, biological thing that a doctor does, it takes about thirty minutes to an hour to do this. During this time, the uterus magically and immediately starts to contract back to its normal size.

If there was no anesthesia used, this is the time a doctor might use anesthetic because sometimes the perineum is torn, and stitches are needed. The perineum is that space between the vagina and the rectum. Now, everything I just described is a smooth pregnancy, labor, and delivery in childbirth with no problems whatsoever, not even one complication. You are going to get all that. The woman's body goes through all of that -- postpartum, even after all that is done, sometimes there are hemorrhages; there's severe vaginal bleeding. I have heard of cases like this many times. The woman goes home, and the stitches do not hold, and they could bleed to death. It can kill the mother. This can happen up to twelve weeks postpartum. more than half of the pregnancy-related deaths happen after childbirth. I will say that because I am sure many people do not know that. More than half of the pregnancy-related deaths happen after childbirth, and those numbers are going up. According to the C.D.C., as much as you trust them, this is what I have learned from their online statistics. In 2014, there were eighteen deaths per hundred thousand live births. To me, that is a lot. And not only that, but for a mortality ratio, black women have three times higher frequency than white women of dying. I am not going to discuss that; I am just stating a fact. So, there's fatigue and discomfort, perineal pain, and uterine contractions, but as many as forty percent of these women who have a baby, do not go back for any postpartum visits, usually because, again, of limited resources.

I have described the physical and emotional nature of typical pregnancies and deliveries. All of that, to me, is real sex education. If teenage girls really knew what they were risking and facing, if they really knew all of this, I think there would be less prom night sex. I do not know if anybody learned anything new in the Chamber today and obviously, women have much more to consider in a pregnancy than any man on the planet. That is just fact, which is not judgmental. Switching gears for just a moment here, something else we can all agree upon is that the fear of the unknown can be gripping. Pregnancy is the unknown because nobody knows what is going to happen to their bodies when they get pregnant. I have seen and known plenty of healthy women. They work out, they lead healthy lifestyles, they do not drink or smoke, and then they have these harsh pregnancies. You think, why them? They have really taken care of themselves. My grandmother was as healthy as a horse, and she developed all these problems when she was pregnant. Back then, there were not a lot of remedies, but I remember as a young girl her telling me about it. It takes a lot of work to grow a spine inside of a woman who has a spine. It is a lot of work to grow a baby which has a spine in it. It is challenging work. There has been a lot of preaching in this building. I certainly understand that, I just must point this out, some of it has sounded condescending, demeaning, cold and judgmental. No matter what the intent is of these people who are preaching, not just speaking to the Bill, but really going beyond that, I think -- no matter the intent, there are millions of women in this State who feel like they've been personally addressed in this Legislation. There are millions of women who feel like they have not been heard, and that is why I am standing up here this long, and I have never done this before. I have never spoken this long to any Bill. I would like to end with a sacred genuine word of hope, words of love and words of action. I am an optimist, I believe in resolution, I believe in reconciliation, I believe in forgiveness and I believe in empathy. Sometimes I believe in tough love when that is needed, too.

Matthew 7:1 says, “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” My husband, Todd, is starring in a show called Godspell. I do not know if you all have heard about it. It is a musical, it is a story that is told through parables and hymns about the story of Jesus. May 5th through 7th and 12th through 14th at Wood Auditorium Arts Center of Kershaw County. He is in this musical and he came to me this morning -- I am going to tell you my husband does not give suggestions to me. Now, we do talk about a lot, but he does not in any way tell me how to do my job. He knows me, and he knows my heart and he thought he could add something to this conversation. So, his parable is about a woman who is caught in an adulterous relationship. I am going to read his lines. These are actual lines he says during the show. He says, "Master, this woman was caught in the act of adultery, and in the law, Moses laid down such women are to be stoned." And what does Jesus say? We all know. People who aren't even religious probably know what Jesus said, “That one of you that is faultless cast the first stone.” As we discussed -- and judge women who have unwanted pregnancies, all of us make mistakes, but a lot of times men's mistakes don't look like a bowling ball in front of their bodies. They are unseen. Then Jesus says, "Go now and leave your life of sin, leave it behind." He does not condone the behavior. He does not condone what the woman had done. Jesus does not reject the law directly, but He criticizes those who are applying it mechanically.

The law should be interpreted considering God's mercy for sinners, and we are not doing that. If we are approaching this strictly from a religious basis, as many in this Body are, we are not doing that. John 8:15, “The judgment of the pharisees was limited and worldly.” Jesus made it clear that He did not judge at all, in the proper sense, of course, He did judge. I believe that we are judged. We are judged for breaking God's law and going against what he wants for us, part of that might be admittedly promiscuity, reckless sex; but, I am not going to stone those women. We have come to an impasse on these abortion Bills. We are here again, and I don't like it. We need to do something, so I would suggest to our colleagues in the South Carolina House to please, as soon as possible, take up the Senate Bill which is the six-week, basically Fetal Heartbeat Bill, this is a complete ban on abortion. It leaves no room for empathy, reality or graciousness. So, as Legislators, and that is what we are, we are not preachers, but as a Legislator, I am to protect and uphold security. Safety and security are the number one thing we can do for our State, for our country. We need to protect the unborn and we need to protect women. I have heard this is not an anti-woman Bill but clearly in some circumstances, it is. I would really appreciate it for all the ones who are currently a "yes" on this Bill, H. 3774, to respectfully not pass it, for all the reasons I have said, and I do believe I am pro-life. I am not going to be labeled that way, but I am. We must take care of each other. The way I can do that is through Legislation. That means we restrict abortions, so we are not a destiny state. Nobody wants an abortion. I do not think there is anybody in this building who wants to allow abortion at four months, at five months. So, we must do this thing. I beg you to reconsider your vote and think about what I have said about pregnancy, and all that the woman goes through. It is not simple to get an abortion. That is all. Thank you.

 On motion of Senator SENN, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator GUSTAFSON were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator SENN spoke on the Bill.

**Point of Quorum**

 At 3:29 P.M., Senator SENN made the point that a quorum was not present. It was ascertained that a quorum was present. The Senate resumed.

 Senator SENN resumed speaking on the Bill.

**Motion Under Rule 15A Failed**

 Senator GROOMS moved under the provisions of Rule 15A that debate on the entire matter of H. 3774 be brought to a close.

**Call of the Senate**

 Senator DAVIS moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Campsen Cash

Climer Corbin Cromer

Davis Fanning Gambrell

Garrett Grooms Gustafson

Harpootlian Hembree Hutto

Jackson *Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Kimpson Loftis

Malloy Martin Massey

Matthews McElveen McLeod

Peeler Rankin Reichenbach

Rice Sabb Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Talley Turner Verdin

Williams Young

 A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

 The question being the motion to invoke Rule 15A.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 23; Nays 21**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Gambrell

Garrett Grooms *Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Martin

Massey Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Talley Turner

Verdin Young

**Total--23**

**NAYS**

Allen Davis Fanning

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

Hutto Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

Kimpson Malloy Matthews

McElveen McLeod Rankin

Sabb Senn Setzler

Shealy Stephens Williams

**Total--21**

 Having failed to receive the necessary vote, the motion under Rule 15A failed.

 Senator SENN spoke on the Bill.

**Motion Under Rule 15A Failed**

 At 5:25 P.M., Senator MASSEY moved under the provisions of Rule 15A that debate on the entire matter of H. 3774 be brought to a close.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 23; Nays 20**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Gambrell

Garrett Grooms *Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Martin

Massey Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Talley Turner

Verdin Young

**Total--23**

**NAYS**

Allen Davis Fanning

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

Hutto Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

Kimpson Malloy Matthews

McElveen McLeod Rankin

Sabb Senn Shealy

Stephens Williams

**Total--20**

 Having failed to receive the necessary vote, the motion under Rule 15A failed.

 Senator SENN resumed speaking on the Bill.

**Motion Under Rule 15A Failed**

 At 6:28 P.M., Senator MASSEY moved under the provisions of Rule 15A that debate on the entire matter of H. 3774 be brought to a close.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 23; Nays 22**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Gambrell

Garrett Grooms *Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Martin

Massey Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Talley Turner

Verdin Young

**Total--23**

**NAYS**

Allen Davis Fanning

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

Hutto Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

Kimpson Malloy Matthews

McElveen McLeod Rankin

Sabb Scott Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Williams

**Total--22**

 Having failed to receive the necessary vote, the motion under Rule 15A failed.

 Senator SENN resumed speaking on the Bill.

 Senator SENN moved that the Senate stand adjourned.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 23; Nays 22**

**AYES**

Allen Davis Fanning

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

Hutto Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

Kimpson Malloy Matthews

McElveen McLeod Rankin

Sabb Scott Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Talley Williams

**Total--23**

**NAYS**

Adams Alexander Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Corbin Cromer Gambrell

Garrett Grooms *Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Loftis Martin

Massey Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Turner Verdin

Young

**Total--22**

 Having received the necessary votes, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

 Debate was interrupted by adjournment.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator SENN, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

 **MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator GROOMS, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Dr. Moses Tucker Laffitte, Jr. of Columbia, S.C. Dr. Laffitte was the father-in-law of our beloved Senator Chip Campsen. He attended The Citadel, University of South Carolina and the Medical College of South Carolina. After medical school, he served as a general medical officer at Fort Jackson and later worked over forty years with South Carolina OBGYN. He served on numerous boards including being chairman of the Richland Memorial Hospital Board and was a board member of Bankers Trust and Palmetto State Bank. Dr. Laffitte was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia for over 60 years where he served as a deacon and an elder. He loved spending time outdoors hunting, fishing and golfing. Dr. Laffitte was a loving husband, devoted father and doting grandfather who will be dearly missed.

and

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator MALLOY, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Johnny Bobo Brown of Hartsville, S.C. Johnny began his career working in local government in Darlington County and helped establish The Darlington County Recreation Department. In 1973 he joined the Pee Dee Council of Governments and was promoted through the years to Executive Director. He was instrumental in the development of the McLeod Regional Hospital System and in receiving federal funding for the expansion of numerous highways in the Pee Dee Region. Johnny was a member of West Hartsville Baptist Church and enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing and reading his Bible. Johnny was a loving father and doting grandfather who will be dearly missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 At 6:36 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M.

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