

NO. 18

JOURNAL
of the
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
of the
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
(STATEWIDE SESSION)

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
(Statewide Session)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The House assembled at 10:00 a.m.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by Rev. Jeff Lingerfelt as follows:

Our thought for today is from Isaiah 25:1: “O LORD, You Are My God; I Will Exalt You; I Will Praise Your Name, For You Have Done Wonderful Things, Plans Formed of Old, Faithful and Sure.”

Let us pray: Lord You are the only True God. You are personal in all your ways. The one and only declaring the end from the beginning. Nothing escapes Your knowledge for You are infinitely good in all Your ways. You know our greatest need which is to acknowledge and depend upon You as our Deliverer, rescuing us from the wrath to come. As we reflect on your dealings with us in the past, we can look forward to the future with great hope, which is a foretaste of glory to come. In the meantime, we have been appointed by You as servants, to the affairs of this great state! We ask and implore Your help as we navigate the shifting geopolitical circumstances of the times in which we live. But you are our sure foundation—The Lord our Rock! Redeemer and friend. We ask these things in the name of the Most High God, who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy. Amen.

Pursuant to Rule 6.3, the House of Representatives was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by the SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE*.

After corrections to the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday, the SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* ordered it confirmed.

MOTION ADOPTED

Rep. POPE moved that when the House adjourns, it adjourn in memory of Martin Alphin, which was agreed to.

SILENT PRAYER

The House stood in silent prayer for the family and friends of Martin Alphin.

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STATEMENT BY REP. GOVAN

Rep. GOVAN made a statement relative to the contributions of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus to the General Assembly and to the state of South Carolina.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5045 -- Rep. King: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SQUIRE ROAD IN THE CITY OF ROCK HILL IN YORK COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH OGDEN ROAD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH FALLS ROAD "ARCHBISHOP B.R. WILSON MEMORIAL ROAD" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5046 -- Rep. Pedalino: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 521 IN CLARENDON COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH HILL STREET TRAVELING NORTH TO THE MANNING CITY LIMIT "DAVID ARNOLD MCCABE SR. MEMORIAL HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5055 -- Reps. Kirby, Cox, Holman, Davis, M. M. Smith, J. Moore, Anderson and Pace: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF HARRISTOWN ROAD FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH MENDELL RIVERS ROAD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH HARRIS LANE IN THE TOWN OF ST. STEPHEN IN BERKELEY

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COUNTY "J.B. HARRIS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5086 -- Reps. Robbins, Gatch, Holman and Brewer: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 78 AND MALLARD ROAD IN THE TOWN OF JEDBURG IN DORCHESTER COUNTY "HERMAN ELROY MUCKENFUSS MEMORIAL INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

S. 691 -- Senator Martin: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF WHITESTONE GLENDALE ROAD AND BETHESDA ROAD IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY "CHIEF ROBERT E. BROWN SR. MEMORIAL INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

S. 881 -- Senators Alexander and Young: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE HONORABLE DAN K. WILEY, AND TO INVITE HIM TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5141 -- Reps. Ligon, Pope, King, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terrible, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE SOUTH POINTE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO HONOR THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5142 -- Reps. Pedalino, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon,

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Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY SOFTBALL TEAM ON ITS STELLAR SEASON AND TO SALUTE ITS MEMBERS FOR CAPTURING THE 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5143 -- Reps. Grant, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ESSIE M. RICHARDS FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND FOR THE EXAMPLE OF A LIFE WELL SPENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

The Resolution was adopted.

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5144 -- Reprs. Erickson, Bradley, Teeple, M. M. Smith, B. Newton, Hartnett, Vaughan, Sanders, D. Mitchell, Huff, Davis, Whitmire, Duncan, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Dillard, Edgerton, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Terrible, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5-11, 2026, AS "CLASSIC LITERATURE WEEK" IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, LIBRARIES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO CELEBRATE CLASSIC LITERATURE THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND DISCUSSIONS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF THESE LITERARY TREASURES.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5145 -- Reprs. Bauer, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey,

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Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terrible, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE COLUMBIA GARDEN CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND TO HONOR ITS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BEAUTIFICATION AND ENRICHMENT OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Resolution was adopted.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 908 -- Senators Young, Massey, Hutto, Adams, Alexander, Allen, Bennett, Blackmon, Bright, Campsen, Cash, Chaplin, Climer, Corbin, Cromer, Davis, Devine, Elliott, Fernandez, Gambrell, Garrett, Goldfinch, Graham, Grooms, Hembree, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Kimbrell, Leber, Martin, Matthews, Ott, Peeler, Rankin, Reichenbach, Rice, Sabb, Stubbs, Sutton, Tedder, Turner, Verdin, Walker, Williams and Zell: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE COACH MICHAEL "MIKE" CARLISLE UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOLF HALL OF FAME.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 910 -- Senator Stubbs: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE RETIRED MASTER SERGEANT

[HJ]

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ALFONSO J. BOYD FOR BEING NAMED THE 2025-2026 SOUTH CAROLINA VETERAN OF THE YEAR FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHESTER COUNTY, THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND THE NATION.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

ROLL CALL

The roll call of the House of Representatives was taken resulting as follows:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bernstein	Bowers	Bradley
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Cobb-Hunter
Collins	Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Dillard
Duncan	Edgerton	Erickson
Ford	Forrest	Frank
Gagnon	Garvin	Gatch
Gibson	Gilliam	Gilliard
Gilreath	Govan	Grant
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hart	Hartnett	Hartz
Hayes	Henderson-Myers	Herbkersman
Hewitt	Hiott	Hixon
Holman	Hosey	Howard
Huff	J. E. Johnson	J. L. Johnson
Jones	Jordan	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lastinger	Lawson	Ligon
Long	Lowe	Luck
Magnuson	Martin	McCabe
McCravy	McDaniel	McGinnis
C. Mitchell	D. Mitchell	Montgomery
J. Moore	Morgan	Moss
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton

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Oremus	Pace	Pedalino
Pope	Rankin	Reese
Rivers	Robbins	Rose
Rutherford	Sanders	Schuessler
Scott	Sessions	G. M. Smith
M. M. Smith	Stavrinakis	Taylor
Teeple	Terribile	Vaughan
Weeks	Wetmore	White
Whitmire	Wickensimer	Williams
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total Present--120

STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE

Rep. DILLARD signed a statement with the Clerk that she came in after the roll call of the House and was present for the Session on Tuesday, February 10.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. WATERS a leave of absence for the day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. SPANN-WILDER a leave of absence for the day due to medical reasons.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. T. MOORE a leave of absence for the day due to military service.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. CLYBURN a leave of absence for the day due to a death in the family.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* granted Rep. COBB-HUNTER a temporary leave of absence.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Rep. WOOTEN presented to the House the River Bluff High School "Gators" 5-A Golf State Champions.

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Rep. REESE presented to the House the Lower Richland High School "Diamond Hornets" JROTC.

CO-SPONSORS ADDED

In accordance with House Rule 5.2 below:

“5.2 Every bill before presentation shall have its title endorsed; every report, its title at length; every petition, memorial, or other paper, its prayer or substance; and, in every instance, the name of the member presenting any paper shall be endorsed and the papers shall be presented by the member to the Speaker at the desk. A member may add his name to a bill or resolution or a co-sponsor of a bill or resolution may remove his name at any time prior to the bill or resolution receiving passage on second reading. The member or co-sponsor shall notify the Clerk of the House in writing of his desire to have his name added or removed from the bill or resolution. The Clerk of the House shall print the member's or co-sponsor's written notification in the House Journal. The removal or addition of a name does not apply to a bill or resolution sponsored by a committee.”

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 3158
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 GAGNON

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 3186
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CHAPMAN

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 3210
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 MCCRAVY

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4123
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 PEDALINO

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CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4161
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CHUMLEY

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4270
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CHAPMAN

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4636
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 FORD, JORDAN, M. M. SMITH, ROBBINS and
GATCH

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4641
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 FORD, JORDAN, M. M. SMITH, ROBBINS and
GATCH

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4724
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 DUNCAN

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4725
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 MCCRAVY

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4754
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 GAGNON

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CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4755
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 D. MITCHELL and GILREATH

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4757
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CHAPMAN

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4767
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 WOOTEN, GAGNON, LAWSON, GUFFEY,
BEACH, LONG, COX, RUTHERFORD,
MCCRAVY, BOWERS, WICKENSIMER, WILLIS
and HADDON

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4791
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 BUSTOS

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 4985
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 M. M. SMITH

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5006
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CROMER, GILREATH, KING, MCDANIEL,
J. L. JOHNSON and ANDERSON

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5013
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 SESSIONS

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CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5096
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 LIGON

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5114
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 CHUMLEY and KILMARTIN

CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED

Bill Number: H. 5139
Date: ADD:
02/11/26 COX, BAILEY, HOLMAN and DUNCAN

SENT TO THE SENATE

The following Bills were taken up, read the third time, and ordered sent to the Senate:

H. 4586 -- Reps. Gilliam, McCravy, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Pope, Edgerton, Taylor, Schuessler, Teeple, Erickson, Bradley and Caskey: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 7-15-310, 7-15-610, 8-7-10, AND 63-5-910, ALL RELATING TO ARMED FORCES DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE AS MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

H. 4188 -- Reps. Pope, B. Newton, M. M. Smith, Cox, Brewer, Ford, Davis, Robbins, Yow and C. Mitchell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-5-590, RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF REMAINS OF UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODIES BY CORONERS, SO AS TO INCLUDE UNCLAIMED REMAINS IN THE PURVIEW OF THE STATUTE, AND TO AUTHORIZE CORONERS TO RELEASE REMAINS TO FAMILY MEMBERS, RATHER THAN THE NEXT OF KIN, WHEN THE NEXT OF KIN IS CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OR OTHERWISE UNCOOPERATIVE IN CLAIMING REMAINS.

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H. 4635 -- Rep. B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-79-60, RELATING TO PHYSICAL FITNESS SERVICE CONTRACTS, SO AS TO ALLOW THE USE OF ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION FOR AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS.

H. 4511 -- Rep. Wetmore: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 15-9-720, RELATING TO SERVICE ON UNKNOWN PARTIES BY PUBLICATION FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, SO AS TO ALLOW SERVICE BY PUBLICATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN EITHER THE PRINT OR ONLINE VERSION OF A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 62-3-801, RELATING TO NOTICE TO CREDITORS, SO AS TO ALLOW PUBLICATION ONLINE ON A CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROBATE COURT OR IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY.

H. 3774--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 3774 -- Reps. J. E. Johnson, Stavrinakis, Jordan, McCravy, C. Mitchell and Hart: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 42-1-560, RELATING TO THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR FILING A THIRD-PARTY ACTION IN A WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM, SO AS TO MAKE THE FILING OF A NOTICE FORM PERMISSIVE.

Rep. B. NEWTON moved to adjourn debate on the Bill until Tuesday, February 24, which was agreed to.

H. 3477--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 3477 -- Reps. Caskey, Bannister, G. M. Smith, B. Newton, Hewitt, Long, Wooten, C. Mitchell, Pope, W. Newton, Sessions, Neese, Weeks, Bowers, Moss, Hartz, Lawson, Rankin, Guest, Brittain, Lowe, Sanders, M. M. Smith, T. Moore, Ballentine, Martin, Ligon, Oremus, Pedalino, Calhoon, Davis, Taylor, Holman, Erickson, Brewer, Gatch, Yow, Haddon, Hixon, Hiott, Wickensimer, Jordan and Hardee: A BILL TO

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AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 41-35-50, RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS ALLOWED IN A BENEFIT YEAR, SO AS TO BASE THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ALLOWED ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR CALCULATING THE RATES, AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE SHALL PROMULGATE CERTAIN RELATED REGULATIONS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 41-35-120, RELATING TO DISQUALIFICATION FOR BENEFITS.

Reps. HEWITT, B. NEWTON, HIOTT, DUNCAN, LAWSON, MCCRAVY, CASKEY, MARTIN, CALHOON, WHITE, KIRBY and BRITAIN requested debate on the Bill.

H. 4767--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 4767 -- Reps. Davis, Chumley, Sessions, Oremus, Bustos, Landing, White, Wooten, Gagnon, Lawson, Guffey, Beach, Long, Cox, Rutherford, McCravy, Bowers, Wickensimer, Willis and Haddon: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 41 SO AS TO PROHIBIT NONCOMPETE CLAUSES IN PHYSICIAN CONTRACTS, TO PROTECT PATIENT FREEDOM OF CHOICE, TO DEFINE IMPERMISSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON PHYSICIAN PRACTICE, TO ALLOW CERTAIN RECOUPMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROTECTION OF LEGITIMATE BUSINESS INTERESTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR APPLICABILITY.

Reps. HEWITT, HIOTT, FORREST, LIGON, LAWSON, GIBSON, MCCRAVY, TAYLOR, OREMUS, DAVIS, KIRBY, ANDERSON, KING, BAUER, BRITAIN, MCDANIEL, GUEST, CRAWFORD and HARDEE requested debate on the Bill.

H. 3530--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 3530 -- Reps. W. Newton, Pope, Spann-Wilder, Cobb-Hunter, Bernstein, Vaughan, C. Mitchell, Robbins and T. Moore: A BILL TO

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AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 2-19-115 SO AS TO REQUIRE CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE POSITIONS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER JUDICIAL CANDIDATES UPON VACANCIES, AND TO DEFINE WHEN VACANCIES OCCUR; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-1-10, RELATING TO APPOINTMENT, TERM AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF MAGISTRATES, SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES AND LIMITATIONS ON MAGISTRATES' HOLDOVER STATUS AND TO REQUIRE MAGISTRATES GOING FORWARD TO HOLD A JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE AND BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-1-15, RELATING TO MAGISTRATES PRESENTLY SERVING, SO AS TO GRANDFATHER MAGISTRATES SERVING IN OFFICE ON JUNE 30, 2025; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-3-10, RELATING TO CIVIL JURISDICTION IN MAGISTRATES COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE CIVIL JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES COURT; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-3-550, RELATING TO CRIMINAL JURISDICTION IN MAGISTRATES COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES COURT; AND BY REPEALING SECTIONS 22-2-10 AND 22-2-15 RELATING TO A SCREENING COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF MAGISTRATES AND THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR NONPARTISAN SELECTION OF MAGISTRATES, RESPECTIVELY.

Rep. HEWITT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill until Thursday, February 12, which was agreed to.

H. 4813--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 4813 -- Reps. Pope, C. Mitchell, Robbins and Oremus: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 8-21-1010 AND 8-21-1060, BOTH RELATING TO FEES AND COSTS TO BE COLLECTED BY MAGISTRATES, BOTH SO AS TO INCREASE VARIOUS FEES AND COSTS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 22-3-340, RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS ON FILINGS IN MAGISTRATES

[HJ]

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COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE ASSESSMENT ON SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT FILINGS AND ALL OTHER CIVIL FILINGS.

Rep. HEWITT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

H. 4757--REQUESTS FOR DEBATE

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 4757 -- Reps. Pope, Erickson, Davis, M. M. Smith, Bailey, Bradley, Brewer, Caskey, Crawford, Duncan, Forrest, Gagnon, Gatch, Gilliam, Guest, Haddon, Hardee, Hartnett, Hartz, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Martin, McCravy, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, T. Moore, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pedalino, Robbins, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, Taylor, Teeple, Vaughan, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Willis, Wooten, Yow, Chumley, Edgerton, Magnuson, Terribile, Kilmartin, White, Sanders, D. Mitchell, Cromer, Gilreath, Guffey, Lastinger and Chapman: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "PARENTAL RIGHTS ACT" BY ADDING ARTICLE 3 TO CHAPTER 28, TITLE 59, TO AFFIRM AND ENUMERATE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PARENTS TO DIRECT THE UPBRINGING, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THEIR CHILDREN, TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT MINIMUM STANDARDS TO IMPLEMENT PARENTAL RIGHTS AND A RELATED MODEL PARENTAL RIGHTS POLICY, TO PROVIDE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES SHALL ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT RELATED POLICIES, TO ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR A LIMITED PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION UPON EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY AMENDING SECTION 63-5-340, RELATING TO MINOR CONSENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES, SO AS TO CLARIFY, STRENGTHEN, AND EXPAND REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTAL CONSENT FOR NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT OF MINORS, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES AND REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS ALLEGED BY PARENTS, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY

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REPEALING SECTION 63-5-350 RELATING TO FURNISHING HEALTH SERVICES TO MINORS WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT; BY DESIGNATING THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 28, TITLE 59 AS "GENERAL PROVISIONS"; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 63-5-370 RELATING TO CERTAIN CONSENT NOT BEING SUBJECT TO DISAFFIRMANCE.

Reps. HEWITT, HIOTT, DAVIS, HARRIS, EDGERTON, WHITE, KILMARTIN, BRITTAIN, JONES, GUEST, CRAWFORD and HOSEY requested debate on the Bill.

H. 4758--DEBATE ADJOURNED

Debate was resumed on the following Bill, the pending question being the consideration of Amendment No. 1:

H. 4758 -- Reps. W. Newton, Bradley, Brewer, Chapman, Crawford, Davis, Duncan, Erickson, Forrest, Gilliam, Guest, Hartz, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Lawson, Ligon, Lowe, Martin, McGinnis, T. Moore, B. Newton, Oremus, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Robbins, Schuessler, G. M. Smith, Taylor, Teeple, Vaughan, Whitmire, Willis, Wooten and McCravy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 46-55-5 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER IS TO ENCOURAGE THE LAWFUL CULTIVATION, HARVESTING, AND MANUFACTURING OF HEMP; BY AMENDING SECTION 46-55-10, RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS, AND TO REVISE THE DEFINITIONS OF EXISTING TERMS; AND BY ADDING SECTIONS 46-55-70, 46-55-80, AND 46-55-90 SO AS TO REGULATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF CONSUMABLE HEMP, TO PROVIDE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, OR TO PROHIBIT THE LAWFUL POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, SALE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN CBD PRODUCTS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES.

Rep. HEWITT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill until Thursday, February 12, which was agreed to.

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S. 477--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

S. 477 -- Senators Davis and Ott: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40-43-210, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A "SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVE" IN THE PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-43-230, RELATING TO PHARMACISTS PERMITTED TO DISPENSE SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SO AS TO PROVIDE SUCH DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40-43-240, RELATING TO WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS BY THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO AUTHORIZE PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES WITHOUT PATIENT-SPECIFIC WRITTEN ORDERS, SO AS TO INSTEAD PROVIDE THE DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE UNDER STANDING ORDERS OR WITHOUT STANDING ORDERS WHEN DISPENSED OR ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS.

Rep. HEWITT moved to adjourn debate on the Bill, which was agreed to.

H. 5006--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 5006 -- Reps. B. Newton, Long, Hewitt, M. M. Smith, Gatch, Schuessler, Stavrinakis, Hiott, Pope, Erickson, Hixon, Neese, Wooten, Ligon, Chapman, Forrest, Hartz, Guffey, Ford, Willis, Cox, Sanders, Vaughan, Oremus, Duncan, G. M. Smith, Bowers, Sessions, Bannister, Bailey, Brewer, Weeks, Landing, Moss, Bradley, Lawson, Rankin, Guest, Brittain, Lowe, T. Moore, Ballentine, Robbins, Martin, Caskey, Pedalino, Calhoun, Davis, W. Newton, C. Mitchell, Holman, Hardee, Taylor, Yow, Jordan, Haddon, Wickensimer, Bamberg, King, McDaniel, J. L. Johnson, Cromer, Gilreath and Anderson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS

[HJ]

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TAX CUT OF 2026"; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-37-220, RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, SO AS TO EXEMPT THE FIRST TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OF NET DEPRECIATED VALUE OF BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY A SMALL BUSINESS; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-37-900, RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX RETURNS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A TAXPAYER IS NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR TAXATION IF THE TAXPAYER HAS LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OF NET DEPRECIATED VALUE OF BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY; BY ADDING SECTION 12-37-980 SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT ALL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED FOR TAXATION TO BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-20-50, RELATING TO THE LICENSE TAX ON CORPORATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FEE DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY PORTION OF THE FIRST FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS OF CERTAIN CAPITAL STOCK AND PAID-IN OR CAPITAL SURPLUS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 33-44-409, RELATING TO STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF A CORPORATE OFFICER, SO AS TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION TO REFRAINING FROM COMPETING.

The Committee on Ways and Means proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to H. 5006 (LC-5006.DG0003H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTIONS 5.A, 5.B, and 5.C and inserting:

SECTION X.A. Section 12-20-50 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(D)(1) A corporation subject to the provisions of this section whose corporate headquarters, as defined in Section 12-6-3410, is in South Carolina may exclude the first fifty million dollars of equity contributions from a qualifying entity from its paid-in or capital surplus subject to the annual license fee. To qualify for this exclusion, the corporation must obtain a certificate from the South Carolina Research Authority certifying that the exclusions result from equity contributions from a qualifying entity.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, a qualifying entity includes:

(a) a venture capital fund as defined pursuant to 17 C.F.R.

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Section 275.203(1) 1;

(b) an angel or accredited investor, as defined pursuant to 17 C.F.R. Section 230.501; and

(c) a private investment firm that does not solicit capital from investors, excluding another qualifying entity or the general public, and meets one of the exemptions outlined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

(3) A corporation claiming this exclusion must:

(a) submit an annual report to the department that contains the name of each qualifying entity, the date of the equity contribution, the manner in which the qualifying entity meets the requirements of item (2), the amount of the paid-in or capital surplus for each year that is attributable to each qualifying entity, and any other information that the department may require; and

(b) keep detailed books and records, including segregating out equity contributions attributable to each qualifying entity and retaining information concerning the information required to be provided in subitem (a).

B. Section 33-44-409(b)(3) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(3) to refrain from competing with the company in the conduct of the company's business before the dissolution of the company. This item does not apply when a member is also a member of another LLC and there is not an enforceable noncompete provision in the operating agreement

C. This SECTION takes effect upon approval by the Governor and first applies to the tax year beginning after July 1, 2026.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. B. NEWTON explained the amendment.

SPEAKER IN CHAIR

Rep. B. NEWTON continued speaking.

Rep. B. NEWTON spoke in favor of the amendment.

ACTING SPEAKER HIOTT IN CHAIR

Rep. B. NEWTON continued speaking.

The amendment was then adopted.

[HJ]

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The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 103; Nays 0

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bailey	Ballentine	Bauer
Beach	Bernstein	Bowers
Bradley	Brewer	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Collins
Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Dillard	Duncan
Edgerton	Erickson	Ford
Forrest	Frank	Gagnon
Garvin	Gatch	Gibson
Gilliam	Gilreath	Govan
Grant	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hart	Hartnett
Hartz	Hayes	Henderson-Myers
Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Holman	Huff
J. L. Johnson	Jones	Kilmartin
King	Kirby	Landing
Lastinger	Lawson	Ligon
Long	Magnuson	McCabe
McCrary	McDaniel	McGinnis
C. Mitchell	D. Mitchell	Montgomery
Morgan	Moss	Neese
B. Newton	Oremus	Pace
Pedalino	Pope	Rankin
Reese	Rivers	Robbins
Rose	Rutherford	Sanders
Schuessler	Scott	G. M. Smith
Stavrinakis	Taylor	Teeple
Terribile	Vaughan	Weeks
Wetmore	White	Whitmire

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Wickensimer
Yow

Williams

Wooten

Total--103

Those who voted in the negative are:

Total--0

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on H. 5006. As a sponsor of this legislation, I would have voted in favor of the Bill had I been present.

Rep. Justin Bamberg

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on H. 5006. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Wendell Gilliard

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on H. 5006. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. David Martin

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on H. 5006. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Jeff Johnson

STATEMENT FOR JOURNAL

I was temporarily out of the Chamber on constituent business during the vote on H. 5006. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the Bill.

Rep. Bruce Bannister

[HJ]

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ACTING SPEAKER HIOTT granted Rep. GILLIAM a temporary leave of absence.

H. 4145--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 4145 -- Reps. Bernstein, Bannister, Stavrinakis, W. Newton, Kirby, Teeple, Gilliam, Bauer, Wetmore, Gilliard, J. Moore, Bustos, Landing, C. Mitchell, Williams, Rivers, Waters and Grant: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "SOUTH CAROLINA PRAY SAFE ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 23-3-90 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRAY SAFE GRANT PROGRAM WITHIN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE AT RISK OF BEING VICTIMS OF A RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED CRIME.

Rep. B. NEWTON moved to adjourn debate on the Bill until Thursday, February 12, which was agreed to.

H. 4755--AMENDED AND ORDERED TO THIRD READING

The following Bill was taken up:

H. 4755 -- Reps. Gatch, G. M. Smith, W. Newton, Caskey, Jordan, Bailey, Ballentine, Brewer, Brittain, Chapman, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Duncan, Edgerton, Forrest, Gagnon, Gilliam, Guest, Guffey, Hager, Hardee, Hartz, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Huff, Kilmartin, Lawson, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, Martin, McCravy, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Sanders, Schuessler, Sessions, M. M. Smith, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, White, Whitmire, Willis, Yow, Erickson, Chumley, Ford, Lastinger, Wickensimer, Bowers, D. Mitchell and Gilreath: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 2-19-5, 2-19-20, 2-19-30, 2-19-35, 2-19-50, 2-19-60 AND 2-19-70, ALL RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION SCREENING AND ELECTION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES, SO AS TO REVISE THE STAFFING AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMISSION AND TRANSFER THAT AUTHORITY TO THE

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GOVERNOR, TO PROHIBIT SITTING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS FROM SERVING ON THE COMMISSION, TO PROHIBIT THE COMMISSION FROM CONSIDERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CRITERIA ALONG WITH OTHER SIMILAR CRITERIA, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

Rep. JORDAN proposed the following Amendment No. 1 to H. 4755 (LC-4755.DG0001H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 8 and inserting:

SECTION 8. This act takes effect on ~~February~~ April 1, 2027, at that time the previous commission members shall vacate their seats immediately to be replaced by those selected by the Governor in accordance with Section 2-19-5.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. JORDAN explained the amendment.

Rep. HOWARD moved to adjourn debate on the Bill.

Rep. HIOTT moved to table the motion.

Rep. MCDANIEL demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 84; Nays 32

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bailey	Ballentine	Bannister
Beach	Bowers	Bradley
Brewer	Brittain	Burns
Bustos	Calhoon	Caskey
Chapman	Chumley	Collins
Cox	Crawford	Davis
Duncan	Edgerton	Erickson
Ford	Forrest	Frank
Gagnon	Gatch	Gibson
Gilreath	Guest	Guffey
Haddon	Hager	Hardee
Harris	Hartnett	Hartz

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Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Holman	Huff
J. E. Johnson	Jordan	Kilmartin
Landing	Lastinger	Lawson
Ligon	Long	Lowe
Magnuson	Martin	McCrary
McGinnis	C. Mitchell	D. Mitchell
Montgomery	Morgan	Moss
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Oremus	Pace	Pedalino
Pope	Rankin	Robbins
Sanders	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Taylor
Teeple	Terrible	Vaughan
White	Whitmire	Wickensimer
Willis	Wooten	Yow

Total--84

Those who voted in the negative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bamberg	Bernstein	Cromer
Dillard	Garvin	Gilliard
Govan	Grant	Hart
Hayes	Henderson-Myers	Hosey
Howard	J. L. Johnson	Jones
King	Kirby	Luck
McDaniel	J. Moore	Reese
Rivers	Rose	Rutherford
Scott	Stavrinakis	Weeks
Wetmore	Williams	

Total--32

So, the motion to adjourn debate was tabled.

The question then recurred to the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Rep. CASKEY proposes the following Amendment No. 2 to H. 4755

[HJ]

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(LC-4755.AHB0002H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 3, Section 2-19-30(C), by adding items to read:

(1) A finding that a candidate is not qualified must be supported by clear and convincing evidence.

(2) Anonymous survey data including, but not limited to, results from the South Carolina Bar surveys when the identity of the responding party is not disclosed to the candidate, is considered insufficient as a matter of law to support a finding of not qualified. While such data may be used to initiate an investigation, a finding of not qualified must be based on independent, verifiable evidence or sworn testimony when the candidate has been given the opportunity to respond to the specific allegations.

(3) Any finding of not qualified must be stated with specificity in the commission's report. The report must include a detailed written statement of the specific facts and a direct reference to the evidence in the record that supports the finding. General or conclusory statements regarding a candidate's character, temperament, or fitness, without specific reference to the supporting evidence, are insufficient to sustain a finding of not qualified.

Amend the bill further, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. Chapter 19, Title 2 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 2-19-32. (A) If the Judicial Merit Selection Commission fails to meet, conduct hearings, or render findings on the qualifications of candidates before the first Wednesday in March, all candidates who have filed a timely notice of intention and completed the initial background investigation are deemed qualified by operation of law.

(B) In the event of such a failure to act, the Chairman of the commission, or in the Chairman's absence, the Clerk of the House and the Clerk of the Senate, shall certify the list of all candidates to the General Assembly on the first Wednesday in March.

(C) Upon such certification, the General Assembly shall proceed to the election of the judicial offices. All constitutional and statutory prohibitions regarding the pledging of votes are lifted seventy-two hours after the certification is issued to the members of the General Assembly.

Amend the bill further, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. Section 2-19-80(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to

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read:

(A) The commission shall make nominations to the General Assembly of candidates and their qualifications for election to the Supreme Court, court of appeals, circuit court, family court, and the Administrative Law Court. It shall review the qualifications of all applicants for a judicial office and select therefrom and submit to the General Assembly the names and qualifications of ~~not more than six~~all candidates whom it considers best qualified for the judicial office under consideration. If ~~fewer than six persons apply to fill a vacancy or if the commission concludes there are fewer than six candidates qualified for a vacancy~~the commission fails to find all candidates qualified, it shall submit to the General Assembly only the names and qualifications of those who are considered to be qualified, with a written explanation for ~~submitting fewer than six names~~finding a candidate unqualified.

Amend the bill further, SECTION 8, by striking Section 8 and inserting:

SECTION 8. This act takes effect on ~~February~~July 1, 2027, ~~at that time the previous commission members shall vacate their seats immediately to be replaced by those selected by the Governor in accordance with Section 2-19-5.~~

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. CASKEY explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Rep. CASKEY proposed the following Amendment No. 3 to H. 4755 (LC-4755.AHB0001H), which was adopted:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. Chapter 19, Title 2 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 2-19-115. (A) Upon a magistrate position vacancy, the Senate shall forward a magistrate candidate to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission for review of the candidate's qualifications. The commission shall conduct the same review as for other judicial candidates and may conduct a public hearing in the same manner as other judicial candidates pursuant to the provisions of this chapter as the commission deems necessary. The commission shall forward a report on a magistrate candidate's qualifications to the Senate and Governor prior to the Governor's appointment. The Governor's appointment process

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followed by advice and consent of the Senate is pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-19-10. No person found not qualified by the commission may be appointed to a magistrate position.

(B) For purposes of this section, a vacancy is created in a magistrate position when any of the following occurs, a:

- (1) term expires;
- (2) new magistrate position is created; or
- (3) magistrate is no longer able to serve due to resignation, retirement, disciplinary action, disability, or death.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. CASKEY explained the amendment.

The amendment was then adopted.

Rep. WETMORE proposed the following Amendment No. 4 to H. 4755 (LC-4755.AHB0004H), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking the second sentence of Section 2-19-5(A) and striking Section 2-19-5(A) (1) and (2) and inserting:

~~—(3) four members appointed by the Governor all of which must be members in good standing of the South Carolina Bar with at least ten years' experience in the practice of law.~~

The commission shall be composed of twelve members ~~who must be~~ appointed by the Governor, ~~as follows~~ who must be appointed based on the following recommendations:

~~—(1) eight members must be members of the South Carolina Bar in good standing;~~

~~—(2) no more than four members may be law enforcement professionals; and~~

(1) two Circuit Solicitors, ex officio, or their designees, as recommended by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination;

(2) one Circuit Public Defender, ex officio, or his designee, as recommended by the Commission on Indigent Defense;

(3) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Criminal Law Section;

(4) two members recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Family Law Section;

(5) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Construction Law Section;

(6) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar

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Association Corporate, Banking, and Insurance Section;

(7) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Employment and Labor Law Section;

(8) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Government Law Section;

(9) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Torts and Insurance Practice Section; and

(10) one member recommended by the South Carolina Bar Association Trial and Appellate Section.

~~(3) no~~ No individual currently holding a seat in the General Assembly of either chamber shall be eligible to serve on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, nor shall their spouse, children, or siblings. Former members of the General Assembly must wait no fewer than two years before qualifying for selection by the Governor to the commission. Their spouse, children, or siblings must also wait no fewer than two years before qualifying following the member vacating their seat.

Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, Section 2-19-5, by adding a subsection to read:

(H) If an entity with the responsibility to recommend a member of the commission to the Governor pursuant to the provisions of this section fails to make a recommendation within thirty days of notice of an opening or vacancy on the commission as provided by the Governor, the nomination must be made by the South Carolina Bar Association Executive Committee.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Rep. WETMORE explained the amendment.

Rep. MAGNUSON moved to table the amendment.

Rep. MAGNUSON demanded the yeas and nays which were taken, resulting as follows:

Yeas 85; Nays 27

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bailey	Ballentine	Bannister
Bauer	Beach	Bowers
Bradley	Brewer	Brittain
Burns	Bustos	Calhoon
Caskey	Chapman	Chumley

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Cox	Crawford	Cromer
Davis	Duncan	Edgerton
Erickson	Ford	Forrest
Frank	Gagnon	Gatch
Gibson	Gilreath	Guest
Guffey	Haddon	Hager
Hardee	Harris	Hartnett
Hartz	Herbkersman	Hewitt
Hiott	Hixon	Holman
Huff	J. E. Johnson	Jordan
Kilmartin	Landing	Lastinger
Lawson	Ligon	Long
Lowe	Magnuson	Martin
McCabe	McCrary	McGinnis
C. Mitchell	D. Mitchell	Morgan
Moss	Neese	B. Newton
W. Newton	Oremus	Pace
Pedalino	Pope	Rankin
Robbins	Sanders	Schuessler
Sessions	G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith
Taylor	Teeple	Terrible
Vaughan	White	Whitmire
Wickensimer	Willis	Wooten
Yow		

Total--85

Those who voted in the negative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atkinson
Bamberg	Bernstein	Dillard
Garvin	Gilliard	Grant
Hayes	Henderson-Myers	Hosey
Howard	J. L. Johnson	Jones
King	Kirby	Luck
Reese	Rivers	Rose
Rutherford	Scott	Stavrinakis
Weeks	Wetmore	Williams

Total--27

So, the amendment was tabled.

[HJ]

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Rep. BAMBERG spoke against the Bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HIOTT IN CHAIR

Rep. BAMBERG continued speaking.

Rep. RUTHERFORD spoke against the Bill.

Rep. HART spoke against the Bill.

The question recurred to the passage of the Bill.

The yeas and nays were taken resulting as follows:

Yeas 86; Nays 25

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Atkinson	Bailey	Ballentine
Bannister	Bauer	Beach
Bowers	Bradley	Brewer
Brittain	Burns	Bustos
Calhoon	Caskey	Chapman
Collins	Cox	Crawford
Cromer	Davis	Duncan
Edgerton	Erickson	Ford
Forrest	Frank	Gagnon
Gatch	Gilliam	Gilreath
Guest	Guffey	Haddon
Hager	Hardee	Harris
Hartnett	Hartz	Hayes
Herbkersman	Hewitt	Hiott
Hixon	Holman	Huff
Jordan	Kilmartin	King
Landing	Lastinger	Lawson
Ligon	Long	Magnuson
Martin	McCabe	McCrary
McDaniel	McGinnis	C. Mitchell
D. Mitchell	Morgan	Moss
Neese	B. Newton	W. Newton
Oremus	Pace	Pedalino
Pope	Rankin	Robbins
Sanders	Schuessler	Sessions
G. M. Smith	M. M. Smith	Taylor

[HJ]

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Teeple	Terrible	Vaughan
White	Whitmire	Wickensimer
Willis	Yow	

Total--86

Those who voted in the negative are:

Alexander	Anderson	Bamberg
Bernstein	Dillard	Garvin
Gilliard	Grant	Hart
Henderson-Myers	Hosey	Howard
Jones	Kirby	Luck
J. Moore	Reese	Rivers
Rose	Rutherford	Scott
Stavrinakis	Weeks	Wetmore
Williams		

Total--25

So, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time and ordered to third reading.

ABSTENTION FROM VOTING

February 11, 2026
The Honorable G. Murrell Smith Jr.
506 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Speaker Smith,

I am notifying you in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-700 that I will not participate in the vote on H. 4755 which seeks to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending sections 2-19-5, 2-19-20, 2-19-30, 2-19-35, 2-19-50, 23-19-60, and 2-19-70, all relating to the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission screening and election of justices and judges, so as to revise the staffing and appointment process of the Commission and transfer that authority to the Governor, to prohibit sitting members of the General Assembly and certain family members from serving on the Commission, to prohibit the Commission from considering diversity, equity, and inclusion criteria along with other similar criteria, and to make conforming changes, out of an abundance of caution.

[HJ]

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I will abstain from this vote because of a potential conflict of interest as an economic interest of myself and/or a family member may be affected. Please note this in the House Journal.

Sincerely,
Representative Jerry Govan
House District Number 93

RECURRENCE TO THE MORNING HOUR

Rep. POPE moved that the House recur to the morning hour, which was agreed to.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5043 -- Reps. Wetmore and Stavrinakis: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF CAMP ROAD AND FORT JOHNSON ROAD ON JAMES ISLAND IN CHARLESTON COUNTY THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS "IN MEMORY OF SGT. FIRST CLASS ISAAC GETHERS JR."

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. MOSS, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 5044 -- Reps. Wetmore, Stavrinakis and Teeple: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION OF RIVER ROAD AND MAYBANK HIGHWAY ON JOHNS ISLAND IN CHARLESTON COUNTY "JANIE BLIGEN HUNTER '1984 NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOW' INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS OR MARKERS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5146 -- Reps. Bernstein, Bauer, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Beach, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terrible, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON WINNING THE 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5147 -- Reps. T. Moore, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones,

[HJ]

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Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO HONOR THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAAA-DIVISION 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5148 -- Reps. Garvin, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE COREY MITCHELL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FOUNDATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S OUTSTANDING WORK IN PROVIDING EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND RESOURCES TO THOSE AFFECTED BY MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS; TO EXTEND

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

BEST WISHES TO FOUNDER COREY MITCHELL FOR MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN FULFILLING THAT ORGANIZATION'S WORTHY MISSION; AND TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026 AS "MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5149 -- Reps. Whitmire, Duncan, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terrible, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JAMES B. SMITH, A COMMUNITY LEADER IN OCONEE COUNTY, AND TO EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO HIM FOR HIS DEDICATED SUPPORT IN REOPENING THE CHAUGA RIVER BRIDGE AFTER ITS DESTRUCTION DURING HURRICANE HELENE, PART OF WHICH SPANS OVER HIS PROPERTY.

The Resolution was adopted.

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5150 -- Reps. Garvin, Atkinson, Alexander, Anderson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE CENTRA LEE GREEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5151 -- Reps. Dillard, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoun, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck,

[HJ]

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Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ECONOMIC IMPACT, WORKFORCE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO COMMEND ITS ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ECONOMY THROUGH THE POWER OF WORK.

The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5152 -- Reps. Hosey, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Ford, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Howard, Huff, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lastinger, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, D. Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Scott, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO REMEMBER AND HONOR THE LIFE OF DOREATHA GILLIS-BISHOP AND TO EXPRESS THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS UPON HER PASSING.

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The Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5153 -- Reps. King, McDaniel, Cobb-Hunter, Yow, Scott, Grant, Howard, Bamberg, Hart and Jones: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S RACIST SOCIAL MEDIA POST DEPICTING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AS APES; TO EXPRESSLY DECLARE SUCH COMPARISONS TO BE RACIST, DEHUMANIZING, AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY; TO DENOUNCE THE USE OF RACIST IMAGERY BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL, PARTICULARLY BY ONE OCCUPYING THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE NATION; AND TO REAFFIRM SOUTH CAROLINA'S COMMITMENT TO REJECTING RACISM IN ALL FORMS AND DEFENDING THE EQUAL WORTH OF ALL PEOPLE.

The Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5154 -- Reps. Erickson, Bradley, Vaughan, D. Mitchell, Teeple, B. Newton, Duncan, M. M. Smith, Sanders, Hartnett, Whitmire, Bowers, Huff and Davis: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN HIS EFFORTS TO DEVOLVE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE STATES AND TO ELIMINATE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND TO MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT AND COOPERATE WITH THESE EFFORTS THROUGH NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND FAITHFUL EXECUTION.

The Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

The following was introduced:

H. 5155 -- Reps. J. Moore, McDaniel, King, Rose, Scott, Dillard, Jones, Wetmore, Garvin, Reese, Anderson, Kirby, Rivers, Gilliard, J. L. Johnson, Grant, Waters, Hosey, Williams, Luck, Bauer, Alexander, Bannister, Henderson-Myers, Weeks, Stavrinakis and Rutherford: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR FORMER VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AS SHE CONTINUES ON HER NOTEWORTHY BOOK TOUR AND TO WELCOME HER ARRIVAL TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

The Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were introduced, read the first time, and referred to appropriate committees:

H. 5156 -- Reps. Erickson, Bradley, M. M. Smith, Alexander, Hartnett, Vaughan, D. Mitchell, Davis, Huff, Duncan, Whitmire and Sanders: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN K-12 TECHNOLOGY PLANNING ACT" BY ADDING ARTICLE 5 TO CHAPTER 23, TITLE 59 SO AS TO REQUIRE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO EVALUATE AND CONSIDER TOTAL OWNERSHIP COSTS AND FLEXIBILITY FOR INNOVATION AND ACCESSIBILITY WHEN ACQUIRING TECHNOLOGY, TO MANDATE ANNUAL REPORTING OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY DEVICE BREAK/FIX RATES AND RELATED DATA, AND TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO COMPILE AND REPORT STATEWIDE FINDINGS, PROMULGATE RELATED REGULATIONS, AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

H. 5157 -- Rep. Forrest: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-51-40, RELATING TO DEFAULT ON PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES, SO AS TO REMOVE A REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTED DELIVERY; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 12-51-120,

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RELATING TO NOTICE OF APPROACHING END OF REDEMPTION PERIOD, SO AS TO REMOVE A REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTED DELIVERY.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5158 -- Reps. Burns, D. Mitchell, Chumley, Edgerton, Wickensimer, McCabe and Pedalino: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 8 TO CHAPTER 111, TITLE 59 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL PHYSICIAN TUITION GRANT PROGRAM, FUNDED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY, TO PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO MEDICAL STUDENTS WHO COMMIT TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN RURAL AREAS OF THIS STATE FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, SERVICE OBLIGATIONS, AND ENFORCEMENT; AND BY ADDING SECTION 59-150-385 SO AS TO ENABLE FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5159 -- Rep. Wooten: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 27-7-80 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS RELATING TO REAL ESTATE FRAUD AND CREATE THE FELONY OF DEED THEFT.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

H. 5160 -- Rep. Taylor: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS TO ENACT THE "ELIMINATE CRIMINAL PROFITEERING ACT" BY ADDING CHAPTER 83 TO TITLE 15 SO AS TO PREVENT PERSONS ENGAGED IN WRONGFUL CONDUCT FROM BRINGING ACTIONS OR OTHERWISE COLLECTING DAMAGE AWARDS FOR EVENTS OR OCCURRENCES RESULTING FROM THE WRONGFUL CONDUCT, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

H. 5161 -- Reps. Herbkersman, Hardee, W. Newton, Brittain, Rivers, Montgomery, Lawson, Gatch, Bernstein, J. E. Johnson, Chumley, Brewer, Reese, Gagnon, McGinnis and Weeks: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-1140, RELATING TO INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS,

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SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF CERTAIN RETIREMENT INCOME FROM WORKING AS A 911 PROFESSIONAL; AND BY ADDING SECTION 23-47-85 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A 911 PROFESSIONAL IS A FIRST RESPONDER ENTITLED TO ALL BENEFITS THAT ACCRUE TO FIRST RESPONDERS.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5162 -- Reps. Herbkersman, Bernstein, Rivers, Weeks, Hardee, W. Newton, Brittain, Gatch, Montgomery, Lawson, J. E. Johnson, B. Newton, McCabe, Rankin, Brewer, Chumley, Gagnon and McGinnis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 34-3-900 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS PERTAINING TO THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF ELIGIBLE ADULTS AND TO OUTLINE A PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR ELIGIBLE ADULTS TO PROTECT ELIGIBLE ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION.

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

H. 5163 -- Reps. Gilreath, Frank, Cromer, Huff, White, Edgerton, Pace, Magnuson, Harris and Kilmartin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-23-20, RELATING TO THE UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF HANDGUNS, SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CARRYING A HANDGUN INTO A SCHOOL ATHLETIC EVENT NOT RELATED TO FIREARMS APPLIES TO ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BUT NOT COLLEGES; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 16-23-420 RELATING TO POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

H. 5164 -- Reps. Hewitt, Bannister and G. M. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 44-7-255 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR FIRE AND BUILDING CODE EXCEPTIONS FOR PLACEMENT OF HOSPITAL BEDS IN HALLWAYS, CORRIDORS, OR OTHER MEANS OF EGRESS DURING JUSTIFIED EMERGENCIES.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

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H. 5165 -- Reps. Teeple, Hartnett, Bustos, Landing, Sessions and Ford: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-21-545 SO AS TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION OR INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN EQUIVALENT ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

H. 5166 -- Reps. Jones, McDaniel, Waters and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SUBARTICLE 2 TO ARTICLE 13, CHAPTER 63, TITLE 59, RELATING TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SO AS TO ESTABLISH STATEWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT TRANSITIONS INTO AND OUT OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL TRANSITION PLANS, PROGRESS MONITORING, REENTRY CRITERIA, AND DISTRICT REPORTING; AND TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 13, CHAPTER 63, TITLE 59 AS "GENERAL PROVISIONS."

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

H. 5167 -- Reps. Cromer, Pace, D. Mitchell, Edgerton, Gilreath, Huff, Frank, Magnuson, Morgan, Beach, Terribile, Burns, Kilmartin, White, Harris, Chumley and McCabe: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-40, RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO STATE TAX LAWS, SO AS TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO THE YEAR 2025 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.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5168 -- Reps. C. Mitchell and Yow: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1-1-687 SO AS TO DESIGNATE "CAROLINA UNTIL I DIE" BY PATRICK DAVIS AS AN OFFICIAL STATE SONG.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

H. 5169 -- Reps. Teeple, Hartnett, Landing, Bustos, Sessions and Ford: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-1-400, RELATING TO SICK LEAVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE PAYMENT FOR ACCRUED BUT UNUSED SICK LEAVE TO TEACHERS UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCEPT WHEN BEGINNING WORK IN A DISTRICT THAT ACCEPTS TRANSFER OF THE ACCRUED SICK LEAVE WITHIN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5170 -- Reps. Brittain, Yow, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Jordan, Teeple, Pace, Kirby, Huff, Bowers, Herbkersman, Atkinson, Bailey, Bauer, Crawford, Guest, Hayes, McGinnis and Schuessler: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-39-15, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF COUNTY AUDITORS, SO AS TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO OFFER VIRTUAL CLASSES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 12-45-15, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF COUNTY TREASURERS, SO AS TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO OFFER VIRTUAL CLASSES.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

H. 5171 -- Reps. Teeple, Hartnett, Landing, Bustos, Sessions and Ford: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-25-70 SO AS TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MAINTAIN UNIFORM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER POLICIES AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS AND SERVICES.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

H. 5172 -- Rep. Hixon: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 44-2-20, 44-2-40, 44-2-60, 44-2-130, AND 44-2-150, ALL RELATING TO THE STATE UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE BANK ACT, SO AS TO CHANGE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS, TO INCREASE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR

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REHABILITATION OF CONTAMINATED SITES, TO REVISE AN ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE SCHEDULE, TO CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERB ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 5173 -- Reps. Hewitt, Bannister and G. M. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-7-130, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE FACILITY DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 454 -- Senator Hembree: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-40, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS, SO AS TO CHANGE REFERENCES FROM "SPONSOR" TO "AUTHORIZER" AND TO PROVIDE OTHER DEFINITIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-50, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS, SO AS TO REQUIRE A CHARTER SCHOOL TO POST THEIR ANNUAL AUDIT ON THEIR WEBSITE AND TO NOTIFY AND PROVIDE A COPY OF ANY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS TO THE AUTHORIZER; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-55, RELATING TO AUTHORIZER POWERS AND DUTIES AND THE RETENTION OF FUNDS, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE AUTHORIZER TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES THAT ENSURE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-60, RELATING TO CHARTER APPLICATIONS AND COMMITTEES, SO AS TO EXPAND THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION TO INCLUDE ANY PROPOSED CHARTER OR EDUCATION MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS CONTEMPLATED BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-70, RELATING TO APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES, SO AS TO SET A TIME FRAME TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-75, RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF AN AUTHORIZER OR MEMBER OF A DISTRICT OR GOVERNING BOARD, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR TO VACATE THE SEAT OF A MEMBER OF AN AUTHORIZER OR CHARTER

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SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD WHO IS INDICTED FOR A CRIME; AND TO ALLOW THE GOVERNOR TO REMOVE A MEMBER FOR CHRONIC UNEXCUSED ABSENTEEISM, MEDICAL INCOMPETENCY, OR MEDICAL INCAPACITY; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-90, RELATING TO APPEALS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT, SO AS TO ALLOW AN APPEAL FOR ANY FINAL DECISION MADE PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER BE MADE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-115, RELATING TO TERMINATION OF A CONTRACT WITH AN AUTHORIZER, SO AS TO ALLOW A CHARTER SCHOOL TO TERMINATE ITS CHARTER AND CONTRACT WITH AN AUTHORIZER UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-150, RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SERVE AS THE STATE EDUCATION AGENCY FOR EACH AUTHORIZER AND ANNUALLY REVIEW THE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PERFORMANCE OF EACH AUTHORIZER FOR COMPLIANCE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 59-40-180, RELATING TO REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES, SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT GUIDELINES WILL BE APPLICABLE TO NEW AUTHORIZERS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

S. 695 -- Senators Young, Graham, Devine, Walker and Sutton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN VETERANS' BENEFITS ACT"; AND BY ADDING ARTICLE 8 TO CHAPTER 11, TITLE 25, SO AS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, SET GUIDELINES AND LIMITS FOR COMPENSATION, MEMORIALIZE TERMS, AND STATE PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

Rep. FORREST moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

[HJ]

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RETURNED WITH CONCURRENCE

The Senate returned to the House with concurrence the following:

H. 4920 -- Rep. Caskey: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF PLATT SPRINGS ROAD IN THE TOWN OF SPRINGDALE IN LEXINGTON COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH RAINBOW DRIVE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH WATTLING ROAD "MAYOR PAT G. SMITH MEMORIAL ROAD" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

H. 4923 -- Rep. Caskey: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF 12TH STREET FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH KNOX ABBOTT DRIVE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH JARVIS KLAPMAN BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA IN LEXINGTON COUNTY "GUS MANOS MEMORIAL STREET" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:27 p.m. the House, in accordance with the motion of Rep. POPE, adjourned in memory of Martin Alphin, to meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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H. 3158	10	H. 5142	4
H. 3186	10	H. 5143	5
H. 3210	10	H. 5144	6
H. 3477	14	H. 5145	6
H. 3530	15	H. 5146	35
H. 3774	14	H. 5147	35
H. 4123	10	H. 5148	36
H. 4145	24	H. 5149	37
H. 4161	11	H. 5150	38
H. 4188	13	H. 5151	38
H. 4270	11	H. 5152	39
H. 4511	14	H. 5153	40
H. 4586	13	H. 5154	40
H. 4635	14	H. 5155	41
H. 4636	11	H. 5156	41
H. 4641	11	H. 5157	41
H. 4724	11	H. 5158	42
H. 4725	11	H. 5159	42
H. 4754	11	H. 5160	42
H. 4755	12, 24, 25, 26	H. 5161	42
H. 4755	28, 29, 33	H. 5162	43
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H. 4758	18	H. 5164	43
H. 4767	12, 15	H. 5165	44
H. 4791	12	H. 5166	44
H. 4813	16	H. 5167	44
H. 4920	48	H. 5168	44
H. 4923	48	H. 5169	45
H. 4985	12	H. 5170	45
H. 5006	12, 19, 20, 23	H. 5171	45
H. 5013	12	H. 5172	45
H. 5043	34	H. 5173	46
H. 5044	34		
H. 5045	2	S. 454	46
H. 5046	2	S. 477	19
H. 5055	2	S. 691	3
H. 5086	3	S. 695	47
H. 5096	13	S. 881	3
H. 5114	13	S. 908	7
H. 5139	13	S. 910	7
H. 5141	4		