

NO. 69

**JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

Wednesday, May 28, 2025
(Statewide Session)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 12:00 Noon, 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:

Genesis 8:11

In Genesis Chapter 8 we read that: "When the dove returned to him in the evening, there was in its beak a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth."

Good friends, please bow with me as we pray: Most holy God, it had to be a tremendous moment of release and hope for Noah to come finally to that point when he could take a deep breath, realizing that the floodwaters were subsiding. Tension, anxiety, perhaps frustration surely lessened for him. And that is what I find myself seeking for these Senators and their aides, dear Lord: for them to gain a clear sense of cleaning the slate, of completing a major portion of their work, of wrapping up this 126th Regular Legislative Session. So as they have today returned to tackle formidable challenges, dear Lord, may these leaders find themselves not only grateful for the steadfastness You grant to them, but also allow them to sense Your guiding presence as they yet again labor together to do their very best for the people of South Carolina. So we pray in Your loving name, dear Lord. Amen.

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

Call of the Senate

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

Adams	Alexander	Allen
Bennett	Blackmon	Campsen
Cash	Chaplin	Climer
Corbin	Cromer	Davis
Devine	Elliott	Fernandez
Gambrell	Garrett	Graham
Grooms	Hembree	Hutto

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Jackson	Johnson	Kimbrell
Leber	Martin	Massey
Matthews	Nutt	Ott
Peeler	Reichenbach	Rice
Stubbs	Sutton	Tedder
Turner	Verdin	Walker
Williams	Young	Zell

A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following appointments were transmitted by the Honorable Henry Dargan McMaster:

Local Appointments

Initial Appointment, Beaufort County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 20, 2022, and to expire April 30, 2026

Dustin Lee, Esquire, P. O. Box 333, Bluffton, SC 29910 *VICE* Angela McCall-Tanner

Initial Appointment, Chester County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2023, and to expire April 30, 2027

Alfonso Boyd, 3207 Lizzie Melton Road, Chester, SC 29706

Initial Appointment, Horry County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2023, and to expire April 30, 2027

Mary Brown, 2585 Mount Zion Road, Little River, SC 29566 *VICE* Aaron C. Butler

COMMUNICATION

Columbia, S.C., May 22, 2025

Mr. President and Senators:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R86, S. 136:

(R86, S. 136) -- Senators Tedder, Leber, Kimbrell and Rice: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-1-65, RELATING TO THE EXPUNGEMENT OF CONVICTIONS FOR THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF HANDGUNS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE MUST DISMISS AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN PENDING

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UNLAWFUL HANDGUN POSSESSION CHARGES THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY/SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 2024, AND TO PROVIDE THE DISMISSAL OF THESE CHARGES MAY NOT SERVE AS A BASIS OR SUPPORT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS DUE TO THE ARREST.

Yours very truly,
Henry McMaster

Received as information

The veto was ordered placed on the Calendar for consideration tomorrow.

Motion Adopted

Senator TEDDER asked unanimous consent that the veto of the Governor regarding S. 136 be taken up for consideration.

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
President of the South Carolina Senate
State House, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-86, S. 136, which seeks to require prosecutors in South Carolina to dismiss pending charges for unlawful possession of a handgun pursuant to Section 16-23-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended by the S.C. Constitutional Carry/Second Amendment Preservation Act of 2024, “if the charges occurred prior to the enactment of” that Act. As the General Assembly may recall, I vetoed nearly identical legislation last year. *See* S. 1166 (R-200), 125th General Assembly, 2d Reg. Sess. (May 21, 2024). While the Senate voted to override my objections to that Bill, the House of Representatives declined to do so.

Although I appreciate that the General Assembly included language in this year’s legislation to address law enforcement’s concerns that the blanket dismissal of these charges could theoretically serve as the basis for wrongful arrest lawsuits, given that that the operative language in S. 136 is nearly identical to last year’s Bill, my fundamental objections to

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the legislation remain unchanged. As a former United States Attorney and South Carolina Attorney General, I have great respect and admiration for prosecutors and recognize the important role that prosecutorial discretion plays in our criminal justice system. I am therefore wary of any attempt to limit that authority and discretion. Every case is unique, and the prosecutors in our State should be permitted to evaluate each case based on the law and the facts and then proceed as they deem appropriate. Some charges might warrant dismissal; other charges may warrant continued prosecution. Unfortunately, S. 136 would universally strip prosecutors of the ability to make such individualized determinations.

I similarly remain skeptical of, and opposed to, S. 136's mandatory, blanket dismissals of pending criminal charges for another reason: When the defendants who would benefit from these dismissals committed their alleged crimes, their alleged actions were, in fact, unlawful. To be sure, those actions might not be illegal today, but that distinction misses the critical point that such actions were illegal at the time they were committed. I have repeatedly noted my belief in the importance of upholding and adhering to the Rule of Law, which requires not only that everyone follow the law as written but also that the law apply equally to every person. If a person disobeys the law, consequences -- including potential criminal prosecution -- may follow, even if a person believes a law should be changed. Just as all speeding tickets would not automatically disappear if a speed limit is subsequently increased, universal dismissals are rarely the answer for previous violations of a later-amended law. Likewise, I remain convinced that blanket dismissals are unnecessary in this context.

As a practical matter, continuing to pursue criminal charges despite an intervening change in law may make for a difficult prosecution, but if a prosecutor determines that the facts warrant prosecution, I do not believe that it is appropriate for the General Assembly to obviate that discretionary authority, in all cases, in the abstract. While I am advised that the universe of pending charges for unlawful possession of a handgun, without companion offenses, is particularly limited, to the extent that this Bill's proponents have generally claimed that these remaining charges are the product of procedural stagnation rather than prosecutorial discretion, I am confident that our state's Circuit Solicitors will expeditiously review these pending charges and determine whether to proceed based on the facts and the law. To the extent further analysis or assistance may be required, by copy of this letter, I am simultaneously advising the Attorney General of this matter in view of his role as "the

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chief prosecuting officer of the State" with authority to supervise the prosecution of all criminal cases in courts of record." S.C. Const. Art. V, Section 24.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-86, S. 136 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,
Henry Dargan McMaster

VETO OVERRIDEN

(R86, S. 136) -- Senators Tedder, Leber, Kimbrell and Rice: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-1-65, RELATING TO THE EXPUNGEMENT OF CONVICTIONS FOR THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF HANDGUNS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE MUST DISMISS AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN PENDING UNLAWFUL HANDGUN POSSESSION CHARGES THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY/SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 2024, AND TO PROVIDE THE DISMISSAL OF THESE CHARGES MAY NOT SERVE AS A BASIS OR SUPPORT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS DUE TO THE ARREST.

The veto of the Governor was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator TEDDER moved that the veto of the Governor be overridden.

The question was put, "Shall the Act become law, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?"

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

Ayes 40; Nays 2

AYES

Adams	Alexander	Allen
Bennett	Blackmon	Cash
Chaplin	Climer	Corbin
Davis	Devine	Elliott
Fernandez	Gambrell	Garrett
Graham	Grooms	Hembree
Hutto	Jackson	Johnson
Kimbrell	Leber	Martin

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Massey	Matthews	Nutt
Ott	Peeler	Reichenbach
Rice	Stubbs	Sutton
Tedder	Turner	Verdin
Walker	Williams	Young
Zell		

Total--40

NAYS

Campsen	Cromer
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Total--2

The necessary two-thirds vote having been received, the veto of the Governor was overridden, and a message was sent to the House accordingly.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator CLIMER, at 12:05 P.M., Senator GOLDFINCH was granted a leave of absence for today.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator STUBBS, at 12:28 P.M., Senator SABB was granted a leave of absence for today.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator CLIMER, at 12:28 P.M., Senator RANKIN was granted a leave of absence for today.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator MARTIN, at 12:28 P.M., Senator KENNEDY was granted a leave of absence for today.

Expression of Personal Interest

Senator BENNETT rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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The following were introduced:

S. 673 -- Senator Ott: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE REVEREND THURMOND MERCHISON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION AND THE ST. MATTHEWS COMMUNITY.

sr-0371km-vc25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 674 -- Senator Walker: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE DR. DEBORAH DAVIS AND DR. ISAIAH DAVIS UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENTS, TO COMMEND THEM FOR THEIR THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH THEM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

sr-0369km-hw25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 675 -- Senator Sabb: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE RUTHENA MORANT BARRON FORD ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETY-NINTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

sr-0372km-vc25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 676 -- Senator Alexander: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE WILLIE JEFFRIES FOR WINNING THE 2024 MAXWELL HBCU AWARD.

sr-0370km-vc25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 677 -- Senator Walker: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CHRISTOPHER R. KOON FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND TO THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

sr-0368km-vc25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

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S. 678 -- Senator Jackson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REBECCA BROWN ADAMS OF HOPKINS AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FAMILY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL REBECCA BROWN ADAMS MEMORIAL WALK, TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025.

lc-0343sa-rm25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 679 -- Senators Jackson and Devine: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE DR. CRAIG WITHERSPOON, SUPERINTENDENT OF RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT, TO EXPRESS THE DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR HIS TEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, AND TO WISH HIM A FULFILLING AND WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT.

lc-0164ha-jah25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 680 -- Senator Davis: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THOMAS C. BARNWELL JR. OF BEAUFORT COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

lc-0286vr-kar25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 681 -- Senators Cromer, Alexander, Adams, Allen, Bennett, Blackmon, Campsen, Cash, Chaplin, Climer, Corbin, Davis, Devine, Elliott, Fernandez, Gambrell, Garrett, Goldfinch, Graham, Grooms, Hembree, Hutto, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Kimbrell, Leber, Martin, Massey, Matthews, Nutt, Ott, Peeler, Rankin, Reichenbach, Rice, Sabb, Stubbs, Sutton, Tedder, Turner, Verdin, Walker, Williams, Young and Zell: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE EMILY CUMMINGS COPE UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

sr-0373km-vc25.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

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S. 682 -- Senators Young, Kimbrell, Corbin, Gambrell, Cromer, Massey, Rice, Verdin, Campsen, Kennedy, Garrett, Elliott, Stubbs, Ott and Nutt: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 12-6-3830 SO AS TO ALLOW AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR A TIMBER CASUALTY LOSS IN A FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTER AREA RESULTING FROM HURRICANE HELENE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-1140, RELATING TO DEDUCTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL TAXABLE INCOME, SO AS TO ALLOW A DEDUCTION FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN DISASTER RELIEF AGENCIES RESULTING FROM HURRICANE HELENE.

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Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. 683 -- Senator Devine: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE WILEY KENNEDY FOUNDATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF RICHLAND COUNTY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO DECLARE FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025, AS "WILEY KENNEDY FOUNDATION DAY" THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

lc-0270dg-rm25.docx

The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 684 -- Senators Leber, Cash, Kennedy, Climer, Johnson, Verdin, Gambrell, Nutt, Garrett, Fernandez, Reichenbach, Grooms, Blackmon, Elliott, Zell, Stubbs and Chaplin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1-1-1910 SO AS TO ESTABLISH BUDGETARY PENALTIES FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IF ANY OF ITS MEMBERS FAIL TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE.

lc-0271dg25.docx

Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 685 -- Senators Cromer, Adams, Alexander, Allen, Bennett, Blackmon, Campsen, Cash, Chaplin, Climer, Corbin, Davis, Devine, Elliott, Fernandez, Gambrell, Garrett, Goldfinch, Graham, Grooms, Hembree, Hutto, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Kimbrell, Leber, Martin, Massey, Matthews, Nutt, Ott, Peeler, Rankin, Reichenbach, Rice, Sabb, Stubbs, Sutton, Tedder, Turner, Verdin, Walker, Williams, Young and

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Zell: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, AS "NATIONAL GUARD DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MANY SACRIFICES AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD MAKES TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND SECURITY OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

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The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services.

ACTING PRESIDENT PRESIDES

Senator MARTIN assumed the Chair.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO CONSIDERATION OF H. 4025,
THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL.**

**H. 4025--REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE ADOPTED**

H. 4025 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On motion of Senator PEELER, with unanimous consent, the Report of the Committee of Conference was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator PEELER spoke on the Conference report.

Senator CLIMER spoke on the Conference report.

The question then was adoption of the Report of Committee of Conference.

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

Ayes 37; Nays 5

AYES

Adams

Alexander

Allen

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Bennett	Blackmon	Campsen
Cash	Chaplin	Corbin
Cromer	Davis	Devine
Elliott	Gambrell	Garrett
Graham	Grooms	Hembree
Hutto	Jackson	Kimbrell
Leber	Martin	Massey
Nutt	Ott	Peeler
Rice	Stubbs	Sutton
Tedder	Turner	Verdin
Walker	Williams	Young
Zell		

Total--37

NAYS

Climer	Fernandez	Johnson
Matthews	Reichenbach	

Total--5

The Committee of Conference Report was adopted as follows:

H. 4025--Conference Report

The General Assembly, Columbia, S.C., May 28, 2025

The COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE, to whom was referred:

H. 4025 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Beg leave to report that they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend:

That the same do pass with the following amendments:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

Amend title to conform.

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/s/Sen. Harvey Smith Peeler, Jr. /s/Rep. Bruce Wyche Bannister
/s/Sen. Thomas C. Alexander /s/Rep. Leonidas E. "Leon" Stavrinakis
/s/Sen. Darrell Jackson, Sr. /s/Rep. William Lee Hewitt III
On Part of the Senate. On Part of the House.

, and a message was sent to the House accordingly.

Message from the House

Columbia, S.C., May 28, 2025

Mr. President and Senators:

The House respectfully informs your Honorable Body that it has adopted the Report of the Committee of Conference on:

H. 4025 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Very respectfully,

Speaker of the House

Received as information.

Message from the House

Columbia, S.C., May 28, 2025

Mr. President and Senators:

The House respectfully informs your Honorable Body that the Report of the Committee of Conference having been adopted by both Houses, and this Bill having been read three times in each House, it was ordered that the title thereof be changed to that of an Act and that it be enrolled for Ratification:

H. 4025 -- Ways and Means Committee: A BILL TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Very respectfully,

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Speaker of the House

Received as information.

PRESIDENT PRESIDES

At 12:24 P.M., the PRESIDENT assumed the Chair.

STATEWIDE APPOINTMENT
Confirmation

Having received a favorable report from the Family and Veterans' Services Committee, the following appointment was confirmed in open session:

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with the term to commence May 19, 2025, and to expire May 19, 2029

Veterans Service Organizations:

Lowell Koppert, Jr., 660 Parkside Drive, Aiken, SC 29803 *VICE*
Jimmy E. Hawk

On motion of Senator YOUNG, the question was confirmation of Lowell Koppert, Jr.

The appointment of Lowell Koppert, Jr. was confirmed.

LOCAL APPOINTMENTS
Confirmations

Having received a favorable report from the Senate, the following appointments were confirmed in open session:

Initial Appointment, Beaufort County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 20, 2022, and to expire April 30, 2026

Dustin Lee, Esquire, P. O. Box 333, Bluffton, SC 29910 *VICE* Angela McCall-Tanner

Initial Appointment, Chester County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2023, and to expire April 30, 2027

Alfonso Boyd, 3207 Lizzie Melton Road, Chester, SC 29706

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Initial Appointment, Horry County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2023, and to expire April 30, 2027

Mary Brown, 2585 Mount Zion Road, Little River, SC 29566 *VICE*
Aaron C. Butler

RATIFICATION OF ACTS

Pursuant to an invitation the Honorable Speaker and House of Representatives appeared in the Senate Chamber on May 20, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. and the following Acts were ratified:

(R82, S. 28) -- Senators Hutto, Reichenbach, Goldfinch, Leber, Jackson, Alexander, Rice, Fernandez, Campsen, Chaplin, Devine, Adams, Young, Garrett, Elliott, Turner, Ott, Graham, Sutton, Cromer, Verdin, Kennedy, Climer and Zell: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 16-15-390 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF OBSCENE VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, DEFINE TERMS, AND ESTABLISH PENALTIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 23-3-430, RELATING TO THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, SO AS TO ADD THE OFFENSE OF OBSCENE VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TO THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 23-3-462, RELATING TO TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

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(R83, S. 29) -- Senators Hutto, Reichenbach, Goldfinch, Leber, Jackson, Alexander, Rice, Fernandez, Campsen, Chaplin, Devine, Adams, Young, Garrett, Elliott, Turner, Ott, Graham, Cromer, Verdin and Kennedy: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-375, RELATING TO THE DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO THE DISSEMINATION OF HARMFUL MATERIAL TO MINORS, SO AS TO DEFINE "IDENTIFIABLE MINOR" AND "MORPHED IMAGE"; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-395, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS, SO AS TO INCLUDE MORPHED IMAGES OF IDENTIFIABLE MINORS; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-405, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF SECOND DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS, SO AS TO INCLUDE MORPHED IMAGES OF IDENTIFIABLE MINORS; BY AMENDING SECTION

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16-15-410, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS, SO AS TO INCLUDE MORPHED IMAGES OF IDENTIFIABLE MINORS; BY ADDING SECTION 16-15-412 SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR ARREST WARRANTS WHEN THE OFFENSE INCLUDES MORPHED IMAGES OF IDENTIFIABLE MINORS; BY AMENDING SECTION 23-3-430, RELATING TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY, SO AS TO INCLUDE THOSE GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS IN THE FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD DEGREE ON THE APPROPRIATE TIERS OF THE REGISTRY; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 23-3-462, RELATING TO TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

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(R84, S. 74) -- Senators Hembree, Leber, Elliott, Garrett, Ott, Kimbrell, Graham, Zell, Kennedy and Climer: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 17-13-142 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO ISSUE ORDERS AND WARRANTS FOR CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ISSUE A SUBPOENA FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN STORED SUBSCRIBER OR CUSTOMER INFORMATION RELEVANT AND MATERIAL TO AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION BY THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE.

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(R85, S. 127) -- Senators Johnson and Peeler: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 9-11-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE CATAWBA NATION WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER; AND BY ADDING SECTION 9-11-43 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE CATAWBA NATION IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THE POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCESS FOR ADMISSION.

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(R86, S. 136) -- Senators Tedder, Leber, Kimbrell and Rice: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-1-65, RELATING TO THE EXPUNGEMENT OF CONVICTIONS FOR THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF HANDGUNS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE STATE MUST DISMISS AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN PENDING UNLAWFUL HANDGUN POSSESSION CHARGES THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY/SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 2024, AND TO PROVIDE THE DISMISSAL OF THESE CHARGES MAY NOT SERVE AS A BASIS OR SUPPORT FOR CIVIL ACTIONS DUE TO THE ARREST.

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(R87, S. 156) -- Senators Alexander, Rankin, Garrett, Stubbs, Adams, Bennett, Kimbrell, Young, Turner, Peeler and Walker: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 16-3-80 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF FENTANYL-INDUCED HOMICIDE, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS, TO PROHIBIT AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, AND TO PROVIDE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH PERSONS SHALL NOT BE PROSECUTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 16-1-10, RELATING TO A LIST OF EXCEPTIONS FOR FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS, SO AS TO ADD FENTANYL-INDUCED HOMICIDE.

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(R88, S. 210) -- Senator Turner: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO FOREIGN CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND TO ADD TERMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-20, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS OF CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES, SO AS TO AMEND MEETING REQUIREMENTS AND OUTLINE COMPONENTS OF A PLAN OF OPERATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-40, RELATING TO CAPITALIZATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO GIVE DISCRETION TO THE DIRECTOR; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-60, RELATING TO INCORPORATION OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO INCLUDE FOREIGN CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-70, RELATING TO REPORTS, SO AS

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TO CHANGE A DEADLINE AND INCLUDE REFERENCES TO FOREIGN CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-75, RELATING TO DISCOUNTING OF LOSS AND LOSS ADJUSTMENT EXPENSE RESERVES, SO AS TO ALLOW A SPONSORED CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY TO FILE ONE ACTUARIAL OPINION; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-80, RELATING TO INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS, SO AS TO MAKE THE EXAMINATION OF SOME CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES OPTIONAL AND TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO FOREIGN CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-140, RELATING TO TAX PAYMENTS, SO AS TO AMEND REQUIRED TAX PAYMENTS FOR A SPONSORED CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-165, RELATING TO DECLARATION OF INACTIVITY, SO AS TO ALLOW FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPROVAL; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-175, RELATING TO THE CAPTIVE INSURANCE REGULATORY AND SUPERVISION FUND CREATED, SO AS TO INCREASE THE ALLOWED TRANSFER OF COLLECTED TAXES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 38-90-215, RELATING TO PROTECTED CELLS, SO AS TO REMOVE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

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(R89, S. 214) -- Senators Massey and Jackson: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 1-31-10, RELATING TO THE COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS, SO AS TO RENAME THE COMMISSION AND TO REMOVE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 1-31-20, RELATING TO SUBJECTS OF STUDY FOR THE COMMISSION, SO AS TO STUDY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION OF COMMUNITIES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 1-31-40, RELATING TO DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION, SO AS TO DELETE CERTAIN DUTIES.

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(R90, S. 507) -- Senators Peeler, Alexander and Turner: AN ACT 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 2024, AND TO PROVIDE THAT

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IF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTIONS ADOPTED BY THIS STATE ARE EXTENDED, THEN THESE SECTIONS ALSO ARE EXTENDED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

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(R91, S. 623) -- Senator Goldfinch: AN ACT TO EXEMPT GEORGETOWN COUNTY FROM CERTAIN BUILDING REQUIREMENTS AND TO ALLOW THE COUNTY TO INSTEAD ENFORCE AE STANDARDS IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY'S FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE.

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(R92, H. 3292) -- Reps. Hixon, Pedalino, W. Newton, Forrest, B.L. Cox, Erickson, Taylor, Hartz, Atkinson and Pace: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 56-2-90 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ALONG THE STATE'S PUBLIC HIGHWAYS, TO PROVIDE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES MAY ADOPT ORDINANCES TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PASSENGERS MUST WEAR SAFETY BELTS; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 56-2-105, RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS.

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(R93, H. 3571) -- Reps. Hiott, Guffey, J.L. Johnson, Pedalino, Neese and B. Newton: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD DEFINITIONS FOR "COMMENCEMENT DATE," "LARGE PROJECT," "LARGE PROJECT FACILITY LOCATION AGREEMENT," "NOTICE," "PRE-MARKING," "PRIVATE FACILITY," "PROJECT INITIATOR," AND "SOFT DIGGING," AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITIONS OF "EXCAVATE," "EXCAVATOR," AND "OPERATOR"; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-50, RELATING TO THE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION NOTIFICATION CENTER, SO AS TO CLARIFY OPERATOR PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE NOTIFICATION CENTER'S DUTIES, AND OTHER CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-60, RELATING TO NOTICES OF INTENT TO

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EXCAVATE OR DEMOLISH, SO AS TO CLARIFY CERTAIN NOTICE REQUIREMENTS, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR NOTICE FOR CERTAIN EXCAVATIONS OR DEMOLITIONS, AND OTHER CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-70, RELATING TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY OPERATORS, SO AS TO REQUIRE NOTICE TO EXCAVATORS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT DATE, REQUIRE QUARTERLY REPORTS OF DAMAGES CAUSED BY EXCAVATIONS OR DEMOLITIONS, AND TO CLARIFY PAYMENTS OF CIVIL PENALTIES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-80, RELATING TO EMERGENCY EXCAVATIONS OR DEMOLITIONS EXEMPT FROM NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES, SO AS ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AND TO MAKE A FALSE CLAIM OF AN EMERGENCY A VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-90, RELATING TO NOTICES OF DAMAGES, SO AS TO REQUIRE EXCAVATORS TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT ANY KNOWN DAMAGES TO THE NOTIFICATION CENTER AND FACILITY OPERATOR; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-100, RELATING TO DESIGN REQUESTS AND OPERATOR RESPONSES, SO AS TO ADD REFERENCES TO LARGE PROJECTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-110, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM NOTICE REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO STRIKE CURRENT PROVISIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-36-120, RELATING TO PENALTIES AND CIVIL REMEDIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPLAINT PROCESS AND TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 58-36-75 SO AS TO PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR LARGE PROJECTS.

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(R94, H. 3752) -- Reps. Gilliam, Lawson, Pope, Mitchell, Guffey, Oremus, Brewer, Chapman, M.M. Smith, B.L. Cox, W. Newton and Henderson-Myers: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE COMPACT ACT" BY ADDING ARTICLE 3 TO CHAPTER 63, TITLE 40 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSE, FUNCTIONS, OPERATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS CONCERNING THE COMPACT, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY ADDING SECTION 40-63-32 SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN CRIMINAL

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RECORDS CHECKS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE APPLICANTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONFIDENTIALITY AND PERMITTED USES OF THE RESULTS OF THESE CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS; TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 63, TITLE 40 AS ARTICLE 1, ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS"; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 23-23-60, RELATING TO CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE ISSUED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COUNCIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY, SO AS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING SUCH CERTIFICATION SHALL UNDERGO CERTAIN FINGERPRINT-BASED STATE AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS, TO AUTHORIZE THE RETENTION AND SPECIFIC USES OF SUCH FINGERPRINTS, AND TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATIONS.

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(R95, H. 4247) -- Reps. Herbkersman and Henderson-Myers: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-10, RELATING TO STATE COMMODITY CODE DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE STATE COMMODITY CODE BE THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-40, RELATING TO TRANSACTIONS WHERE PROHIBITION IS NOT APPLICABLE, SO AS TO ADD AGENTS OR INVESTMENT ADVISOR REPRESENTATIVES AS INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO ORDERS TO DENY, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE A PERSON'S LICENSE; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-60, RELATING TO PROHIBITED ACTS, SO AS TO REPLACE SECTION 39-73-310 WITH SECTION 39-73-30; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-315, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATOR ACTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLATIONS OR IMMINENT VIOLATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR CAN ISSUE ORDERS RELATED TO ANY ACTION THAT MAY VIOLATE THIS CHAPTER; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-320, RELATING TO LEGAL, EQUITABLE, AND SPECIAL REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO A COURT FOR ENFORCEMENT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-325, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE

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ADMINISTRATOR MAY REFER VIOLATIONS TO THE APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OR OTHER AUTHORITY; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-330, RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS CHAPTER, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-340, RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS, FORMS, AND ORDERS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 39-73-350, RELATING TO THE 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 AMENDING SECTION 39-73-370, RELATING TO DEFENSE IN A CASE BASED ON FAILURE TO MAKE PHYSICAL DELIVERY, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY ADDING SECTION 39-73-375 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY RETAIN FUNDS FROM FINES AND PENALTIES TO OFFSET RELEVANT EXPENSES; BY REPEALING SECTION 39-73-355 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 4-9-145, RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL OFFICERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE WHAT DATA IS USED TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF LITTER CONTROL OFFICERS.

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(R96, H. 4267) -- Reps. Landing, Hager, Teeple, Hartnett, Vaughan, Wickensimer and Bustos: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 53-3-320 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF NOVEMBER AS "MAYFLOWER COMPACT DAY."

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RATIFICATION OF ACTS

Pursuant to an invitation the Honorable Speaker and House of Representatives appeared in the Senate Chamber on May 28, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. and the following Act was ratified:

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(R97, H. 4025) -- Ways and Means Committee: AN ACT TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TO PROVIDE REVENUES TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Motion Adopted

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

MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator PEELER, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Van Clayton "Turkey" Craig of Gaffney, S.C. Mr. Craig was the owner and operator of Turkey's Towing in Gaffney. He was a member of New Springs Church in Spartanburg and loved spending time with his family, skating, fishing, racing and was a former dirt track driver. Mr. Craig was a loving father and devoted grandfather who will be dearly missed.

and

MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator MATTHEWS, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Isaiah Crosby of Walterboro, S.C. Isaiah was a graduate of Cottageville High School and the Landscape Institute of California. He was a manager for Wildwood Landscape Contractors for years before purchasing the landscape division where he worked for sixty years and received many distinguished awards. Isaiah enjoyed racing, boating, riding horses, flying and served as a Commissioner of Walterboro Airport. He was a member of the Walterboro Jaycees, First Baptist Church and served as president of the Parent Teacher Association of John C. Calhoun Academy. Isaiah was a loving husband, devoted father and doting grandfather who will be dearly missed.

and

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MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator WALKER, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Willie F. Bradley, Jr. of Columbia, S.C. Willie was a lawyer, mentor, leader and fierce advocate for fairness and equity. He had a brilliant legal mind and his strength, compassion and dedication touched countless lives. Willie was a loving husband, devoted father and doting grandfather who will be dearly missed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:53 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned under the provisions of S. 292, the *Sine Die* Resolution.

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