

NO. 48

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026
(Statewide Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 11:00 A.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the ACTING PRESIDENT, Senator MASSEY. **(This is a Statewide Session day established under the provisions of Senate Rule 1B. Members not having scheduled committee or subcommittee meetings may be in their home districts without effect on their session attendance record.)**

REGULATIONS WITHDRAWN AND RESUBMITTED

The following were received:

Document No. 5416

Agency: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation - Building Codes Council

Chapter: 8

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 6-9--40, 6-9-50, and 6-9-55

SUBJECT: International Plumbing Code

Received by President of the Senate January 13, 2026

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

Legislative Review Expiration May 3, 2026

Withdrawn and Resubmitted April 2, 2026

Document No. 5419

Agency: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation - South Carolina Board of Long Term Health Care Administrators

Chapter: 93

Statutory Authority: 1976 Codes Sections 40-1-70 and 40-35-60

SUBJECT: South Carolina Board of Long Term Health Care Administrators

Received by President of the Senate January 13, 2026

Referred to Committee on Medical Affairs

Legislative Review Expiration May 3, 2026

Withdrawn and Resubmitted April 2, 2026

CO-SPONSOR ADDED

The following co-sponsor was added to the respective Bill:

S. 733 Sen. Zell

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following were introduced:

S. 1104 -- Senator Ott: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILLIPS FAMILY UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR FAMILY REUNION.

sr-0622km-vc26.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 1105 -- Senator Tedder: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., FOR ONE HUNDRED NINETEEN YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN ITS COMMITMENT OF MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER AND BETTER AND TO DECLARE APRIL 14, 2026, AS "ALPHA DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL."

lc-0493dg-gm26.docx

The Senate Resolution was adopted.

S. 1106 -- Senators Alexander, Hembree and Peeler: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-700 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS RELATED TO AN EMPLOYEE OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND AN EMPLOYEE'S BUSINESS; TO REQUIRE THAT EVERY PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SECURE ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM FOR EACH EMPLOYEE TO ANNUALLY DISCLOSE ANY BUSINESS WITH WHICH HE IS ASSOCIATED; AND TO REQUIRE THE INSTITUTION TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THESE REQUIREMENTS.

sedu-0037db26.docx

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

H. 3034 -- Reps. Collins, Wooten, C. Mitchell, Pope, Chapman, Pedalino, Yow, M. M. Smith, Davis, Holman, Cox, Hixon, Gagnon, Calhoon, Moss, Lawson, Kirby, Ligon, Bailey, Forrest, Gilliam, Willis, Erickson, Schuessler, Vaughan, Bradley, Hager, Whitmire, Robbins, T. Moore, Brewer, Guffey, Martin, J. L. Johnson, Haddon, Wickensimer, Brittain, Kilmartin, D. Mitchell, Cromer, Bowers, Landing, White, W. Newton, J. E. Johnson and B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE

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SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "FARGO'S, HYCO'S, RICO'S, COBA'S, WICK'S, AND MIKKA'S LAW" BY AMENDING ARTICLE 11 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 47, RELATING TO TAUNTING, TORMENTING, INJURING, OR KILLING POLICE DOGS OR HORSES, SO AS TO EXPAND THE CONDUCT THAT RESULTS IN A VIOLATION, INCREASE THE PENALTIES, REQUIRE RESTITUTION TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY, AND MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES.

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

H. 4764 -- Reps. T. Moore, C. Mitchell, Ballentine, Bradley, Brewer, Caskey, Chapman, Crawford, Davis, Duncan, Erickson, Forrest, Gagnon, Gatch, Gilliam, Guest, Hardee, Hartz, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, J. E. Johnson, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Martin, McCravy, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Robbins, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Taylor, Teeple, Vaughan, Wickensimer, Whitmire, Willis, Wooten, Yow, Bowers, Bailey, Cromer, Lastinger, White and Gibson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 23-1-260 SO AS TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OPERATING CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES SHALL ENTER INTO WRITTEN AGREEMENTS OR MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS THAT AUTHORIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENFORCE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 23-3-80, RELATING TO THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNIT, SO AS TO PROVIDE SLED SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT ENFORCE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS.

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

H. 4805 -- Reps. W. Newton, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Pope, White, Robbins and Hart: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 14-5-610, RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO SIXTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, AND THE ELECTION OF AT-LARGE JUDGES

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WITHOUT REGARD TO COUNTY OR CIRCUIT OF RESIDENCE, SO AS TO CONVERT THREE AT-LARGE CIRCUIT COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS IN THE FIRST, THIRD, AND EIGHTH CIRCUITS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 63-3-40, RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF FAMILY COURT JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, SO AS TO CONVERT FOUR AT-LARGE FAMILY COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS IN THE FIFTH, TENTH, AND TWELFTH CIRCUITS.

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

H. 4817 -- Reps. Brewer, Herbkersman, Anderson, Bailey, Gatch, Gagnon, Guffey, Hager, Hixon, J. L. Johnson, Kirby, Oremus, Schuessler, C. Mitchell, Pope, M. M. Smith, Ligon, Sessions, White, Williams, Gibson, J. E. Johnson and W. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "INSURANCE RATE REDUCTION AND POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION ACT;" BY AMENDING SECTION 38-3-110, RELATING TO DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, SO AS TO EXPAND THOSE DUTIES; BY ADDING SECTION 38-55-172 SO AS TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS AND REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS FROM CERTAIN ACTIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF OWNERS OR POSSESSORS OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE ON INSURANCE CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH ROOFING SYSTEM REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS AND REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS FROM ADVERTISING OR PROMISING TO PAY OR REBATE AN INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE AS AN INDUCEMENT TO THE SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES, TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE MAY INVESTIGATE CLAIMS OF FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE OF GOODS OR SERVICES FOR A ROOFING SYSTEM PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN CONTRACT AND REFER CERTAIN FINDINGS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-520, RELATING TO THE PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE, SO AS TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CHANGE; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-530, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO AMEND THE

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DEFINITIONS OF "AUTHORIZED AGENCY" AND "FALSE STATEMENT OR MISREPRESENTATIONS"; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-550, RELATING TO CIVIL PENALTIES, SO AS TO PRESCRIBE DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-560, RELATING TO THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION, SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES FOR THE DIVISION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-570, RELATING TO NOTIFICATION OF FALSE STATEMENTS OR MISREPRESENTATIONS AND ABILITY TO SHARE INFORMATION, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION TO PROSECUTE CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS OF TITLE 38 AND ANY OTHER CRIMES RELATED TO INSURANCE, AS WELL AS DIVISION STAFF REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR INVESTIGATIVE DUTIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-55-590, RELATING TO ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION, SO AS TO MAKE A CONFORMING CHANGE; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-73-1095, RELATING TO ESSENTIAL PROPERTY INSURANCE AND RATING PLAN FACTORS, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY INSURER REQUIRED TO SUBMIT RATES AND RATING PLANS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE RELATED TO ADJUSTMENTS TO REDUCE PREMIUMS AND FOR OWNERS OF INSURABLE PROPERTY CLAIMING A CREDIT OR DISCOUNT; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-75-470, RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE, SO AS TO PROVIDE MITIGATION OF PROPERTY LOSSES DUE TO WILDFIRE AMONG THE ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AND TO PROVIDE FOR TERMS OF SERVICE FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-75-480, RELATING TO THE LOSS MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR WHEN GRANTS MAY BE GIVEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-75-485, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HURRICANE DAMAGE MITIGATION PROGRAM, SO AS ESTABLISH THE "SC SAFE HOME PROGRAM" AND TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-77-

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122, RELATING TO PROHIBITED FACTORS FOR ISSUING AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES OR PREMIUM RATES, SO AS TO ADD UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST CLAIMS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-77-123, RELATING TO PROHIBITED FACTORS FOR AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICY RENEWALS OR CANCELLATIONS, SO AS TO ADD UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST CLAIMS; BY ADDING SECTION 38-77-145 SO AS TO PROHIBIT NONECONOMIC DAMAGES FOR PERSONS OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE KNOWINGLY NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-77-280, RELATING TO AUTOMOBILE COLLISION AND COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE, SO AS TO REQUIRE INSURERS TO OFFER A ZERO DOLLAR DEDUCTIBLE FOR AUTOMOBILE SAFETY GLASS AND TO PROHIBIT INSURERS FROM CONSIDERING UNINSURED OR UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS CLAIMS FOR CERTAIN INSURANCE POLICY DECISIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-1620, RELATED TO CATASTROPHE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, SO AS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN APPROVED RETROFITS TO PRIMARY RESIDENCES FOR HURRICANE OR WIND DAMAGE RESILIENCE, AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-3660, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS FOR HURRICANE RESISTANT RETROFITS TO RESIDENCES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE TAX CREDIT OPTION FROM ONE THOUSAND TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS; BY ADDING SECTION 12-6-3662 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A "DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY" AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS REQUIREMENTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-3670, RELATED TO TAX CREDITS FOR EXCESS PAID FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE, SO AS TO INCREASE THE CREDIT AMOUNT TO THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS; BY AMENDING SECTION 42-9-440, RELATING TO SUSPECTED FALSE STATEMENTS OR MISREPRESENTATIONS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED TO THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY ADDING SECTION 40-11-125 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE HAS THE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ANY VIOLATIONS RELATED TO INSURANCE OR INSURANCE

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FRAUD ARISING FROM ROOFING SYSTEMS CONTRACTS OR THE DELIVERY OF GOODS OR SERVICES RELATED TO ROOFING SYSTEMS INVOLVING LICENSEES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONTRACTOR'S LICENSING BOARD; BY AMENDING SECTION 40-59-25, RELATING TO ROOFING CONTRACT CANCELLATIONS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE DENIALS, SO AS TO REMOVE CERTAIN PROVISIONS TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND TO REVISE THE PROVISIONS; BY ADDING SECTION 40-59-27 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AS THE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ANY VIOLATIONS RELATED TO INSURANCE OR INSURANCE FRAUD ARISING FROM ROOFING SYSTEMS CONTRACTS OR THE DELIVERY OF GOODS OR SERVICES RELATED TO ROOFING SYSTEMS INVOLVING LICENSEES AND REGISTRANTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS COMMISSION; TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE IMPACT ON INSURANCE RATES AND REQUIRE ANNUAL TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE BANKING AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING OR TECHNICAL CHANGES.

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Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

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.

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Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services.

H. 5499 -- Rep. Hart: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATION OF RIGHT DIRECTION CHURCH INTERNATIONAL OF COLUMBIA FOR THREE DECADES OF MINISTRY AND SERVICE AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON

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THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

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The Concurrent Resolution was adopted, ordered returned to the House.

H. 5500 -- Reps. Teeple, 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, 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, Terrible, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, HISTORY, AND ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAMBODIAN AMERICANS AND TO DECLARE APRIL 2026 CAMBODIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

HOUSE CONCURRENCES

S. 1063 -- Senator Elliott: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS AND SPONSORS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA RESTAURANT AND LODGING ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL HOSPITALITY DAY LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON AND TO RECOGNIZE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026, AS "HOSPITALITY DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Returned with concurrence.

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Received as information.

S. 1089 -- Senator Cromer: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR HAMM HARDWARE OF PROSPERITY UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, TO COMMEND THE HAMM FAMILY FOR A CENTURY OF SERVICE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Returned with concurrence.

Received as information

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:05 A.M., on motion of Senator OTT, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M., under the provisions of Rule 1B.

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