

NO. 74

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



EXTRAORDINARY SESSION BEGINNING
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

**Friday, May 22, 2026
(Extraordinary Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 10:00 A.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

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

Matthew 7:13-14

Recall that the Lord himself urges us to: “ ‘Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.’ ”

Bow in prayer with me, please: Dear loving and merciful God, the lesson captured in today’s scripture is one I believe most all of us know quite well. For indeed, following the road You want each of us to pursue in life is truly challenging. After all, the demands that inevitably confront us, the commitment You expect from each one of us, those choices we know we are expected to avoid: it is not at all easy to follow in the way You would have us go. So we more than ever, O Lord, give honor and thanks for those Senators and their aides who pointedly do their very best to keep on that narrow road of Your choosing, doing those things that bring glory to You and that result in the very best blessings for our State and for all of her people. In Your glorious name we so pray, 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	Bright
Campsen	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Davis	Devine	Elliott
Gambrell	Garrett	Goldfinch
Graham	Grooms	Hembree

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Hutto	Johnson	Kennedy
Massey	Ott	Peeler
Reichenbach	Rice	Sabb
Stubbs	Sutton	Tedder
Turner	Verdin	Young

A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following appointment was transmitted by the Honorable Henry Dargan McMaster:

Local Appointment

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

Newberry County:

Briana Hawkins Eargle, 1479 Fire Tower Road, Prosperity, SC 29127
VICE Ronald C. Halfacre

Motion Adopted

On motion of Senator PEELER, the Senate agreed that if and when the Senate stands adjourned today, it will adjourn to meet tomorrow morning at 10:00 A.M.

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

Ayes 28; Nays 8

AYES

Adams	Alexander	Bennett
Blackmon	Bright	Campsen
Cash	Chaplin	Climer
Corbin	Cromer	Davis
Elliott	Gambrell	Garrett
Goldfinch	Grooms	Hembree
Johnson	Kennedy	Massey
Peeler	Reichenbach	Rice
Stubbs	Turner	Verdin
Young		

Total--28

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NAYS

Allen	Devine	Graham
Hutto	Ott	Sabb
Sutton	Tedder	

Total--8

The motion was adopted.

COMMUNICATION

Columbia, S.C., May 18, 2026

Mr. President and Senators:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R127, S. 238:

Yours very truly,

Henry McMaster

Received as information

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

COMMUNICATION

Columbia, S.C., May 19, 2026

Mr. President and Senators:

I am vetoing and returning without my approval R227, S. 428:

Yours very truly,

Henry McMaster

Received as information

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

RECESS

At 10:29 A.M., on motion of Senator GROOMS, the Senate recessed from business not to exceed 15 minutes.

At 10:42 A.M., the Senate resumed.

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Recorded Presence

Senator LEBER recorded his presence subsequent to the Call of the Senate.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator HUTTO, at 10:25 A.M., Senator WILLIAMS was granted a leave of absence for today.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator HUTTO, at 10:25 A.M., Senator MATTHEWS was granted a leave of absence for today.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator BRIGHT, at 10:28 A.M., Senator FERNANDEZ was granted a leave of absence for the day.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator CROMER, at 10:28 A.M., Senator JACKSON was granted a leave of absence until 11:15 A.M.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator TURNER, at 4:26 P.M., Senator HEMBREE was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

Expression of Personal Interest

Senator HUTTO rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following were introduced:

S. 1201 -- Senator Grooms: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE FRENCH QUARTER CREEK BRIDGE ON CAINHOY ROAD IN HUGER IN BERKELEY COUNTY "WILLIAM ELLINGTON SR. BRIDGE" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

sr-0685km-amb26.docx

The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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S. 1202 -- Senator Jackson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR MAYCE EDWARD CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WEBBER III FOR HIS REMARKABLE BASKETBALL CAREER, HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND COMMENTARY, AND HIS ENDURING POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON GENERATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO DECLARE JUNE 5, 2026, AS "CHRIS WEBBER DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

lc-0619sa-rm26.docx

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

H. 4737 -- Reps. McGinnis and Grant: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-35 SO AS TO CREATE A MANDATORY ORIENTATION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD SECRETARY OF EACH INSTITUTION.

lc-0565wab26.docx

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

Message from the House

Columbia, S.C., May 26, 2026

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:

S. 688 -- Senators Massey and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 41-31-5, RELATING TO CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE LOOKBACK PERIOD FOR THE BENEFIT RATIO; BY AMENDING SECTION 41-31-45, RELATING TO DEBT STATUS ESTIMATES, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A SOLVENCY TARGET FOR THE FUND; BY AMENDING SECTION 41-31-60, RELATING TO THE TAX RATE WHEN A DELINQUENT REPORT

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IS RECEIVED, SO AS TO CHANGE THE PENALTY FOR AN OUTSTANDING LIEN; BY AMENDING SECTION 41 31 350, RELATING TO THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE A REPORT, SO AS TO REMOVE THE CAP ON THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO FILE A REPORT; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 41-31-370, RELATING TO INTEREST ON UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS, SO AS TO REMOVE THE CAP ON THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY CONTRIBUTIONS; 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; AND 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.

Very respectfully,

Speaker of the House

Received as information.

Message from the House

Columbia, S.C., May 26, 2026

Mr. President and Senators:

The House respectfully informs your Honorable Body that it has returned the following Bill to the Senate with amendments:

S. 1043 -- Senators Adams, Zell, Leber and Graham: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "CIVIL AIR PATROL LEAVE ACT"; BY ADDING CHAPTER 23 TO TITLE 25 SO AS TO DEFINE TERMS RELATED

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TO THE CIVIL AIR PATROL LEAVE ACT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL AIR PATROL LEAVE, TO PRESCRIBE THE DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES AND RIGHTS OF EMPLOYERS REGARDING CIVIL AIR PATROL LEAVE, TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROTECTIONS.

Very respectfully,

Speaker of the House

Received as information.

Placed on Calendar for consideration tomorrow.

THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO H. 5683 – REDISTRICTING OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS

**AMENDMENT PROPOSED
DEBATE INTERRUPTED**

H. 5683 -- Reps. Rankin, Pace, C. Mitchell, Cromer, Gilreath, Bustos, Magnuson, Edgerton, Burns, Oremus, Bailey, Guest, Brittain, Chumley, J.E. Johnson, Haddon, Jordan, Lawson, Lowe, McGinnis, B. Newton, W. Newton, G.M. Smith, White, Willis and McCravy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 7-19-35 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTION DISTRICTS FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 7-19-45 RELATING TO ELECTION DISTRICTS FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WERE FORMERLY ELECTED.

The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Bill, the question being the second reading of the amendment.

Senator HUTTO asked unanimous consent to proceed to Amendment No. 19.

Amendment No. 19

Senators GRAHAM and SUTTON proposed the following amendment (LC-5683.HDB0107S), which was carried over:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 4, by adding a subsection to read:

(I) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 15, Title 7 of the S.C. Code, any voter who casts an absentee ballot in the June statewide

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primaries must be issued absentee ballots for the special primaries and special primary runoffs without being required to submit additional absentee ballot applications or otherwise comply with any additional requirements.

(2) Each county board of voter registration and elections shall issue absentee ballots for the special primaries and special primary runoffs to the same address each voter requested to receive an absentee ballot for the June statewide primaries unless a voter timely specifies a different address.

(3) The absentee ballots issued to each voter under this subsection must be for the same political party's special primary and runoff as the voter participated in during the June statewide primaries unless the voter timely requests to receive an absentee ballot for another party's special primaries and runoff.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Senator SUTTON explained the amendment.

Senator GROOMS moved to lay the amendment on the table.

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

Ayes 0; Nays 39

AYES

Total--0

NAYS

Adams	Alexander	Bennett
Blackmon	Bright	Campsen
Cash	Chaplin	Climer
Corbin	Cromer	Davis
Devine	Elliott	Gambrell
Garrett	Goldfinch	Graham
Grooms	Hembree	Hutto
Johnson	Kennedy	Kimbrell
Leber	Massey	Ott
Peeler	Reichenbach	Rice
Sabb	Stubbs	Sutton
Tedder	Turner	Verdin

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Walker Young Zell

Total--39

The Senate refused to lay the amendment on the table.

Senator GROOMS spoke on the amendment.

Motion Under Rule 43

Having given one day's notice, Senator GROOMS moved under Rule 43 to suspend Rule 15.

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

Ayes 25; Nays 15

AYES

Adams	Alexander	Blackmon
Bright	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Elliott	Gambrell	Garrett
Goldfinch	Grooms	Johnson
Kennedy	Kimbrell	Leber
Peeler	Reichenbach	Stubbs
Turner	Verdin	Young
Zell		

Total--25

NAYS

Allen	Bennett	Campsen
Davis	Devine	Graham
Hembree	Hutto	Massey
Ott	Rice	Sabb
Sutton	Tedder	Walker

Total--15

Having failed to receive the necessary votes, the motion to suspend Rule 15 failed.

Senator GROOMS spoke on the amendment.

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On motion of Senator GROOMS, the amendment was carried over.

Amendment No. 8

Senators HUTTO, JACKSON, SABB, WILLIAMS, ALLEN, MATTHEWS, TEDDER, DEVINE, GRAHAM, OTT, SUTTON and WALKER proposed the following amendment (LC-5683.AHB0083S), which was proposed:

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

SECTION X. In conducting the 2026 Congressional redistricting, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any implementation of changes to congressional district boundaries shall be undertaken in a manner that allows sufficient time to avoid voter confusion and ensure orderly election administration.

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Senator HUTTO explained the amendment.

RECESS

At 11:23 A.M., Senator GOLDFINCH asked unanimous consent, with Senator HUTTO retaining the floor on Amendment No. 8, to recess from business for thirty minutes.

At 1:10 P.M., the Senate resumed

Senator HUTTO explained the amendment.

Point of Quorum

At 1:36 P.M., Senator MASSEY made the point that a quorum was not present. It was ascertained that a quorum was present. The Senate resumed.

Senator HUTTO resumed speaking on the amendment.

Notice of Motion Under Rule 43

Senator GROOMS noticed a motion under Rule 43 to suspend Rule 15.

Senator HUTTO resumed speaking on the amendment.

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RECESS

At 4:02 P.M., on motion of Senator GROOMS, the Senate recessed from business not to exceed 5 minutes.

At 4:19 P.M., the Senate resumed.

Senator GROOMS spoke on the amendment.

Motion Under Rule 43

Having provided one day's notice, Senator GROOMS moved under Rule 43 to suspend Rule 15.

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

Ayes 26; Nays 15

AYES

Adams	Alexander	Blackmon
Bright	Cash	Chaplin
Climmer	Corbin	Cromer
Elliott	Gambrell	Garrett
Goldfinch	Grooms	Johnson
Kennedy	Kimbrell	Leber
Peeler	Reichenbach	Rice
Stubbs	Turner	Verdin
Young	Zell	

Total--26

NAYS

Allen	Bennett	Campsen
Davis	Devine	Graham
Hutto	Jackson	Massey
Ott	Rankin	Sabb
Sutton	Tedder	Walker

Total--15

Having failed to receive the necessary votes, the motion to suspend Rule 15 failed.

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LOCAL APPOINTMENT

Confirmation

Having received a favorable report from the Senate, the following appointment was confirmed in open session:

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

Newberry County:

Briana Hawkins Eargle, 1479 Fire Tower Road, Prosperity, SC 29127
VICE Ronald C. Halfacre

Motion Adopted

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

Recorded Vote

Senator BRIGHT, KENNEDY and CORBIN desired to be recorded as voting against the motion to adjourn.

MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator LEBER, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. James Wesley Leber of Wilmington, N.C. James was the grandfather of our beloved Senator Matthew Leber. He enjoyed playing golf, painting, raising birds and spending time with his family. James was a loving husband, devoted father and doting grandfather who will be dearly missed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:28 P.M., on motion of Senator GROOMS, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 10:00 A.M.

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