

**The 1st regular session of the 126th South Carolina General Assembly  
convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.**

**Governor**

Governor of South Carolina is Henry McMaster (R – Richland) since January 24, 2017. His current term ends on January 13, 2027.

[FY26 Executive Budget Book - FINAL WEB VERSION.pdf](#)

The South Carolina Legislature is divided into two parts called bodies (The House of Representatives and the Senate) and combined the bodies form the General Assembly.

**House of Representatives**

- Speaker of the House is Murrell Smith (R – Sumter) since May 12, 2022
- Speaker Pro Tempore – Tommy Pope (R – York)
- Majority Leader is Davy Hiott (R–Pickens)
- Minority Leader is Todd Rutherford (D– Richland)
- 124 seats
- 2 year terms (next election Tuesday, November 3, 2026)
- Currently there are Republicans (88); Democrats (35); (1 vacancy District 113 - March 25, 2025)
- Qualifications: qualified to vote in state elections; 21 years of age; a resident of the district in which he/she seeks to represent; has not been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony or voter fraud or bribery unless 15 years has elapsed since time was served.

**Senate**

- President of the Senate is Thomas Alexander (R – Oconee) since December 6, 2021
- Majority Leader is Shane Massey (R – Edgefield)
- Minority Leader is Brad Hutto (D – Orangeburg)
- 46 senators
- 4 year terms (next election November 7, 2028)
- Currently there are - Republicans (34); Democrats (12) **NOTE:** 13 new members (9 Republicans/4 Democrats)
- Qualifications: qualified to vote in state elections; 25 years of age; a resident of the district in which he/she seeks to represent; has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony or voter fraud or bribery unless 15 years has elapsed since time was served.

**126th Session of the South Carolina General Assembly - 1st Regular Session (2025)**

- Members of the bodies convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 (second Tuesday in January)
- This is the first year of a two-year session
- Legislation not enacted during the 2025 session will hold its place in the legislative process and carry over to the 2026 session
- The crossover deadline is April 10<sup>th</sup> (rule 5.12) for legislation to pass from one chamber to the other; after this date a 2/3 vote of the receiving chamber is required to consider a bill
- Statutory Sine Die date – Thursday, May 8, 2025 (second Thursday in May) unless an extension is agreed to by a two-thirds vote of both bodies. Normally, the House and Senate meet in statewide session on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and for local matters on Friday. The Governor may call the General Assembly into a special session if necessary, beyond the regular session.

**SCSFA House Legislation**

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Position	Description	Committee Assignment	Status
<a href="#">H.3021</a>	<b>Reps. Bradley et. al.</b>		<b>Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act</b>	<b>Referred To Labor, Commerce, and Industry</b>	<b>Reported Out Favorably to LCI Full Committee and scheduled to be heard Tuesday, February 25, 1.5 hours after adjournment in room 403 Blatt</b>
<a href="#">H.3093</a>	<b>Rep. Moss</b>		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3113</a>	<b>Rep. Dillard et al.</b>		Relating to Infant Safe Havens, so as to Allow for the use of Newborn Safety Devices, and for Other Purposes	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3124</a>	<b>Reps. Pope et. al.</b>		Create Penalties for Intentional or Unintentional Exposure to Fentanyl of First Responders	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3126</a>	<b>Rep. Pope</b>		Creation of the South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3163</a>	<b>Rep. Mark Smith</b>		Expand Workers' Comp Coverage to Include Strokes for Firefighters	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3188</a>	<b>Rep. Long</b>		Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3221</a>	<b>Rep. Ballentine</b>		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3259</a>	<b>Rep. Pope</b>		<b>First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums</b>	<b>Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry</b>	<b>Reported Out Favorably to LCI Full Committee and scheduled to be heard Tuesday, February 25, 1.5 hours after adjournment in room 403 Blatt</b>
<a href="#">H.3261</a>	<b>Reps. Pope and Gilliam</b>		Workers' Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3276</a>	<b>Reps. Pope et. al.</b>		<b>South Carolina Hands Free Act</b>	<b>Referred to Judiciary (General Laws</b>	<b>Scheduled to be heard by Full Judiciary</b>

				Subcommittee)	Tuesday, February 25, one hour after adjournment in room 516 Blatt
<a href="#">H.3281</a>	<b>Reps. McCravy et. al.</b>		Fallen First Responders Advocate Position	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3284</a>	<b>Rep. Long</b>		Include Tow Truck Operators as Emergency Scene Management Personnel	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3289</a>	<b>Rep. J.L. Johnson</b>		Include 911 Operators as “First Responders”	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3378</a>	<b>Rep. Burns et al.</b>		Exempt All Property from Taxation and Provide Dollar-for-Dollar Reimbursement to Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3392</a>	<b>Rep. Moss</b>		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3410</a>	<b>Rep. Hardee</b>		Property (Vehicle) Tax exemption for Former First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3416</a>	<b>Rep. Kilmartin</b>		Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3437</a>	<b>Reps. Pope et. al.</b>		Return to Work (Critical Need) for Law Enforcement	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3461</a>	<b>Rep. Lawson</b>		Excludes First Responder Wages from SC Gross Income	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3533</a>	<b>Reps. Pope and Gilliam</b>		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder in the Discharge of their Official Duties	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3535</a>	<b>Reps. Wooten et. al.</b>		Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3536</a>	<b>Rep. Taylor</b>		South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3542</a>	<b>Rep. Williams</b>		Return to Work - lifts the \$10,000 earnings limitation in both the PORS and SCRS if an individual retires before January 2, 2026	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3550</a>	<b>Rep. Williams</b>		Use of Mounted Red Lights on Wreckers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
<a href="#">H.3797</a>	<b>Reps. Kilmartin and Beach</b>		The State Fire Marshal Shall Promulgate Regulations To Test Firefighters Annually For The Presence Of Perfluoroalkyl And	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	

			Polyfluoroalkyl In Their Bloodstreams.		
<a href="#">H.3803</a>	<b>Rep. Hart</b>		Limit On Annual Property Tax Millage Increases Imposed By Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3806</a>	<b>Reps. Hart and Henderson-Meyers</b>		Driving While Using Wireless Communication Devices	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3860</a>	<b>Reps. Oremus et. al.</b>		Opioid Overdose Prevention By Requiring First Responder Stations To Maintain A Supply Of Opioid Antidote Medication At All Times.	Referred To Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs	
<a href="#">H.3907</a>	<b>Reps. Cox et. al.</b>		“Honor our First Responders Act”	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3908</a>	<b>Reps. Bernstein et. al.</b>		Multifamily Dwelling Safety Act - Minimum Standards For Balcony Railings That Are Primarily Constructed Of Wood And Are Located In Multifamily Dwellings	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3997</a>	<b>Reps. B.L. Cox et al.</b>		<p>First Responders - Relating To Income Tax Deductions For First Responders, So As To Include County And Municipal Public Works Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies</p> <p>Relating To Property Tax Exemptions, So As To Include The Surviving Spouses Of County And Municipal Public Works Employees Killed While Deployed In Emergencies</p> <p>Relating To The Definition Of "First Responder" For Purposes Of Receiving Workers' Compensation Award Payments By The State Accident Fund, So As To Include County And Municipal Public Works Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies</p>	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.4005</a>	Reps. Henderson-Meyers et. al.		Driving Under the Influence	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.4013</a>	Reps. J.E. Johnson et. al.		Automated License Plate Readers	Referred To Education and	

**SCSFA Senate Legislation**

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Position	Description	Committee Assignment	Status
<a href="#">S.52</a>	<b>Senators Davis et. al.</b>		<b>Driving Under The Influence - Amend the Penalty Provisions to Permit Sentences of Both Fines And Incarceration and to Require Convicted Persons to Attend DUI Victim Impact Panels</b>	<b>Referred To Judiciary</b>	<b>Heard in Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Wed. Feb. 19 Carried Over to Subsequent Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Meeting</b>
<a href="#">S.60</a>	<b>Senator Bennett and Blackmon</b>		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.64</a>	<b>Senator Hembree</b>		Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.90</a>	<b>Senator Young</b>		Hands Free Act	Referred To Transportation	
<a href="#">S.101</a>	<b>Senator Gambrell</b>		<b>Firefighter Registration Requirements</b>	<b>Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry</b>	<b>Passed Second Reading and Ordered for Third Reading</b>
<a href="#">S.102</a>	<b>Senators Gambrell and Massey</b>		Millage Rate Increase Limitations	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.107</a>	<b>Senator Rice</b>		Retirement Earnings Limitation - the earnings limitation is equal to the annual retirement earnings test exempt lower amount as set by the Social Security Administration, the amount of which for 2024 was \$22,320.	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.119</a>	<b>Senator Adams</b>		Return to Work - Lifts the \$10,000 earnings limitation in both the PORS and SCRS if an individual is separated from employment for 90 days	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.121</a>	<b>Senator Garrett</b>		Relating to Safe Haven for Abandoned Babies, so as to Provide that the Safe Haven Must Offer the Person Leaving the Infant Information Prepared by the Department Concerning the Legal Effect of Leaving the Infant with the Safe Haven	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	

<a href="#">S.144</a>	Senator Devine		Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption	Referred To Medical Affairs	
<a href="#">S.170</a>	Senator Hembree, et.al.		Smoke Evacuation System	Referred To Medical Affairs	Reported Out Favorably to the Senate Floor and Scheduled for Second Reading
<a href="#">S.211</a>	Senators Massey and Zell		Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters	Referred to Finance	
<a href="#">S.297</a>	Senator Turner		Employer and Employee Contribution Rates Under SCRS and PORS	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.331</a>	Senator Adams		Infant Safe Havens - Use of Newborn Safety Devices and Other Purposes	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	
<a href="#">S.346</a>	Senator Alexander		Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter	Referred to Judiciary	

**FY25-26 Appropriations Bill**

<a href="#">H 4025</a>	Ways and Means Committee		<p>Members of the House Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19 to debate and pass their version of the FY2025-26 state budget</p> <p><a href="#">H4025 - Ways and Means FY25-26 Appropriations Bill Summary Control Document (spreadsheet)</a></p> <p><a href="#">H.4025 - Ways and Means FY26-26 Appropriations Bill Proviso Changes (Feb. 18-19 handouts)</a></p>	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	
<a href="#">H4026</a>	Ways and Means Committee		<p>Members of the House Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19 to debate and pass the Capital Reserve Fund.</p>	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	