

**151The 2nd regular session of the 126th South Carolina General Assembly
convened on Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

The 2025-2026 session will continue beyond the May 14 sine die date by Gov. Henry McMaster's **executive order**. *This means any bills can be debated in either chamber until November.* In the coming weeks, both chambers also will meet for conference committees on the state budget and numerous other bills.

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

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 (36)
- 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)
- 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 - 2nd Regular Session (2026)

- Members of the bodies convened on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 (second Tuesday in January)
- This is the second 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
- RULES DELETED: The crossover deadline rule was deleted January 31, 2025 by the House of Representatives and December 4, 2024 by the Senate.
- Statutory Sine Die date – Thursday, May 14, 2026 (second Thursday in May) unless an extension is agreed to by a two-thirds vote of both bodies. The Governor may call the General Assembly into a special session if necessary, beyond the regular session. **The Governor called the General Assembly back into session by Executive Order on Friday, March 15, 2026.**

SCSFA Legislative Report

Key:

VETOED	Enrolled & Ratified	Floor	Passed One Body & Sent to the Other	In Committee
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RED TEXT Indicates the Most Recent Action on the Bill

House Legislation

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>	<u>Status</u>
H.3276	Rep. Pope et. al.	South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred to Judiciary	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/12/25</i>
H.3021	Rep. Bradley et. al.	Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act	Referred To Labor, Commerce, and Industry	<i>Conference Committee Appointed: Conferees are: Sen(s) Campsen, Elliott and Ott; Rep(s) Herbkersman, Bradley and Anderson.</i>
H.3163	Rep. Mark Smith	Expand Workers' Comp Coverage to Include Strokes for Firefighters	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>
H.3258	Rep. Pope et. al.	Requires Department of Education to Install Mobile Panic Alert Systems in All Public Schools	Referred to Education and Public Works	The Bill, as Amended, was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Education. → <i>On The Senate Calendar. Contested.</i> <i>Note: The Senate Adopted A Mobile Panic Alert System Proviso In The Senate Version Of The Budget.</i>

H.3259	Rep. Pope	First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>
H.3843	Rep. Bannister	Budget Proviso Act	Referred to Ways and Means	Read for Third Time in the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Finance</i>
H.4216	Rep. Bannister et. al.	Income Tax Reform The bill passed by the House in 2025 would change SC individual income tax structure by reducing the tax rate over time until it reaches 1.99%. The tax rate for 2026-27 would be 1.99% on taxable income up to \$30,000 and 5.39% on \$30,000 and over. The Senate adopted an amendment to decrease the percentage of taxable income from 5.39% to 5.21% on \$30,000 and over. The House adopted the Senate amendment.	Referred to Ways and Means	<i>Signed By The Governor 3/30/26.</i>
H.4249	Rep. Erickson	Relating To The Definitions Of Emergency Scene Management, So As To Make Technical Changes, Provide Drivers Shall Ensure Their Vehicles Are Kept Under Control When Approaching Or Passing Other Motor Vehicles Stopped On Or Near The Right Of Way Of Streets Or Highways, To Provide Persons Driving Vehicles Approaching Other Stationary Vehicles Displaying Flashing Hazard Lights Shall Reduce Their Speed, Yield The Right Of Way, And Maintain Safe Speeds When Changing Lanes Is Unsafe, And To Provide Penalties.	Referred to Education and Public Works	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>

H.4337	Reps. W. Newton and Bannister	Grant Subpoena Powers To The Legislative Audit Council; By Amending Section 2-15-40, Relating To The Qualifications For The Director Of The Legislative Audit Council, So As To Expand The Prerequisites For Holding The Position Of Director, Among Other Changes; By Amending Section 2-15-61, Relating To Access To Agency Records, So As To Expand The Legislative Audit Council Access To Records And Facilities Upon Request And To Provide Penalties For Failing To Comply; And By Amending Section 2-15-120, Relating To The Confidentiality Of Records, So As To Further Define Which Records Are Considered Confidential And To Revise The Definition Of "Records."	Referred to Judiciary	<i>Conference Committee Was Appointed. Conferees Are: Sen(S) Young, Campsen And Matthews; Rep(S) Newton, Jordan And Wetmore</i>
H.3113	Rep. Dillard et al.	Relating to Infant Safe Havens, so as to Allow for the use of Newborn Safety Devices, and for Other Purposes	Referred To Judiciary	Heard Wednesday, January 28, 2026 By House a Judiciary Subcommittee → <i>The Bill was Discussed but Not Voted on Due to Time Constraints.</i>
H.3188	Rep. Long	Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	Heard in a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on March 26 → <i>Adjourned Debate</i>
H.3535	Rep. Wooten et. al.	Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act	Referred To Judiciary	Heard by Criminal Laws Subcommittee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <i>Meeting Adjourned Prior To Discussion Of The Bill. H.4763 (Which Is A Similar Bill) Is Moving Forward.</i>
H.4763	Reps. Oremus, W. Newton, et. al.	Creates 25 Foot Buffer For Law Enforcement, First Responders And Emergency Medical Care Provider (HALO)	Referred To Judiciary	<i>Conference Committee Was Appointed. Conferees are: Sen(s) Adams, Kimbrell and Walker; Rep(s) Newton, Brittain and Bernstein</i>

S.175	Senator Zell	Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement	Referred To Judiciary	Referred to Senate Judiciary.
H.4265	Rep. McGinnis et. al.	Relating To Penalties For Fires On Certain Lands, So As To Increase The Penalties For Violations Of Chapter 35, Title 48; And By Repealing Section 48-35-55 Relating To Fire Regulation Exemptions	Referred to Judiciary	Heard in Criminal Laws Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <i>Adjourned Debate</i>
H4696	Reps. McCravy, Pope and Chumley	Amends Section 63-7-40 to Change the Age Limit for Infants Who May be Legally Surrendered at a Safe Haven. Raises the Allowable Age to “Up to One Year Old”, Expanding the Current Safe Haven Protections	Referred To Judiciary	Heard Wednesday, January 28, 2026 by House Judiciary Subcommittee → <i>Bill was not discussed due to time constraints</i>
H.3093	Rep. Moss	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3124	Rep. Pope et. al.	Create Penalties for Intentional or Unintentional Exposure to Fentanyl of First Responders	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3126	Rep. Pope	Creation of the South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3221	Rep. Ballentine	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3261	Reps. Pope and Gilliam	Workers’ Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	

H.3262	Reps. Pope, Ligon, Chumley and Long	Farm Structures	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	Heard Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10am in Room 409 Blatt → <i>Debate was Adjourned</i>
H.3281	Rep. McCravy et. al.	Fallen First Responders Advocate Position	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3284	Rep. Long	Include Tow Truck Operators as Emergency Scene Management Personnel	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3285	Rep. Landing	Education of Law Enforcement Officers and EMS to Include Training Course in Autism	Referred to Judiciary	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>
H.3289	Rep. J.L. Johnson	Include 911 Operators as “First Responders”	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3378	Rep. Burns et al.	Exempt All Property from Taxation and Provide Dollar-for-Dollar Reimbursement to Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3392	Rep. Moss	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3410	Rep. Hardee	Property (Vehicle) Tax exemption for Former First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3416	Rep. Kilmartin	Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3437	Rep. Pope et. al.	Return to Work (Critical Need) for Law Enforcement	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3461	Rep. Lawson	Excludes First Responder Wages from SC Gross Income	Referred To Ways and Means	

H.3533	Reps. Pope and Gilliam	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder in the Discharge of their Official Duties	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3542	Rep. Williams	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	
H.3550	Rep. Williams	Use of Mounted Red Lights on Wreckers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
H.3797	Reps. Kilmartin and Beach	The State Fire Marshal Shall Promulgate Regulations To Test Firefighters Annually For The Presence Of Perfluoroalkyl And Polyfluoroalkyl In Their Bloodstreams.	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3803	Rep. Hart	Limit On Annual Property Tax Millage Increases Imposed By Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3806	Reps. Hart and Henderson-Meyers	Driving While Using Wireless Communication Devices	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3860	Rep. Oremus et. al.	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	
H.3907	Rep. Cox et. al.	“Honor our First Responders Act”	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3908	Rep. Bernstein et. al.	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	
H.3946	Rep. McCabe et. al.	Exemptions From Contractor Licensing Requirements	Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry	

H.3997	Rep. B.L. Cox et al.	<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	
H.4005	Rep. Henderson-Meyers et. al.	Driving Under the Influence	Referred To Judiciary	
H.4013	Rep. J.E. Johnson et. al.	Automated License Plate Readers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
H.4252	Rep. T. Moore	Relating To The Definition Of The Term "Authorized Emergency Vehicles," So As To Add Vehicles Transporting Individuals Engaged In Emergency Activities Where The Occupants Belong To An Emergency Management Office To The List Of Vehicles Covered By This Section.	Referred to Education and Public Works	

H.4336	Rep. Hartnett et. al.	Relating To Assault And Battery Offenses, So As To Provide That Assault And Battery Of A High And Aggravated Nature Occurs When A Person Injures A Federal, State, Or Local Law Enforcement Officer Or Corrections Officer; A Healthcare Professional, Healthcare Worker, Or An Emergency Response Employee; Or An Educational Professional During Or Because Of The Person's Official Duties.	Referred to Judiciary	
H.4399	Rep. Holman et. al.	First Responder Wellness Exams: Adding Section 23-9-200 So As To Provide The State Fire Marshal Shall Require All Firefighters Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; By Amending Section 44-61-80 , Relating To Emergency Medical Technician Certificates, So As To Require Emergency Medical Technicians Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; And By Adding Section 23-23-57 So As To Provide All Law Enforcement Officers Must Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations.	Referred to Judiciary	
H.4458	Rep. Pace	Amending Section 12-6-510 , Relating To The Individual Income Tax, So As To Reduce The Top Marginal Rate To Five Percent.	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.4478	Rep. Burns et.al.	Prescribed Fire Alerts	Referred to House Agriculture	Passed the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Referred to Senate Fish, Game and Forestry</i>
H.4517	Rep. White	Adding Section 11-1-130 So As To Provide That Appropriations Bills Or Amendments May Not Include Earmarked Funds Designated For Specific Projects Or Entities Outside The Core Budgetary Process.	Referred to Ways and Means	

H.4539	Rep. McGinnis et. al.	Penalties for Illegal Fires	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	
H.4576	Rep. Bannister	Ensures That Any Special Purpose District Already in the SC Retirement System Can Also Offer the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) to its Employees	Referred to Ways and Means	
H4593	Rep. Henderson-Myers	For Employees Returning to Work, a Retired Member Does Not Have to Pay Certain Employee Contributions to the System.	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.4602	Rep. Jones et al.	Special Purpose Districts	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.4620	Rep. Wooten et al.	Retirement Allowance Adjustment	Referred to Ways and Means	
H4680	Rep. Mitchell	Emergency Scene Penalties Revisited by Amending Section 56-5-1538 to Change the Fine structure for Endangering Emergency Personnel. Reduces the maximum fine — The Penalty Range Becomes \$300 Minimum to \$300 Maximum, Replacing the Previous Range that Allowed Fines up to \$500	Referred to Judiciary	
H4684	Reps. M.M. Smith and Pope	Revise Penalties for Approaching Stationary, Authorized Emergency Vehicles and Defines Significantly Reduced Speed	Referred to Education and Public Works	

H4705	Rep. Rankin et. al.	Exempt Certain Firefighting Equipment Purchased by Volunteer Fire Departments from Sales Tax. Types of Equipment Exempt: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Turnout Gear Fire Suppression Tools, Fire Hoses, Apparatus Equipment (Gear Carried on Trucks) Medical & Rescue Equipment, Communications & Safety Systems Station & Training Equipment	Referred to Ways and Means	
H 4740	Reps. McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten	Summary: School Mapping Data Program - Commission on Higher Education	Referred to Education	
H4777	Rep. Wooten et. al.	Adds SLED Arson Unit to Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan	Referred to Judiciary	
H5005	Rep. White	Provide That Assault And Battery Of A High And Aggravated Nature Occurs When A Person Threatens, Intimidates, Harasses, Stalks, Or Otherwise Injures A Federal, State, Or Local Law Enforcement Officer Or Corrections Officer; A Healthcare Professional, Healthcare Worker, Or An Emergency Response Employee; Or An Educational Professional During Or Because Of The Person's Official Duties.	Referred to Judiciary	
H. 5013	Rep. Teeple et al.	Require The Department Of Public Health, In Collaboration With The Office Of The State Fire Marshal, To Establish And Administer A Statewide Firefighter Occupational Health Program To Test For Certain Carcinogenic	Referred to Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs	Heard by a 3M Subcommittee Thursday, March 5 at 9am in Room 427 Blatt → <i>The Subcommittee Adjourned Due to Time Constraints.</i>

		Substances And To Provide Health And Cancer Screenings, All At No Charge, To Firefighters; And For Other Purposes.		<i>NOTE: Rep. Teeple sponsored a Proviso in the House Budget which was Adopted to Fund PFAS Testing.</i>
H.5060	Rep. Stavrinakis	Amend Act 369 Of 1959, As Amended, Relating To The St. John's Fire District , So As To Increase The Membership Of The Commission And To Revise The Procurement Requirements Of The District And To Repeal Section 2 Of Act 727 Of 1978.	Referred to Charleston Delegation	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/19/26</i>
H.5093	Rep. Caskey et. al.	Relating To The Definition Of Gross Proceeds Of Sales, So As To Exclude Amounts Paid By State And Local Governments For The Emergency Services IP Network.	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.5097	Rep. Haddon et. al.	Roadside Markets	Referred to House Agriculture	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26</i>
H.5116	Rep. Willis	Fireworks Discharged Near Equine Facilities	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	
H. 5139	Rep. Wooten, et al	Honor Our First Responders Act provides state-funded health insurance coverage to the surviving spouses and dependent children of first responders killed in the line of duty.	Referred to Ways and Means	Heard by the Ways and Means General Government Subcommittee Tuesday, March 31, 2026 → <i>Carried Over to Next Subcommittee Meeting</i>
H.5164	Rep. Hewitt, Bannister, et.al.	Building Code/Fire Code Exceptions in Hospitals - In Certain Emergency Situations, Beds Can Be Placed In A Hall Or Corridor.	Referred to Medical, Military, and Public and Municipal Affairs	<i>Vetoed by the Governor on 5/19/26</i> <i>Note: Proviso 117.199 Addressing This Emergency Situation Was Added In The Senate Version Of The Budget Bill. This Item Will Be Debated in The Budget Conference Committee.</i>
H. 5179	Reps. Erickson, McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten	Summary: School Mapping Data Program - SLED	Referred to Education	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>

H. 5364	Rep. J.L. Johnson	Allow A South Carolina Income Tax Deduction Of All South Carolina State Retirement Income	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.5523	Rep. Pope	Define "Mobile Food Unit," To Allow Any Organized Fire Department In This State To Conduct Inspections Of Mobile Food Units, And To Require The State Fire Marshall To Produce A Certificate To Demonstrate Compliance With This Section.	Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry	
H.5535	Rep. Wickensimer	Adding Section 23-9-165 So As To Require The State Fire Marshall To Promulgate Regulations To Designate Appropriate Fire Sprinkler Systems For Newly Constructed Multi-Family Dwellings.	Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry	

Senate Legislation

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>	<u>Status</u>
S.52	Senators Davis et. al.	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	Referred To Judiciary	<i>Conference Committee Appointed: Conferees are: Sen(s) Hembree, Adams and Tedder; Rep(s) Johnson, Robbins and Rose.</i>
S.60	Senator Bennett and Blackmon	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Finance	
S.64	Senator Hembree	Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Finance	

S.101	Senator Gambrell	This bill amends South Carolina's firefighter registration law to clarify and update several definitions and requirements. The bill mandates that the Office of the State Fire Marshal collect specific personal information about each firefighter, including their full name, date of birth, social security number, a valid driver's license number, employer, and employment date. The bill provides detailed definitions for key terms like "fire department," "firefighter," and "employer," specifying that a fire department must have a Public Protection Classification rating, be dispatched by a 911 center, be verified by the State Fire Marshal's Office, and maintain a roster with both the State Fire Marshal and the State Firefighters' Association. It requires that firefighters who work for multiple fire departments be registered by each fire department.	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/12/25.</i>
S.102	Senators Gambrell and Massey	Millage Rate Increase Limitations	Referred To Finance	Heard by House Ways and Means Subcommittee Tuesday, April 14th → <i>Carried Over</i>
S.107	Senator Rice	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	
S.119	Senator Adams	Police Officer Retirement System	Referred to Finance	Heard by Senate Finance Subcommittee Tuesday, April 14th → <i>Carried Over.</i> <i>Note: Proviso 108.18 Was Added In Senate Version Of The Budget Bill Which Addresses 90-Day Separation And \$80k Cap.</i>

S.121	Senator Garrett	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	Passed by the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>Referred to House Judiciary</i>
S.144	Senator Devine	Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption	Referred To Medical Affairs	
S.170	Senator Hembree et.al.	Smoke Evacuation System	Referred To Medical Affairs	Passed the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>Referred to House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs</i> <i>The Senate amended H.5164 to add the language from S. 170, which adopts and implements policies for licensed facilities to prevent exposure to surgical smoke, before giving H. 5164 second reading. The bill is pending third reading on the Senate calendar.</i>
S.211	Senators Massey and Zell	Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters	Referred to Finance	
S.238	Senators Alexander et al.	Sine Die Codification	Referred to Judiciary	<i>Vetoed by the Governor 5/18/26</i>

S.297	Senator Turner	Employer and Employee Contribution Rates Under SCRS and PORS	Referred To Finance	
S.331	Senator Adams	Infant Safe havens - Use of Newborn Safety Devices and Other Purposes	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	
S.346	Senator Alexander	Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter and Health Professionals	Referred to Judiciary	Heard By Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 → Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on the Senate Calendar
S.422	Senators Ott and Gambrell	State Board of Pyrotechnic Safety Reconfiguration	Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry	Heard By Senate LCI Subcommittee April 16 → Bill was Removed from the Agenda
S699	Senator Goldfinch	Emergency Scene Management Revised by Requiring a Driver to Slow or Move Over When Passing an Authorized Law Enforcement Vehicle that is Parked or Standing Within 5 feet of a Roadway, Conducting a Traffic Related Stop or Investigation or Giving Warning Signals by Appropriate Lights	Referred To Transportation	
S704	Senator Rice	Emergency Scene Management to Revise the Responsibilities of Drivers Approaching Emergency Vehicle's	Referred To Transportation	

S.768	Senators Peeler et al.	As amended by the Senate, S.768 would triple the homestead property-tax exemption (from \$50k to \$150k) for eligible homeowners 65+, blind, or disabled, add a 5-year residency requirement, and have the state reimburse local governments for the lost tax revenue.Fiscal Impact: approximately \$258 million.	Referred to Finance	Passed the Senate and Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee →
S. 850	Senators Elliott and Zell	Enact The "Honor Our First Responders Act"; And By Adding Section 1-11-735 So As To Provide State-Funded Health Insurance Coverage For The Surviving Spouses And Dependent Children Of First Responders Killed In The Line Of Duty; To Define Eligible First Responders; And To Provide For Administration, Funding, And Optional Continuation Of Coverage.	Referred to Finance	
S.868	Senator Elliott et.al.	Designate June First of Each Year as Gold Shield Day to Honor First Responders Who Have Been Killed In The Line of Duty And The Sacrifice Of Their Surviving Families.	Referred to Judiciary	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26</i>
S.883	Senators Alexander et al.	Sine Die 2026: General Assembly Adjourn On Thursday, May 14, 2026, Not Later Than 5:00 P.M., Each House Shall Stand In Recess Subject To The Call Of The President Of The Senate For The Senate And The Speaker Of The House Of Representatives For The House Of Representatives At Times They Consider Appropriate For Their Respective Bodies To Meet For The Consideration Of Certain Specified Matters; And To Provide That When The Respective Houses Of The General Assembly Adjourn Not Later Than Sunday, November 8, 2026, The General Assembly Shall Stand Adjourned Sine Die.	Referred to Rules	<i>House Insisted Upon Amendment And Conference Committee Appointed Reps. Caskey, W Newton, Rutherford. Senate Has Not Appointed Conferees.</i>

S.890	Senators Kennedy and Leber	<p>Small Business Property Tax Relief:</p> <p>Section 12-37-221. (A) For the purposes of this section, "small business" means a commercial retail service, industry entity, or nonprofit corporation, including affiliates, that: (1) is registered, incorporated, and headquartered in this State; (2) is owned by a resident or residents of this State who pay income taxes in this State; (3) is independently owned and operated; and (4) employs fewer than one hundred full-time employees or has gross annual sales or program service revenues of less than three million dollars.</p>	Referred to Finance	
S. 939	Senators Chaplin and Stubbs	Provides That A Non-Vested Member Of The Police Officer’s Retirement System Who Dies In The Line Of Duty Shall Receive A One-Time Lump Sum Benefit Payment.	Referred to Senate Finance	
S.956	Senator Turner	Gross Proceeds Of Sales, So As To Exclude Amounts Paid By State And Local Governments For The Emergency Services Ip Network.	Referred to Finance	
S.1074	Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee	<p>A Joint Resolution To Approve Regulations Of The Department Of Labor, Licensing And Regulation - Building Codes Council, Relating To International Fire Code, Designated As Regulation Document Number 5417, Pursuant To The Provisions Of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 1 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws.</p> <p>LLR - Building Codes Council: Jr To Approve Regulation Document No. 5426</p>	Read The First Time And Ordered Placed On The Senate Calendar Without Reference.	Sent back to the Committee to time out.

S. 1076	Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee	A Joint Resolution To Approve Regulations Of The Department Of Labor, Licensing And Regulation - Building Codes Council, Relating To International Residential Code, Designated As Regulation Document Number 5417, Pursuant To The Provisions Of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 1 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws. LLR - Building Codes Council: Jr To Approve Regulation Document No. 5417	Read The First Time And Ordered Placed On The Senate Calendar Without Reference.	Sent back to the Committee to time out.
S. 1078	Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee	A Joint Resolution To Approve Regulations Of The Department Of Labor, Licensing And Regulation - Building Codes Council, Relating To International Building Code, Designated As Regulation Document Number 5424, Pursuant To The Provisions Of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 1 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws. JR to Approve Reg. Doc. 5424	Read The First Time And Ordered Placed On The Senate Calendar Without Reference.	Sent back to the Committee to time out.

*The following links provide budget recommendations by the Governor, the South Carolina House of Representatives and the South Carolina Senate. **The Budget is currently residing in Conference Committee. Conferees are: Sen(s) Peeler, Davis and Hutto; Rep(s) Bannister, Hiott and Hayes.***

[H.5126 - FY 2026-2027 South Carolina Budget - South Carolina Legislature Online](#)

SC State Firefighters' Association FY26-27 Budget Items

SUMMARY of FUNDING and PROVISOS

FUNDING

- **SCEAST** - Received additional funding of \$287,029 from the House and Senate.
- **Palmetto 800** - Received an additional \$4.2 million recurring and \$13.4 million nonrecurring in the House budget and \$2.1 million recurring and \$3.5 million nonrecurring in the Senate budget. Item for Conference Committee.
- The Firefighter **Cancer Benefit Plan** was fully funded \$1.181 million recurring in the Senate version. Item for Conference Committee.

- SCSFA - Received \$1 million nonrecurring for the **South Carolina Fire Heritage Center and Museum** in the House version. Item for Conference Committee.

PROVISOS

- **108.13 - (Return to Work - 12 month Separation and No Cap)** is an existing 12 - month separation provision and has been adopted by the House and Senate.
- **108.18 - (Return to Work - 90 Day Separation and \$80K Cap)** was added by the Senate and reduces the separation period to 90 days, \$80K salary cap and directs that a returning member is unable to return to work in a supervisory position. Adopted by the Senate.
- **117.197 - (Aid to Fire Districts)** creating a separate fund for fire district funding has been adopted by the House and Senate. The House adopted the study recommendation to move the funding out of the General Fund. The Senate did not fully adopt the study recommendation. Neither version seeks to negatively impact the funding and will be worked out in Conference.
- **117.200 - (Statewide First Responder Interoperability)** moves the Pal800 statewide radio system coordination to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association requested language be added to the provision. The Senate adopted the requested language from SCSFA.
- **1.126. (SDE: Panic Button)** The state requires all public school districts and charter schools to use allocated funds to implement a mobile panic alert system in every school.
- **117.199. (GP: Hospital Emergency Bed Placement)** Allows hospitals, during a “justified emergency,” to temporarily place patient beds in hallways, corridors, or other exit pathways even if that would normally violate building or fire codes.
- **31.FHT_(DPH: Firefighter health testing)** was added by the House of Representatives in the House Version of the Budget on Wednesday, May 9, 2026. Proviso Directs DPH to use up to \$7.5 million of allocated funds to establish and administer a statewide firefighter occupational health program in coordination with the State Fire Marshal.

SCSFA REQUEST DETAIL

REQUEST 1(A) - South Carolina Firefighter Assistance Support Team (SCFAST) - \$287,028.62 (General Funds - Recurring) The focus of SCFAST is twofold, prevention and post-incident support. SCFAST was authorized and funded by the General Assembly in 2016 through the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation via a budget proviso (81.13). The proviso allows the fire service to offer preventative initiatives and obtain an insurance policy that covers the out-of-pocket expenses associated with clinical care for mental or behavioral health needs of the first responder. **REQUEST 1(B):** The SCSFA also requests that the funding for the SCFAST program be broken out as a line item in LLR's budget (as currently done in SLED's budget for PTSD Treatment). **SCFAST was funded the Same in both the House and Senate versions of the Budget Bill.**

REQUEST 2 - Palmetto 800 Statewide Radio System Funding - \$5.5 million is estimated to cover approximately 50% of user fees (General Funds - Recurring) and a total of approximately \$97 million or roughly \$20 million over a 5-year phase-in for infrastructure (General Funds -

Nonrecurring). The goal for FY26-27 is to reach a 50% match from the state for user fee costs for those eligible public safety and first responders outlined in Proviso 93.7 in the Appropriations Act. The fire service would like to encourage the Governor to request retaining the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) non-deployment surplus funds and allocate a portion towards building radio towers throughout the state in order to provide adequate coverage for portable radios. If BEAD funding is unavailable, then the fire service would encourage the General Assembly to include funding in the FY26-27 Appropriations bill. Each tower is **estimated** to cost \$2 million which is **estimated** to cost approximately \$94 million or an estimated \$20 million over a five-year phase-in. The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association worked with House and Senate members regarding the Palmetto800 statewide radio budget request. **Palmetto 800 received an additional \$4.2 million recurring and \$13.4 million nonrecurring from the House and less from the Senate at \$2.1 million recurring and \$3.5 million nonrecurring.**

REQUEST 3 - South Carolina Heritage Center and Museum Request - \$4.8 million (General Funds - Nonrecurring) - The SCSFA is requesting funding consideration for the development of the South Carolina State Fire Heritage Center and Museum. Currently, there is no statewide facility designated to educate future generations on South Carolina's fire service history. The SCSFA purchased a facility in the vicinity of Columbia, located in Richland County, which will house the South Carolina State Fire Heritage Center and Museum. The SCSFA is seeking funding (\$4,800,000) necessary to renovate approximately 25,000 sq ft of the property to include an interactive fire museum, auditorium and educational center. Additionally, the Heritage Center will have the capability to also serve as a Firefighter Mobilization back-up staging location, in the center of the state, for natural disaster response. **SCSFA received \$1 million nonrecurring for the South Carolina Fire Heritage Center and Museum in the House version.**

SCSFA continues to support the FY26-27 State Fire Budget Request submitted by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. LLR requested \$1.181 million for an insurance premium increase in the Cancer Benefit Plan. **The Firefighter Cancer Benefit Plan received additional \$1.181 million in the Senate version of the Budget Bill.**