

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

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. 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 Legislative Report

Key:

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

House Legislation

| Bill # | Sponsor(s) | Description | Committee Assignment | Status |
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| H.3276 | Reps. Pope et. al. | South Carolina Hands Free Act | Referred to Judiciary | The Bill was Passed by the House and Taken Up in the Senate → The Bill was Read a Third Time and Returned to the House with Amendments - House Concurred in Senate Amendment and Enrolled. Ratified on 5/8/25 and Signed by the Governor 5/12/25 |
| H.3021 | Reps. Bradley et. al. | Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act | Referred To Labor, Commerce, and Industry | Passed the House and Sent to the Senate → Referred to Senate Judiciary and testimony is being heard on the bill. |
| H.3163 | Rep. Mark Smith | Expand Workers' Comp Coverage to Include Strokes for Firefighters | Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry | The Bill, as Amended, was Read a Third Time and Sent to the Senate → The Bill was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Judiciary |
| H.3258 | Reps. 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 Read a Third Time and Sent to the Senate → The Bill, as Amended, was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Education. → The Bill was Heard by Senate Education Committee and Passed Out Favorably with |

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| | | | | <i>Amendment and Placed on the Senate Calendar.</i> |
| H.3259 | Rep. Pope | First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums | Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry | Passed the House and Sent to the Senate Where it was Referred to Senate LCI → <i>Senate Banking and Insurance Committee Reported Favorable on the Bill and has Been Placed on Senate Calendar</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 | Reps. Bannister et. al. | <p>House Version:The bill imposes a tax rate of 1.99 percent on taxable income up to \$30,000 and 5.39 percent on \$30,000 and over, eliminates the federal standard and itemized deductions, and allows taxpayers with lower federal AGI to claim a new SCIAD.</p> <p>Senate Version:The bill imposes a tax rate of 1.99 percent on taxable income up to \$30,000 and 5.21 percent on \$30,000 and over, eliminates the federal standard and itemized deductions, and allows taxpayers with lower federal AGI to claim a new SCIAD.</p> | Referred to Ways and Means | <i>The House Concurred with the Senate Amendment on March 10 and Ratified on March 25. The bill is awaiting Governor's action.</i> |

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| 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 | Passed by the House, Sent to the Senate, → <i>Introduced and Read for the First Time in the Senate Where it was Referred to Senate Transportation Committee</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 | Passed by the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Introduced and Read for the First Time in the Senate Where it was Referred to Finance</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> |

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| H.3535 | Reps. Wooten et. al. | Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act | Referred To Judiciary | Heard by Criminal Laws Subcommittee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → Meeting Adjourned Prior To Discussion Of The Bill. H.4763 (Which Is A Similar Bill) Is Moving Forward. |
| H.4763 | Reps. Oremus, W. Newton, et. al. | Creates 25 Foot Buffer For Law Enforcement, First Responders And Emergency Medical Care Provider | Referred To Judiciary | Passed The House And Sent To The Senate. If Read Out Of The Box On Tuesday, March 10th The Bill Was → H.4763 to the Senate Floor and is on the Calendar. Received 2nd reading and up for third. |
| S.175 | Senator Zell | Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement | Referred To Judiciary | Heard by Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Thursday, February 19, 2026 → Reported Favorable to Full Committee Heard by Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The Committee replaced the language in H.4763 with language from S.175 and moved H.4763 to the Senate Floor. S.175 Remains in Committee. |
| H.4265 | Reps. 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 → Adjourned Debate |
| 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 | Scheduled to be Heard Wednesday, January 28, 2026 by House Judiciary Subcommittee → Bill was not discussed due to time constraints |

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| H.3093 | Rep. Moss | Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker | Referred To Judiciary | |
| H.3124 | Reps. 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 | Scheduled to be Heard Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10am in Room 409 Blatt → <i>Debate was Adjourned</i> |
| H.3281 | Reps. 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 or EMS to Include Training Course in Autism | Referred to Judiciary | Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Reported the Bill out Favorably to Full Committee → <i>Scheduled to be Heard Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The Committee adjourned before H3285 was taken up.</i> |

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| H.3289 | Rep. J.L. Johnson | Include 911 Operators as “First Responders” | Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry | |
| 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 | Reps. 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 | |

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| 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 | Reps. 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 | Reps. Cox et. al. | “Honor our First Responders Act” | Referred To Ways and Means | |
| H.3908 | Reps. 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 | Reps. McCabe et. al. | Exemptions From Contractor Licensing Requirements | Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry | |
| H.3997 | Reps. 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</p> | Referred To Ways and Means | |

| | | Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies | | |
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| H.4005 | Reps. Henderson-Meyers et. al. | Driving Under the Influence | Referred To Judiciary | |
| H.4013 | Reps. 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 | Reps. 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 | |

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| H.4399 | Reps. Holman et. al. | <p>First Responder Wellness Exams:</p> <p>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.</p> | 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.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 | Reps. 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 | |

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| 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 | Reps. Jones et al. | Special Purpose Districts | Referred to Ways and Means | |
| H.4620 | Reps. 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 | Reps. 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 | |

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| H 4740 | Reps. McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten | Summary: School Mapping Data Program - Commission on Higher Education | Referred to Education | |
| H4777 | Reps. 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 | Reps. 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 Substances And To Provide Health And Cancer Screenings, All At No Charge, To Firefighters; And For Other Purposes. | 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 Without Passing the Bill Out. The Chairman Stated that the Subcommittee Would Be Meeting Again in Three Weeks.</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 | |
| H.5093 | 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 | |

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| 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 | Referred to Ways and Means | <i>Scheduled to be Heard by the Ways and Means General Government Subcommittee Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 10:30 am in Room 108 of the Blatt Building</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>Passed by the Committee and Placed on the House Calendar and up for Third Reading.</i> |
| H. 5179 | Reps. Erickson, McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten | Summary: School Mapping Data Program - SLED | Referred to Education | Passed by the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Referred to Senate Education</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 | |

Senate Legislation

| <u>Bill #</u> | <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Committee Assignment</u> | <u>Status</u> |
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| 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 | Passed by Both Bodies → <i>The Senate Concurred in the House Amendments and the Bill was Enrolled for Ratification 5/6/25. Signed by the Governor 5/12/25.</i> |
| S.102 | Senators Gambrell and Massey | Millage Rate Increase Limitations | Referred To Finance | The Bill Passed by the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>The Bill was Referred to House Ways and Means</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.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> |
| 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 | The Bill has Passed the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>Referred to House Judiciary and Scheduled to be Heard at the Criminal Laws Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2026,</i> |

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| | | | | <i>at 9:00 a.m. in Room 516 of the Blatt Building</i> |
| 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 → <i>Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on the Senate Calendar</i> |
| 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 Sent to the House → <i>Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee</i> |
| S.422 | Senators Ott and Gambrell | State Board of Pyrotechnic Safety Reconfiguration | Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry | Scheduled To Be Heard By Senate LCI Subcommittee April 16 At 12 noon In Room 209 Gressette → <i>Bill was Removed from the Agenda</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.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 | 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 | |

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| S.144 | Senator Devine | Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption | Referred To Medical Affairs | |
| S.211 | Senators Massey and Zell | Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters | Referred to Finance | |
| 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 | |
| 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. 808 | Senators Rankin and Alexander | Interference With Workers Providing Critical Services: Relating To Illegal Acts During State Of Emergency, So As To Include That Harassing Or Threatening A Worker Restoring Critical Services Is A Misdemeanor, And That Assaulting Or Endangering A Worker Restoring Or Destroying Or Tampering With An Electric Utility System Is A Felony, And To Define Critical Services. | Referred To Judiciary | |
| 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 | Referred to Finance | |

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| | | 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. | | |
| 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 | Introduced, adopted, and sent to the House → <i>Introduced in the House and Referred to Committee on Rules</i> |
| S.890 | Senators Kennedy and Leber | Small Business Property Tax Relief: 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. | 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 | |

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| 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 | |
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Regulations

| <u>Documents</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Status</u> |
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| Document 5424 (LLR) | International Building Code | <p>Heard by House Regulations, Admin. Procedures, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM - Passed out favorably</p> <p>Heard by the Regulatory & Local Government Subcommittee of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee on March 5 at 10:0 a.m. Passed out favorably</p> <p>Heard by the Full Senate LCI Committee on Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:00 a.m. Passed out favorably..</p> |
| Document 5426 (LLR) | International Fire Code | <p>Heard by House Regulations, Admin. Procedures, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM - Passed out favorably</p> <p>Heard by the Regulatory & Local Government Subcommittee of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee on March 5 at 10:0 a.m. Passed out favorably.</p> <p>Heard by the Full Senate LCI Committee on Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:00 a.m. Passed out favorably.</p> |
| Document 5417 (LLR) | International Residential Code | <p>Heard by House Regulations, Admin. Procedures, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM - Passed out favorably</p> <p>Heard by the Regulatory & Local Government Subcommittee of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee on March 5 at 10:0 a.m. Passed out favorably.</p> <p>Heard by the Full Senate LCI Committee on Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:00 a.m. Passed out favorably.</p> |

The following links provide budget recommendations by the Governor; the House Ways and Means Committee and the South Carolina House of Representatives

[H.5126 - FY 2026-2027 South Carolina Budget - South Carolina Legislature Online](#) - *Senate Finance Committee is Scheduled to Meet with Frank Rainwater regarding a Revenue Update on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 Upon Adjournment of the Senate 105 Gressette*

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING Wednesday, April 1, 2026 12:00 P.M. 207 Gressette - Provisos

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING Wednesday, April 1, 2026 11 am 209 Gressette - Provisos

SC State Firefighters' Association FY 26-27 Budget Request

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. Executive Director Helms testified in the House Transportation and Regulatory Budget Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee requesting funding for the SCFAST program. *The House of Representatives adopted funding of \$287,029 recurring for the SCFAST program. This funding is located in Section 81 - South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (LLR), (D) Office of the State Fire Marshal, Other Operating Expenses.*

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association is working with Senate members and staff of the Senate Finance Committee (SFC) regarding the SCFAST budget request. The SFC Natural Resources and Economic Development Subcommittee heard the SCFAST budget request on Thursday, February 12th upon adjournment of the Senate.

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). *This request was not adopted by the House of Representatives at this time.*

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 members and staff of the Ways and Means Committee regarding the Palmetto800 statewide radio budget request. *The House of Representatives adopted additional funding of \$4.2 million recurring for the Pal800 user fees bringing the total recurring funding for user fees to \$11.1 million and funded an additional \$13.4 million nonrecurring for Pal800 infrastructure. Proviso 117.200 transfers the Pal800 program to the State Law Enforcement Division. The SCSFA has requested an amendment to the proviso to include a*

representative of the SCSFA to the proviso which was not included in the House of Representatives recommended budget at this time. The Senate Finance Committee for Criminal Justice will meet to discuss provisos on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 11:00 AM 209 Gressette Building

117.200. (GP: First Responder Interoperability) Directs SLED to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to enhance public safety radio communications. Funds appropriated by the new proviso will cover radio user fees for eligible state agencies and first responders, with allocations based on a minimum number of radios per participant. Grants will be available for county and municipal systems to improve interoperability but are subject to a required matching of funds to receive support. Any remaining funds may be used to expand the statewide Palmetto 800 system.

117.200. (GP: First Responder Interoperability) (A) For the current fiscal year, the First Responder Interoperability Program and the funds appropriated to the Department of Administration for this purpose are transferred to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The employees, assets, liabilities, and contracts of the program are also transferred to and become part of SLED. All personnel transferred by this provision are to become employees of SLED with the same compensation, classification, and grade level. Applicable contracts entered by or on behalf of the program are continued and are considered to be devolved upon SLED at the time of the transfer.

(B) SLED is directed to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster responses and communications. First Responder Interoperability administration and coordination shall be funded as provided in this act. The cost-proportional funds shall be utilized for radio user fees of state agencies and public safety-first responders (Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement) that participate in the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system (Palmetto 800 participants). SLED, in consultation with the Department of Administration, the Department of Public Safety, the State Emergency Management Division, a representative of the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association, and a representative of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, shall set a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on the technical aspects of the Palmetto 800 radio system and the jurisdictional requirements of the participant. If a Palmetto 800 participant reduces the baseline number of radios in use, the amount of funds allocated for the participant's radio user fees shall be reduced in a proportional amount. Procurements by SLED for the administration and coordination of the Palmetto 800 radio system are exempt from the purchasing procedures of the Consolidated Procurement Code in Chapter 35 of Title 11.

(C) The funds shall also be utilized to provide private county and city radio systems with grant funds to be used for purchases of equipment that supports interoperability with the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system and its users. Grant funds shall be allocated to private county and city radio systems based on the criteria used for Palmetto 800 participants and in amounts proportional to the amounts allocated to support the per-site radio user fees of Palmetto 800 participants. A matching share is required by a Palmetto 800 participant or by a private county or city radio system in order to qualify for receipt of funds pursuant to this proviso. Each fiscal year SLED shall establish the level of match required based upon funding provided by this act. These entities shall be required to furnish such documentation as may be required by the department to verify that the matching funds requirement is met. Upon funding state agency and public safety-first responder user fees and private county and city equipment purchases, any remaining funds may be used to enhance and expand the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. All funds shall be held in a separate account established by the department for the purposes set forth herein. Any unexpended portion of these funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose. In the calculation of any across-the-board budget reduction mandated by the Executive Budget Office or General Assembly, the amount appropriated to SLED for First Responder Interoperability must be excluded from the department's base budget.

(D) SLED shall provide a report on the status of the integration of the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system, which shall include, but not be limited to, a list of entities that are not integrated into the system as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year and the reason why they are not integrated. The report shall be submitted by October first of the current fiscal year to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

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 continues to meet with members regarding funding the South Carolina Heritage Center and Museum.**

SCSFA continues to support the FY26-27 State Fire Budget Request submitted by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

PROVISOS OF INTEREST

108.13. (PEBA: PORS and SCRS Return to Work) *Provides that retired members of the SCRS and PORS A retired member of the Police Officer Retirement System can return to work and earn compensation **without being subject to the usual earnings limitation** if: They have **not worked for any participating employer** in the system—or any other retirement system under Title 9—in **any capacity** (employee, contractor, leased worker, etc.) for **at least 12 consecutive months after retiring**. They **certify** to the system that they meet this 12-month break requirement. If the member **incorrectly certifies** that they qualify for the exemption, they must **repay any benefits** they received that they were not entitled to.*

108.13. (PEBA: PORS and SCRS Return to Work) *(A) For compensation earnings during the current fiscal year, the earnings limitation does not apply if a member of the Police Officer Retirement System has not been engaged to perform services for a participating employer in the system or any other system provided in Title 9 for compensation in any capacity, whether as an employee, independent contractor, leased employee, joint employee, or other classification of worker, for a period of at least twelve consecutive months subsequent to retirement. The exemption provided under this provision does not apply unless the member first certifies to the system that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption. If a member inaccurately certifies that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption provided in this provision, the member is responsible for reimbursing the system for any benefits wrongly paid to the member.*

(B) For compensation earnings during the current fiscal year, the earnings limitation does not apply if a member of the South Carolina Retirement System has not been engaged to perform services for a participating employer in the system or any other system provided in Title 9 for compensation in any capacity, whether as an employee, independent contractor, leased employee, joint employee, or other classification of worker, for a period of at least twelve consecutive months subsequent to retirement. The exemption provided under this provision does not apply unless the member first certifies to the system that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption. If a member inaccurately certifies that he satisfies the requirements for the exemption provided in this provision, the member is responsible for reimbursing the system for any benefits wrongly paid to the member.

117.197. (GP: Aid to Fire Districts Fund) *Creates the Aid to Fire Districts Fund, separate from the state General Fund. That portion of fire premium tax revenues and the state portion of the broker premium tax revenues that are required by statute to be distributed to county treasurers for local fire service must be deposited in the fund. Also, the Department of Insurance must ensure that the fund has an appropriate balance, and the state treasurer shall distribute the fund's revenues in the fund to the county treasurers.*

117.197 (GP: Aid to Fire Districts Fund) (A) *There is created in the State Treasury by the Comptroller General a fund separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State and all other funds entitled the Aid to Fire Districts Fund. That portion of fire premium tax revenues and the State portion of the broker premium tax revenues that are required by statute to be distributed to county treasurers for local fire service must be deposited in the fund.*

(B) *Additionally, the Department of Insurance shall ensure that the fund has an appropriate balance. The State Treasurer shall distribute the revenues in the fund to the county treasurers in the same manner and for the same purpose as provided by law.*