

**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 (36); (March 25, 2025 - Courtney Waters (D) elected to SC House District 113)
- 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
- **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 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
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 → <i>Referred to Senate Judiciary</i>
H.3093	Rep. Moss		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
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	
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.3163	Rep. Mark Smith		Expand Workers' Comp Coverage to Include Strokes for Firefighters	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	The Bill was Taken Up on the House the Floor Thursday, April 10th, 2025 → <i>The Bill, as Amended, was Read for the Second Time and Ordered to Third Reading</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.3221	Rep. Ballentine		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
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	Reported out Favorably from Education and Public Works → <i>The Bill is up for Second Reading on the House Calendar</i>

H.3259	Rep. Pope		First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	Scheduled To Be Heard by Senate Banking and Insurance Subcommittee Wednesday, April 16 At 10am in Room 209 Gressette. → <i>The Bill Passed Favorably to the Senate Floor and Placed on the Calendar</i>
H..3261	Reps. Pope and Gilliam		Workers' Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3276	Reps. Pope et. al.		South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred to Judiciary	The Bill was Heard by Senate Transportation Full Committee Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 → <i>The Bill was Reported Favorably to Senate Floor and Placed on the Calendar</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.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.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.3536	Rep. Taylor		South Carolina Hands Free Act	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	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 Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies</p>	Referred To Ways and Means	
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.4216	Reps. Bannister et al.		Reduces the income tax rate to a flat 3.99% with a plan to decrease the flat income tax rate over the next several years to 2.49%. Currently, top earners in South Carolina pay an income tax rate of 6.2%, which will be reduced to 6% next fiscal year, while other South Carolina residents who make the lowest income pay a 0% rate. This bill would impose a flat rate for all South Carolina workers to 3.99% and would go into effect in 2026 if passed.	Referred to Ways and Means	Scheduled to be Heard in House Ways and Means Full Committee Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (This hearing is for the purpose of receiving expert testimony. No vote will be taken)
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	Referred to Education and Public Works	

			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.		
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.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 → <i>Adjourned Debate</i>
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	
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	Referred to Judiciary	

			Council's 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."		
H.4338	Reps. Sanders et. al.		Building Codes	Referred to Labor Commerce and Industry	

SCSFA Senate Legislation

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Position	Description	Committee Assignment	Status
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	Scheduled To Be Heard By Full Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15 at 2pm or 15 minutes Upon Adjournment In 308 Gressette → Carried Over
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.90	Senator Young		Hands Free Act	Referred To Transportation	
S.101	Senator Gambrell		Firefighter Registration Requirements	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	Referred to House Labor, Commerce and Industry → Scheduled to be Heard in House LCI Subcommittee Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in Blatt 403 1.5hrs after Adjournment of the House
S.102	Senators Gambrell and Massey		Millage Rate Increase Limitations	Referred To Finance	Scheduled To Be Heard By Property Tax Subcommittee Tuesday, April 15th,

					30 Minutes Upon Adjournment in Room 105 Gressette → <i>Passed out favorably</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		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	
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	
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 the House Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs</i>
S.175	Senator Zell		Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement	Referred To Judiciary	
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	
S.346	Senator Alexander		Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter and Health Professionals	Referred to Judiciary	Scheduled To Be Heard By Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15 at 2pm or 15 minutes Upon Adjournment In 308 Gressette →

					<i>Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on Calendar</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> +++++ 3

FY25-26 Appropriations Bill

H 4025	Ways and Means Committee		Members of the House passed their version of the \$14 billion FY25-26 Appropriations Bill on Wednesday, March 13, 2025. The House Version of the Budget Bill is Posted at: 2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - House of Representatives 2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - Senate Finance Committee - Summary Control Document 2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - Senate Finance Committee Proviso Changes	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	Heard by Senate Finance Full Committee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <i>Passed to the Senate Floor as Amended</i>
H4026	Ways and Means Committee		Members of the House passed their version of the FY25-26 Capital Reserve Fund Joint Resolution on Wednesday. The House Version of the Capital Reserve Fund Joint Resolution is Posted at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/4026.htm 2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - Senate	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	Heard by Senate Finance Full Committee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <i>Passed to the Senate Floor as Amended</i>

			<u>Finance Committee - Summary Control Document</u>		
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