

**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:

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
<a href="#">H.3276</a>	Rep. Pope et. al.	South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred to Judiciary	<i>House Concurred in Senate Amendment and Enrolled. Ratified on 5/8/25 and Signed by the Governor 5/12/25</i>
<a href="#">H.3021</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.3163</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.3258</a>	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>

<a href="#">H.3259</a>	Rep. Pope	First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	<i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i>
<a href="#">H.3843</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.4216</a>	Rep. Bannister et. al.	<p><b>House Version:</b>The bill imposes a tax rate of 1.99 percent on taxable income up to \$30,000 and <b>5.39 percent</b> 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><b>Senate Version:</b>The bill imposes a tax rate of 1.99 percent on taxable income up to \$30,000 and <b>5.21 percent</b> 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>Signed By The Governor 3/30/26.</i>
<a href="#">H.4249</a>	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>

<a href="#">H.4337</a>	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	<b><i>Conference Committee Was Appointed. Conferees Are: Sen(S) Young, Campsen And Matthews; Rep(S) Newton, Jordan And Wetmore</i></b>
<a href="#">H.3113</a>	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 → <b><i>The Bill was Discussed but Not Voted on Due to Time Constraints.</i></b>
<a href="#">H.3188</a>	Rep. Long	Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	Heard in a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on March 26 → <b><i>Adjourned Debate</i></b>
<a href="#">H.3535</a>	Rep. Wooten et. al.	Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act	Referred To Judiciary	Heard by Criminal Laws Subcommittee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <b><i>Meeting Adjourned Prior To Discussion Of The Bill. H.4763 (Which Is A Similar Bill) Is Moving Forward.</i></b>
<a href="#">H.4763</a>	Reps. Oremus, W. Newton, et. al.	Creates 25 Foot Buffer For Law Enforcement, First Responders And Emergency Medical Care Provider (HALO)	Referred To Judiciary	<b><i>Conference Committee appointed. Conferees are: Sen(s) Adams, Kimbrell and Walker; Rep(s) Newton, Brittain and Bernstein</i></b>

<a href="#">S.175</a>	Senator Zell	Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement	Referred To Judiciary	Referred to Senate Judiciary.
<a href="#">H.4265</a>	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>
<a href="#">H4696</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.3093</a>	Rep. Moss	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3124</a>	Rep. Pope et. al.	Create Penalties for Intentional or Unintentional Exposure to Fentanyl of First Responders	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3126</a>	Rep. Pope	Creation of the South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3221</a>	Rep. Ballentine	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<a href="#">H.3261</a>	Reps. Pope and Gilliam	Workers’ Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	

<a href="#">H.3262</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.3281</a>	Rep. McCravy et. al.	Fallen First Responders Advocate Position	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3284</a>	Rep. Long	Include Tow Truck Operators as Emergency Scene Management Personnel	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3285</a>	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>
<a href="#">H.3289</a>	Rep. J.L. Johnson	Include 911 Operators as “First Responders”	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3378</a>	Rep. Burns et al.	Exempt All Property from Taxation and Provide Dollar-for-Dollar Reimbursement to Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3392</a>	Rep. Moss	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3410</a>	Rep. Hardee	Property (Vehicle) Tax exemption for Former First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3416</a>	Rep. Kilmartin	Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3437</a>	Rep. Pope et. al.	Return to Work (Critical Need) for Law Enforcement	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3461</a>	Rep. Lawson	Excludes First Responder Wages from SC Gross Income	Referred To Ways and Means	

<a href="#">H.3533</a>	Reps. Pope and Gilliam	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder in the Discharge of their Official Duties	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3542</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.3550</a>	Rep. Williams	Use of Mounted Red Lights on Wreckers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
<a href="#">H.3797</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.3803</a>	Rep. Hart	Limit On Annual Property Tax Millage Increases Imposed By Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3806</a>	Reps. Hart and Henderson-Meyers	Driving While Using Wireless Communication Devices	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.3860</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.3907</a>	Rep. Cox et. al.	“Honor our First Responders Act”	Referred To Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.3908</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.3946</a>	Rep. McCabe et. al.	Exemptions From Contractor Licensing Requirements	Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry	

<a href="#">H.3997</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.4005</a>	Rep. Henderson-Meyers et. al.	Driving Under the Influence	Referred To Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.4013</a>	Rep. J.E. Johnson et. al.	Automated License Plate Readers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
<a href="#">H.4252</a>	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	

<a href="#">H.4336</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.4399</a>	Rep. Holman et. al.	First Responder Wellness Exams:  Adding Section <a href="#">23-9-200</a> So As To Provide The State Fire Marshal Shall Require All Firefighters Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; By Amending Section <a href="#">44-61-80</a> , Relating To Emergency Medical Technician Certificates, So As To Require Emergency Medical Technicians Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; And By Adding Section <a href="#">23-23-57</a> So As To Provide All Law Enforcement Officers Must Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations.	Referred to Judiciary	
<a href="#">H.4458</a>	Rep. Pace	Amending Section <a href="#">12-6-510</a> , Relating To The Individual Income Tax, So As To Reduce The Top Marginal Rate To Five Percent.	Referred to Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.4478</a>	Rep. Burns et.al.	Prescribed Fire Alerts	Referred to House Agriculture	Passed the House and Sent to the Senate → <b><i>Referred to Senate Fish, Game and Forestry</i></b>
<a href="#">H.4517</a>	Rep. White	Adding Section <a href="#">11-1-130</a> 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	

<a href="#">H.4539</a>	Rep. McGinnis et. al.	Penalties for Illegal Fires	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	
<a href="#">H.4576</a>	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	
<a href="#">H4593</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.4602</a>	Rep. Jones et al.	Special Purpose Districts	Referred to Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.4620</a>	Rep. Wooten et al.	Retirement Allowance Adjustment	Referred to Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H4680</a>	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	
<a href="#">H4684</a>	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	

<a href="#">H4705</a>	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	
<a href="#">H 4740</a>	Reps. McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten	Summary: School Mapping Data Program - Commission on Higher Education	Referred to Education	
<a href="#">H4777</a>	Rep. Wooten et. al.	Adds SLED Arson Unit to Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan	Referred to Judiciary	
<a href="#">H5005</a>	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	
<a href="#">H. 5013</a>	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 → <b><i>The Subcommittee Adjourned Due to Time Constraints.</i></b>

		Substances And To Provide Health And Cancer Screenings, All At No Charge, To Firefighters; And For Other Purposes.		<b><i>NOTE: Rep. Teeple sponsored a Proviso in the House Budget which was Adopted to Fund PFAS Testing.</i></b>
<a href="#">H.5060</a>	Rep. Stavrinakis	Amend Act 369 Of 1959, As Amended, Relating To The <b>St. John's Fire District</b> , 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	<b><i>Ratified R207 on 5/14/26</i></b>
<a href="#">H.5093</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.5097</a>	Rep. Haddon et. al.	Roadside Markets	Referred to House Agriculture	<b><i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26</i></b>
<a href="#">H.5116</a>	Rep. Willis	Fireworks Discharged Near Equine Facilities	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	
<a href="#">H. 5139</a>	Rep. Wooten, et al	<b>Honor Our First Responders Act</b> 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 → <b><i>Carried Over to Next Subcommittee Meeting</i></b>
<a href="#">H.5164</a>	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	<b><i>Ratified R259 on 5/15/26.</i></b>  <b><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></b>
<a href="#">H. 5179</a>	Reps. Erickson, McGinnis, Garvin, Grant, Yow, C. Mitchell and Wooten	Summary: School Mapping Data Program - SLED	Referred to Education	<b><i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26.</i></b>

<a href="#">H. 5364</a>	Rep. J.L. Johnson	Allow A South Carolina Income Tax Deduction Of All South Carolina State Retirement Income	Referred to Ways and Means	
<a href="#">H.5523</a>	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	
<a href="#">H.5535</a>	Rep. Wickensimer	Adding Section <a href="#">23-9-165</a> 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>
<a href="#">S.52</a>	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>
<a href="#">S.60</a>	Senator Bennett and Blackmon	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.64</a>	Senator Hembree	Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Finance	

<a href="#">S.101</a>	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>
<a href="#">S.102</a>	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>
<a href="#">S.107</a>	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	
<a href="#">S.119</a>	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>

<a href="#">S.121</a>	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 → <b><i>Referred to House Judiciary</i></b>
<a href="#">S.144</a>	Senator Devine	Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption	Referred To Medical Affairs	
<a href="#">S.170</a>	Senator Hembree et.al.	Smoke Evacuation System	Referred To Medical Affairs	Passed the Senate and Sent to the House → <b><i>Referred to House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs</i></b>  <b><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></b>
<a href="#">S.211</a>	Senators Massey and Zell	Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters	Referred to Finance	
<a href="#">S.238</a>	Senators Alexander et al.	Sine Die Codification	Referred to Judiciary	<b><i>Ratified R127 on 5/13/26. Awaiting Governor's Action.</i></b>

<a href="#">S.297</a>	Senator Turner	Employer and Employee Contribution Rates Under SCRS and PORS	Referred To Finance	
<a href="#">S.331</a>	Senator Adams	Infant Safe havens - Use of Newborn Safety Devices and Other Purposes	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	
<a href="#">S.346</a>	Senator Alexander	Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter and Health Professionals	Referred to Judiciary	Heard By Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 → <b>Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on the Senate Calendar</b>
<a href="#">S.422</a>	Senators Ott and Gambrell	State Board of Pyrotechnic Safety Reconfiguration	Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry	Heard By Senate LCI Subcommittee April 16 → <b>Bill was Removed from the Agenda</b>
<a href="#">S699</a>	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	
<a href="#">S704</a>	Senator Rice	Emergency Scene Management to Revise the Responsibilities of Drivers Approaching Emergency Vehicle's	Referred To Transportation	

<a href="#">S.768</a>	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 →
<a href="#">S. 850</a>	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	
<a href="#">S.868</a>	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	<b><i>Signed by the Governor 5/15/26</i></b>
<a href="#">S.883</a>	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	<b><i>House Insisted Upon Amendment And Conference Committee Appointed Reps. Caskey, W Newton, Rutherford. Senate Has Not Appointed Conferees.</i></b>

<a href="#">S.890</a>	Senators Kennedy and Leber	<p>Small Business Property Tax Relief:</p> <p>Section <a href="#">12-37-221</a>. (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	
<a href="#">S. 939</a>	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	
<a href="#">S.956</a>	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	
<a href="#">S.1074</a>	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.

<a href="#">S. 1076</a>	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.
<a href="#">S. 1078</a>	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.

### Regulations

<u>Documents</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
<a href="#">Document 5424</a> (LLR)	<b>International Building Code</b>	<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 &amp; 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>
<a href="#">Document 5426</a> (LLR)	<b>International Fire Code</b>	Heard by House Regulations, Admin. Procedures, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00AM - Passed out favorably

		<p>Heard by the Regulatory &amp; 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>
<a href="#">Document 5417</a> (LLR)	<b>International Residential Code</b>	<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 &amp; 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 South Carolina House of Representatives and the South Carolina Senate.

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

**SC State Firefighters’ Association FY26-27 Budget Request**

**SUMMARY of FUNDING and PROVISOS**

- **SCFAST** - 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.
- The Firefighter **Cancer Benefit Plan** was fully funded \$1.181 million recurring in the Senate version.
- SCSFA - Received \$1 million nonrecurring for the **South Carolina Fire Heritage Center and Museum** in the House version.
- **Provisos of Interest:**
  - 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.

### **Other Provisos of Interest**

- **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.**

## **PROVISOS OF INTEREST**

**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. This system must connect various emergency service technologies to enable real-time coordination among local and state law enforcement and first responders, integrate with existing 911 infrastructure, and include initial training for school personnel and resource officers. Districts must also use the state's school mapping data program, which must be accessible to any qualified vendor. The education department, in consultation with state law enforcement agencies, must identify and publish a list of approved vendors by the end of the fiscal year. Districts or schools that already have a compliant mobile panic alert system are exempt from these requirements.*

**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.*

**108.18. (PEBA: Retired Member of PORS)** *A retired Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) member who has been out of service for at least **90 consecutive days** may return to a PORS-covered job. They can earn **up to \$80,000 per year** without reducing their monthly PORS retirement benefit. However, if the officer retired from a **supervisory rank**, they are **not allowed to return to a supervisory position**. Any time worked after returning does **not** add new service.*

**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. 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.*

**117.199. (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. This is only permitted when a designated emergency department leader determines that all standard treatment spaces have been exhausted and that patient safety would be at risk without using these additional areas, and this determination must be documented within seven days using a Department of Public Health form. Hospitals are required to record key details about each emergency, maintain these records, and submit them at least quarterly to the Department of Public Health. They must also remove beds from these areas once the emergency ends, ensure that hallways and exits remain clear and do not obstruct fire safety systems, and develop written protocols that staff are trained to follow. The Department of Public Health oversees compliance and enforcement. A “justified emergency” includes events such as disasters, disease outbreaks, mass casualty incidents, or situations where emergency department capacity is overwhelmed.*

**117.200. (GP: First Responder Interoperability) 117.200. (GP: First Responder Interoperability)** *The original proviso directs SLED to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to enhance public safety radio communications. Appropriated funds 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. The Senate amended the proviso to require SLED to consult with the Department of Administration, the Department of Public Safety, SCEMD, a representative from the Police Chief's Association, a representative from the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, a representative of the South Carolina State Firefighter's Association, and a representative of the South Carolina Emergency Medical Services Association to establish a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on criteria such as the jurisdictional requirements of each respective participant or association.*

**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. The proviso provides no-cost PFAS blood testing, occupational health screenings, and cancer-related diagnostic testing for active career and volunteer firefighters employed by municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire departments. It requires DPH to contract with qualified statewide medical providers meeting specified expertise, access, confidentiality, reporting, and data-tracking standards; protects individual medical results from employment-related use; clarifies that fire departments are not responsible for procuring services; and requires departments to provide reasonable paid release time for firefighter participation.