

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

Governor

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

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

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

House of Representatives

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

Senate

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

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

- Members of the bodies convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 (second Tuesday in January)
- This is the first year of a two-year session
- Legislation not enacted during the 2025 session will hold its place in the legislative process and carry over to the 2026 session
- **RULE 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	Reported Out Favorably to House Floor and Up for Second Reading
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	
H.3188	Rep. Long		Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3221	Rep. Ballentine		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3259	Rep. Pope		First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	Read for Third Time as Amended and Sent to Senate
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 (General Laws Subcommittee)	Scheduled to be Heard Tuesday, March 4, 2025 One Hour After Adjournment in Blatt Room 516
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	
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	Referred To Medical, Military, Public and	

			Supply Of Opioid Antidote Medication At All Times.	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.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	

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	Referred To Judiciary	Scheduled to be Heard Upon Adjournment Tuesday, March 4, 2025 in room 105 Gressette

			DUI Victim Impact Panels		
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	Passed the Senate and Introduced in the House and Read for First Time Referred to House Labor, Commerce and Industry
S.102	Senators Gambrell and Massey		Millage Rate Increase Limitations	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	
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	Scheduled to be heard March 6, 9:30am in room 308 Gressette
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	Referred to Judiciary	

FY25-26 Appropriations Bill

H 4025	Ways and Means Committee		<p>Members of the House Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19 to debate and pass their version of the FY2025-26 state budget</p> <p>H4025 - Ways and Means FY25-26 Appropriations Bill Summary Control Document (spreadsheet)</p> <p>Ways and Means Proviso Summary</p>	<p>Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025</p> <p>The budget will be debated on the House floor the week of March 11, 2025.</p>	
H4026	Ways and Means Committee		<p>Members of the House Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19 to debate and pass the Capital Reserve Fund.</p>	<p>Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025</p> <p>The Capital Reserve Fund will be debated on the House floor the week of March 11, 2025.</p>	