

**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 following documents include Governor McMaster's budget recommendations for FY26-27:

[Governor's Executive Budget FY 26-27](#) (Detailed) [Governor's Executive Budget FY 26-27](#) (Presentation)

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:

Enrolled & Ratified	Floor	Passed One Body & Sent to the Other	In Committee	Introduced Legislation
---------------------	-------	-------------------------------------	--------------	------------------------

RED TEXT Indicates the Most Recent Action on the Bill

House Legislation

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>	<u>Status</u>
H.3276	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 → <i>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</i>
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.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 → <i>The Bill was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Judiciary</i>
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 → <i>The Bill, as Amended, was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Education</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.	This bill as amended changes SC individual income tax structure beginning in tax year 2026. 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. The bill also provides that the tax rate will be reduced annually beginning in tax year 2027 until the tax is eliminated if projected individual income tax revenue, less amounts credited to the Trust Fund for Tax Relief, is projected to grow by at least 5 percent in the following fiscal year.	Referred to Ways and Means	Heard by Senate Finance Committee Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 at 3PM → <i>Committee Reported Favorable with Amendment on the Bill and Placed on Senate Calendar</i>
H.4249	Rep. Erickson	Relating To The Definitions Of Emergency Scene Management, So As To Make Technical Changes, Provide Drivers Shall Ensure Their Vehicles Are Kept Under Control When Approaching Or Passing Other Motor Vehicles Stopped On Or Near The Right Of Way Of Streets Or Highways, To Provide Persons Driving Vehicles Approaching Other Stationary Vehicles Displaying Flashing Hazard Lights Shall Reduce Their Speed, Yield The Right Of Way, And Maintain Safe Speeds When Changing Lanes Is Unsafe, And To Provide Penalties.	Referred to Education and Public Works	Passed by the House, Sent to the Senate, Introduced and Read for the First Time in the Senate → <i>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 → Referred to Senate Finance
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 → The Bill was Discussed but Not Voted on Due to Time Constraints.
H.3188	Rep. Long	Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	Heard in a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on March 26 → Adjourned Debate
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.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	Referred To Judiciary	Scheduled to be Heard Wednesday, January 28, 2026 by House a Judiciary

		Allowable Age to “Up to One Year Old”, Expanding the Current Safe Haven Protections		<i>Subcommittee. Bill was not discussed due to time constraints.</i>
<u>H.3093</u>	Rep. Moss	Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>H.3124</u>	Reps. Pope et. al.	Create Penalties for Intentional or Unintentional Exposure to Fentanyl of First Responders	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>H.3126</u>	Rep. Pope	Creation of the South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>H.3221</u>	Rep. Ballentine	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<u>H.3261</u>	Reps. Pope and Gilliam	Workers’ Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<u>H.3281</u>	Reps. McCravy et. al.	Fallen First Responders Advocate Position	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>H.3284</u>	Rep. Long	Include Tow Truck Operators as Emergency Scene Management Personnel	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>H.3289</u>	Rep. J.L. Johnson	Include 911 Operators as “First Responders”	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
<u>H.3378</u>	Rep. Burns et al.	Exempt All Property from Taxation and Provide Dollar-for-Dollar Reimbursement to Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
<u>H.3392</u>	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	
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.	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 Relating To Property Tax Exemptions, So As To Include The Surviving Spouses Of County And Municipal Public Works Employees Killed While Deployed In Emergencies 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	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.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	
H.4399	Reps. Holman et. al.	First Responder Wellness Exams: Adding Section 23-9-200 So As To Provide The State Fire Marshal Shall Require All Firefighters Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; By Amending Section 44-61-80 , Relating To Emergency Medical Technician Certificates, So As To Require Emergency Medical Technicians Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; And By Adding Section 23-23-57 So As To Provide All Law Enforcement Officers Must Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations.	Referred to Judiciary	
H.4458	Rep. Pace	Amending Section 12-6-510 , Relating To The Individual Income Tax, So As To Reduce The Top Marginal Rate To Five Percent.	Referred to Ways and Means	

H.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	
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.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.	<p>Exempt Certain Firefighting Equipment Purchased by Volunteer Fire Departments from Sales Tax. Types of Equipment Exempt: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p> <p>Turnout Gear Fire Suppression Tools, Fire Hoses, Apparatus Equipment (Gear Carried on Trucks)</p> <p>Medical & Rescue Equipment, Communications & Safety Systems</p> <p>Station & Training Equipment</p>	Referred to Ways and Means	
H4763	Reps. Oremus, W. Newton, et. al.	Creates a New Criminal Offense Aimed at Protecting First Responders and Emergency Medical Care Providers from Interference, Harassment, or Obstruction While They Are Performing Their Duties.	Referred to Judiciary	
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	Referred to Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs	

		Substances And To Provide Health And Cancer Screenings, All At No Charge, To Firefighters; And For Other Purposes.		
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	

Senate Legislation

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>	<u>Status</u>
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>

<u>S.121</u>	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 and Referred to House Judiciary
<u>S.170</u>	Senator Hembree et.al.	Smoke Evacuation System	Referred To Medical Affairs	Passed the Senate and Sent to the House → Referred to the House Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
<u>S.52</u>	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	Debated on Senate Floor Thursday, January 28th, 2026 → The Bill Continues to be Debated on the Senate Floor
<u>S.346</u>	Senator Alexander	Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter and Health Professionals	Referred to Judiciary	Heard By Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 → Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on the Senate Calendar
<u>S.768</u>	Senators Peeler et al.	Increase The Exemption To One Hundred Thousand Dollars And To Reduce The Age Eligibility To Sixty; By Amending Section 12-37-266, Relating To The Homestead Exemption, So As To Make A Conforming Change; By Amending Section 12-37-280, Relating To The Homestead Exemption, So As To Make A Conforming Change; By Amending Section 12-37-290, Relating To The Homestead Exemption, So As To Make A Conforming Change; By Amending Section 12-37-220, Relating To General Exemption From Taxes, So As To Make A Conforming Change; By Amending Section 11-11-150, Relating To Deductions For The Trust Fund For Tax Relief, So As To Make A Conforming Change; And By	Referred to Finance	Scheduled to be Heard Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 at 3PM by Senate Finance → Placed on the Calendar

		Repealing Section 12-37-245 Relating To The Homestead Exemption.		
<u>S.422</u>	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 → Bill was Removed from the Agenda
<u>S.60</u>	Senator Bennett and Blackmon	Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Finance	
<u>S.64</u>	Senator Hembree	Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Finance	
<u>S.107</u>	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	
<u>S.119</u>	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	
<u>S.144</u>	Senator Devine	Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption	Referred To Medical Affairs	
<u>S.175</u>	Senator Zell	Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement	Referred To Judiciary	
<u>S.211</u>	Senators Massey and Zell	Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters	Referred to Finance	
<u>S.297</u>	Senator Turner	Employer and Employee Contribution Rates Under SCRS and PORS	Referred To Finance	

<u>S.331</u>	Senator Adams	Infant Safe havens - Use of Newborn Safety Devices and Other Purposes	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	
<u>S699</u>	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	
<u>S704</u>	Senator Rice	Emergency Scene Management to Revise the Responsibilities of Drivers Approaching Emergency Vehicle's	Referred To Transportation	
<u>S. 808</u>	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	Referred To Judiciary	

		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.		
<u>S. 850</u>	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	

Budget FY25-26

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>H 4025</u>	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: <u>2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - House of Representatives and Senate</u>	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	Passed the General Assembly 5/28/25 Governor vetoed certain items 6/3/25 → <i>Those items not vetoed Effective Date July 1, 2025</i>
<u>H4026</u>	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: <u>FY 2025-2026 South Carolina Capital Reserve Fund- House and Senate</u>	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	<i>Passed by the Senate as Amended and Returned to the House → House Concurred in Senate Amendments and Ratified 5/8/2025. Signed by the Governor 5/12/25</i>

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.

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). **Executive Director Helms testified in the House Transportation and Regulatory Budget Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.**

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.

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.