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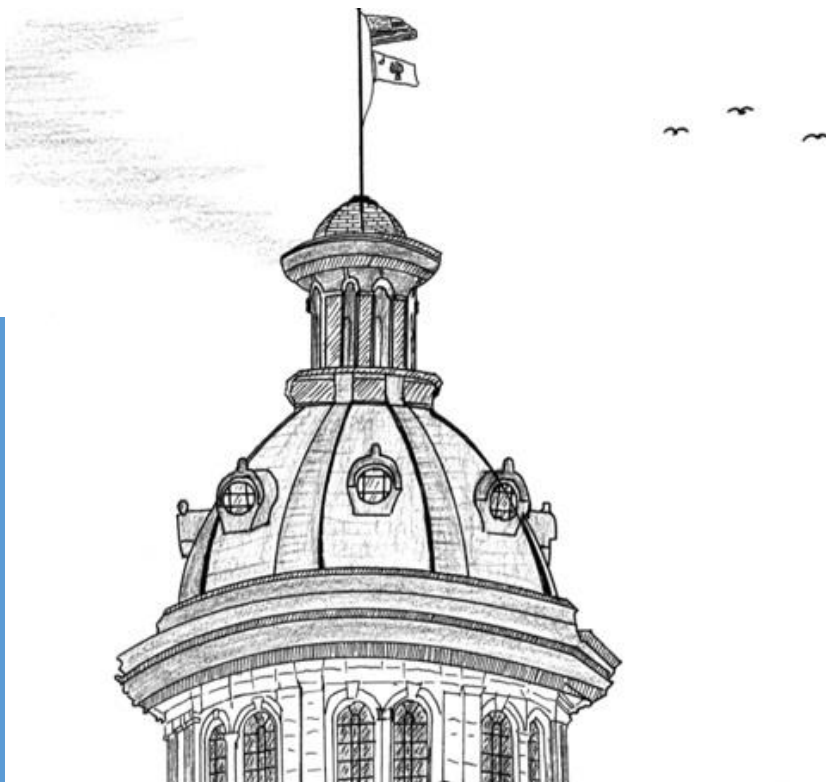


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This week in the Senate

April 11 - April 15, 2016

The Senate continued its discussion this week on a package of bills related to Ethics Reform.

H. 3186, was set for special order on Tuesday and received second reading on Wednesday. This bill aims to make potential conflicts of interest more transparent by requiring officials and candidates to disclose the sources of their private income. Debate on the bill is expected to continue next week.

Deliberations also moved forward on H. 3184, which would make several reforms to the state's ethics laws, including changing the structure of the State Ethics Commission. The legislation also calls for independent investigations of ethics complaints made against legislators and other public officials.

Bills passed by the Senate this week include:

[S. 267](#), shortens the legislative session by changing the date for adjournment from the first Thursday in June to the first Thursday in May. This bill is sponsored by Senators Tom Young, Chip Campsen, Greg Hembree, Sean Bennett, Ross Turner,

Paul Thurmond, Tom Davis, Lee Bright, Kevin Bryant, Larry Martin, Shane Martin, Wes Hayes, Paul Campbell and Larry Grooms.

[S. 689](#), sponsored by Senators Greg Hembree and Thomas McElveen, prohibits drivers with a beginner's permit from operating a motorcycle or motor scooter at any unpermitted time unless they are supervised by a licensed motorcycle or motor scooter operator.

[S. 1166](#), restructures South Carolina State University's debt repayment obligations to the state. It also reduces the school's principal and interest payments to the state if the university ends each fiscal year without an operating budget deficit.

[S. 315](#), sponsored by Senators Larry Grooms and Chip Campsen, extends the governor's authority to appoint the Secretary of Transportation until further action by the General Assembly is taken. This repeals the sunset provision that was included in Act 114, which contained a broad range of reforms that transformed the operations of DOT. Absent the passage of this resolution or a broader reform to the governing structure of the DOT, the power to appoint the secretary will revert back to the DOT Commission on July 1.

[S. 1073](#), sponsored by Senators Nikki Setzler and Thomas Alexander, which brings South Carolina law in-line with recently passed federal legislation related to the Internal Revenue Code.

[S. 1075](#), sponsored by Senators Paul Campbell, Wes Hayes and Larry Grooms, which exempts - for up to 30 percent - the difference in cost between a diesel and a compressed gas/liquified gas fueled truck from property tax.

[S. 1125](#), sponsored by Senator Glenn Reese, which deletes a provision in state law related to the Textiles Communities Revitalization Income Tax Credit that limits the credit to 50 percent of certain liability.

[S. 1136](#), sponsored by Senators Gerald Malloy and Chip Campsen, which proposes a S.C. Constitutional amendment changing the age of juveniles, for purposes of imprisonment, from under age 17 to under age 18 in order to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.

[S. 1064](#), sponsored by Senators Tom Young and Luke Rankin, which requires workers' compensation insurers to use the most recent loss cost within 120 days of approval, or the most recently approved loss cost, when it submits its loss cost multiplier, when filing for approval of new rates. This bill would result in more accurate rates, but not necessarily lower rates.

[S. 1178](#), amends regulations governing the conduct and activities of visitors to Wildlife Management Areas, Heritage Preserves and other lands owned or leased by the Department of Natural Resources.

[S. 1179](#), approves regulation related to turkey hunting rules and seasons in order to set seasons, bag limits and methods of hunting and taking wildlife on Wildlife Management Areas and provides additional turkey hunting opportunity on new properties within the program.

[S. 1028](#), sponsored by Senator Danny Verdin, creating a program within the Department of Agriculture to integrate veterans into the field of agriculture and support veterans currently working in agriculture.

[H. 3706](#), authorizes organizations, businesses and other institutions to keep supplies of EpiPens in order to administer medication to those who are experiencing severe allergic reactions.

[H. 4141](#), allows travel retailers to offer and disseminate travel insurance coverage related to problems such as interruption or cancellation of trips, damages to accommodations or rental vehicles, loss of baggage or personal effects, and sickness, accident, disability, or death occurring during travel.

[H. 4662](#), reauthorizes South Carolina's participation in the Interstate Insurance Compact, a state-based regulatory mechanism that the state joined in 2009.

[H. 4328](#), changes the due date of the fourth quarter income tax withholding return. It also changes the due date for W-2 forms and the annual withholding recapitulation and reconciliation report. These proposed date changes correspond with current federal due date requirements.

[H. 4712](#), designates off-premises billboards as personal property and taxes the billboard's site at the value that existed before the construction or existence of the billboard.

[H. 3768](#), establishes the South Carolina ABLE Savings Program and authorizes the establishment of savings accounts for individuals with disabilities, which can be used to provide for disability-related expenses that supplement private insurance, Medicaid assistance and other sources.

Look ahead to next week and beyond:

The House sent an amended version of H. 3579 - commonly called the Roads Bill - back to the Senate on Wednesday. The bill is expected to head to a conference committee after a vote in the Senate where House and Senate leaders will attempt to hammer out a final compromise.

The Senate Finance Committee will meet again on Tuesday as full committee budget deliberations continue. The Committee finalized budget provisions last week with a larger scale debate expected to occur this week.

The Farm Aid Bill, H. 4717, which provides \$40 million to farmers who can verify agricultural losses after last October's flooding, is up for second reading in the Senate.