**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**(Statewide Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

 The Senate assembled at 12:15 P.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

 A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

Jeremiah 32:9

 We read that Jeremiah said: “And I bought a field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.”

 Pray with me, please: In a world that once seemed hopeless, by Your grace, O God, Jeremiah was led to make an investment in the future. We pray that, in a similar manner, Lord, each Senator and every staff member in this place will also hold fast to hope here during these challenging days we are living through. With the unsettled political scene worldwide, the wildly shifting financial markets, the current divisiveness that plagues our land, we pray fervently, Lord, that by Your mercy and Your care, each of these servants will also remain hopeful. And as these leaders trust in Your guidance, may they bring ever greater blessings and hope to the people of South Carolina. So we pray in Your loving name, dear Lord. Amen.

 The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

**Doctor of the Day**

 Senator CAMPSEN introduced Dr. John Corless of Charleston, S.C., Doctor of the Day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, at 5:43 P.M., Senator ALLEN was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, at 5:46 P.M., Senator MALLOY was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED**

The following co-sponsors were added to the respective Bills:

S. 712 Sen. Garrett

S. 1077 Sen. Loftis

S. 1103 Sens. Cromer, Grooms, Alexander and Gambrell

**CO-SPONSOR REMOVED**

 The following co-sponsor was removed from the respective Bill:

S. 712 Sen. Kimbrell

**RATIFICATION OF ACTS**

 Pursuant to an invitation the Honorable Speaker and House of Representatives appeared in the Senate Chamber on March 9, 2022, at 12:20 and the following Acts were ratified:

 (R125, S. 430) -- Senator Alexander: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43‑25‑10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR.

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 (R126, S. 508) -- Senators Shealy, Hutto and Gustafson: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 44‑78‑15, 44‑78‑20, 44‑78‑30, 44‑78‑45, 44‑78‑50, AND 44‑78‑60, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, ALL RELATING TO DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, SO AS TO ALLOW A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MEDICALLY ELIGIBLE CHILD TO REQUEST AND REVOKE A DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE CHILD, WITH EXCEPTIONS, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 (R127, S. 862) -- Senators Hutto and Matthews: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF ACT 184 OF 2020, RELATING TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DISTRICT RECEIVES FUNDS, AND TO VEST THE DISTRICT WITH TOTAL FISCAL AUTONOMY IN 2025.

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 (R128, S. 912) -- Senator Stephens: AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 593 OF 1992, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE LIMIT ON CASH RESERVES THAT MAY BE MAINTAINED BY DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS 2 AND 4, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE LIMIT ON CASH RESERVES DOES NOT APPLY TO DORCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 IN FISCAL YEAR 2021‑2022.

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 (R129, H. 3211) -- Reps. Bernstein, Collins and Kimmons: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63‑1‑50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE JOINT CITIZENS AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, SO AS TO ADD ADDITIONAL EX OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND TO REPEAL THE COMMITTEE’S SUNSET PROVISION.

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 (R130, H. 3308) -- Reps. Huggins, Hill, Forrest, Caskey and Hixon: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 50‑21‑10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO DEFINE “WAKE SURF”; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑21‑870, RELATING TO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY, SO AS TO INCREASE DISTANCE LIMITS BETWEEN A WATERCRAFT OPERATING IN EXCESS OF IDLE SPEED UPON CERTAIN WATERS OF THIS STATE AND A WHARF, DOCK, BULKHEAD, OR PIER.

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 (R131, H. 4495) -- Reps. B. Newton, McGarry and Yow: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 7‑7‑350, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF VOTING PRECINCTS IN LANCASTER COUNTY, SO AS TO REVISE THE NAMES OF SIX PRECINCTS, AND TO UPDATE THE MAP NUMBER ON WHICH THE NAMES OF THESE PRECINCTS MAY BE FOUND AND MAINTAINED BY THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

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 (R132, H. 4800) -- Reps. McGarry and Crawford: AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 777 OF 1988, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES IN PARTISAN INSTEAD OF NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS BEGINNING IN 2024 AND FOR THE NOMINATION, TERMS, AND ELECTION PROCEDURES OF CANDIDATES FOR THESE OFFICES.

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**Committee to Escort**

 The PRESIDENT appointed Senators McELVEEN, DAVIS, K. JOHNSON, GUSTAFSON and CORBIN and Representatives R. Williams, T. Moore, B. Cox and Hosey to escort the Honorable Paul Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion, and members of his party to the House of Representatives for the Joint Assembly.

**RECESS**

 At 12:25 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate receded from business for the purpose of attending the Joint Assembly.

**Address by the National Commander of The American Legion**

 The PRESIDENT of the Senate announced that it had convened under the terms of a Concurrent Resolution adopted by both Houses, S. 1101.

 S. 1101 -- Senator Alexander: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, PAUL E. DILLARD, TO SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO INVITE HIM TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022.

 The Honorable Paul Dillard and members of his party were escorted to the rostrum by Senators McELVEEN, DAVIS, K. JOHNSON, GUSTAFSON and CORBIN and Representatives R. Williams, T. Moore, B. Cox and Hosey. The PRESIDENT of the Senate introduced the Honorable Paul Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion.

 Commander Dillard addressed the Joint Assembly.

 Ladies, gentlemen, distinguished members of this great Body. It's truly an honor to speak to such an esteemed audience in this historic State House. Before I begin, please allow me a moment to introduce members of The American Legion Family who are with me today. We have with us the Commander of the South Carolina American Legion, Ron Price of Monetta, National Executive Committeeman, Michael D. Strauss of North Augusta, Joe Lysaught, Alternate NEC from Charleston, The Department Adjutant, Nick Diener of Columbia, The American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Carolina President, Pearl Mills of Camden, and the Sons of the American Legion South Carolina Detachment Commander, Dan Rollins of Fort Mill.

 I come before you during a time of great peril. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has wreaked havoc on the peace and stability that the European continent has largely experienced since the end of the Cold War.

 South Carolina is home to approximately 400,000 military veterans. Many of these men and women trained for possible combat against the old Soviet Union. I, myself, went to war against a Soviet-aligned Communist regime in Vietnam. The current Russian leader has strongly signaled his desire to resurrect the old Soviet Union. Without understating the seriousness of this threat, The American Legion agrees with the President's decision to not send U.S. troops into Ukraine. We do believe, however, that the international community must use every diplomatic and economic tool at its disposal to convince Russia to reverse course. If the Russians were to invade Poland or any other NATO country, we would be obligated to militarily defend our allies. None of us would like to see another World War.

 I'm going to share with you another crisis, and it's no less serious to us. More than 118,000 men and women who have served in our armed forces have taken their own lives since 2001. That's double the number of KIA’s that we lost during the entire Vietnam War. I'm not here to give you statistics. One is too many! But stopping these needless deaths is a top priority for The American Legion. We have put an emphasis on "peer support" through a program that we call Buddy Checks. Veterans understand each other. We are diverse, represent all age groups and may have served in different wars. But we understand the challenges of military life and the trauma that sometimes goes with it. We all served under the same flag and share many common experiences.

 Our Buddy Checks have captured the attention of Congress, the VA, and the entire veterans’ community. We'd love to have every veteran join the Legion, but you don't have to be a Legionnaire to ask a fellow vet whether or not he or she is ok.

 This Legislature is to be commended for a couple of Bills that have passed in the House and are supported by The American Legion Department of South Carolina. House Bill 3598 establishes a burial compensation fund for veterans’ organizations to provide honor guards. Legionnaires consider it a true honor to bring dignity to a veteran's funeral. Though it's a labor of love, most honor guard members dig into their pockets to perform these services. The cost to the taxpayers is relatively small but it does make a difference to these veterans who take time off from their jobs and other obligations in order to give their brothers - and sisters-in-arms a proper farewell. The other Bill is
H. 3247, the Workforce and Military Recognition Act, which would eventually exempt all military pensions from state income tax. South Carolina is already what we call "veteran-friendly" but the exemption would provide yet another powerful incentive for military retirees to choose the Palmetto State as their new home once they hang up their uniforms. Most military retirees do seek second careers, which would generate additional revenue for this State.

 Last year my predecessor, Bill Oxford, was unable to address this Legislature due to pandemic restrictions, though he was able to be here in 2020. Since that time, you have confirmed retired Major General Will Grimsley to serve as the first Secretary of the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Grimsley has a distinguished Army record, which includes a Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, multiple Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. We are proud to have him as a Legionnaire and are grateful for his continued service to veterans in this State.

 There is someone else that I would like to acknowledge, though we all wish he were here in person. Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz was born and raised in Summerville, South Carolina. He attended The Citadel and eventually became an Army Ranger. In 2018, during his fifth deployment to Afghanistan, he exposed himself to enemy machine gun fire as a larger force attacked his team. He retrieved and employed a heavy weapon system and used his body as a shield while a wounded team partner was medically evacuated by helicopter. Understanding the danger faced by the helicopter, he signaled the crew to leave. Sergeant First Class Celiz died so others could live. We must not only remember this hero, but also Sergeant Celiz's wife, Katie, and their young daughter.

 Three months ago, on December 16th, President Biden presented a well deserved Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest award, posthumously to Sergeant First Class Celiz. South Carolina -- and the entire United States -- should be proud to produce heroes of this caliber. It is our duty to always remember them.

 Now, if you would allow me for one moment to call to the dais two members of this distinguished Body who have proven that they are not only great lawmakers, but they are advocates for those who have served. They have been designated by The American Legion Department of South Carolina as the Outstanding Members of the Legislature for 2022. They are true friends of veterans and The American Legion. Senator J. THOMAS McELVEEN and Representative G. Murrell Smith, would you please join me? We appreciate all that you do on behalf of veterans. Thank you so much, South Carolina Legislature. God bless you and God bless America.

 The purposes of the Joint Assembly having been accomplished, the PRESIDENT declared it adjourned, whereupon the Senate returned to its Chamber and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

 At 12:40 P.M., by prior motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate receded until 2:00 P.M.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

 The Senate reassembled at 2:00 P.M. and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

**RECALLED AND COMMITTED**

 S. 1017 -- Senators Adams and Senn: A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 20 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS, TO ENACT THE “MULTIFAMILY DWELLING SAFETY ACT” BY ADDING CHAPTER 21 TO PROVIDE NECESSARY DEFINITIONS, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION TO ADOPT A MULTIFAMILY DWELLING BALCONY CODE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR BALCONY RAILINGS THAT ARE PRIMARILY CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD AND ARE LOCATED IN MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PERIODICALLY CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF SUCH BALCONIES TO ASCERTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE, AND TO PROVIDE REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS

 On motion of Senator DAVIS, with unanimous consent, the Bill was recalled from the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry and committed to the Committee on Judiciary.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

 The following were introduced:

 S. 1138 -- Senator Cromer: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE JOHN DANIEL HARMON, SR., OF SALUDA COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDRED SECOND BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

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 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 1139 -- Senator Alexander: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE THE WESTMINSTER WARRIORS BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND THE WESTMINSTER RECREATION DEPARTMENT ON AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO HONOR THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA 2022 TEN AND UNDER BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

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 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 1140 -- Senator Sabb: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF MARY WHITE AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

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 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 1141 -- Senator Hutto: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY REPEALING CHAPTER 30 OF TITLE 8 RELATING TO RECORDING AND REPORTING IMMIGRATION LAW VIOLATIONS.

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 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 S. 1142 -- Senators Hutto, Williams and K. Johnson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS MANY AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF OUR CITIZENS AND TO DECLARE MARCH 23, 2022, AS "SOUTH

CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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 The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Education.

 S. 1143 -- Senator K. Johnson: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2022 AS "RARE KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, with unanimous consent, the Senate Resolution was introduced and ordered placed on the Calendar without reference.

 S. 1144 -- Senator Scott: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 70 TO TITLE 12 SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA AGRIBUSINESS, RURAL, AND OPPORTUNITY ZONE JOBS ACT", TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL AS A GROWTH FUND, TO PROVIDE FOR CRITERIA FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO EITHER GRANT OR DENY AN APPLICATION, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN INCOME TAX CREDITS, TO PROVIDE FOR CRITERIA FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO REVOKE A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE, TO PROVIDE THAT A GROWTH FUND MAY REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT CERTAIN WRITTEN OPINIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND ISSUE FORMS AND NOTICES, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE OF THE NAME OF ANY INSURANCE COMPANY ALLOCATED CERTAIN TAX CREDITS.

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 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 S. 1145 -- Senators Climer, Adams, Alexander, Allen, Bennett, Campsen, Cash, Corbin, Cromer, Davis, Fanning, Gambrell, Garrett, Goldfinch, Grooms, Gustafson, Harpootlian, Hembree, Hutto, Jackson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Kimpson, Loftis, Malloy, Martin, Massey, Matthews, McElveen, McLeod, Peeler, Rankin, Rice, Sabb, Scott, Senn, Setzler, Shealy, Stephens, Talley, Turner, Verdin, Williams and Young: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, AS "SUITS AND SNEAKERS DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO HONOR CANCER PATIENTS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 H. 5038 -- Reps. Bryant, Pope, B. Newton, McGarry, Felder, Long, Oremus, Blackwell, Caskey, Rutherford, Hixon, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Sandifer and Whitmire: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1, ARTICLE XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS, SO AS TO EXEMPT DEPUTY SHERIFFS FROM THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR, AND TO REMOVE ARCHAIC REFERENCES.

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 H. 5090 -- Reps. Pendarvis, Alexander, Allison, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bennett, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brawley, Brittain, Bryant, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cogswell, Collins, B. Cox, W. Cox, Crawford, Dabney, Daning, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Finlay, Forrest, Fry, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gilliam, Gilliard, Govan, Haddon, Hardee, Hart, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hill, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, K. O. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, King, Kirby, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Magnuson, Matthews, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGarry, McGinnis, McKnight, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Murphy, Murray, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, Oremus, Ott, Parks, Pope, Rivers, Robinson, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Simrill, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, M. M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Tedder, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, R. Williams, S. Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE MAY AS "LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT OF LUPUS ON MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY LUPUS WORLDWIDE AND IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS FOR FINDING THE CAUSES OF AND A CURE FOR THE DISEASE.

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

 H. 5101 -- Reps. Cobb-Hunter, Alexander, Allison, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bennett, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brawley, Brittain, Bryant, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chumley, Clyburn, Cogswell, Collins, B. Cox, W. Cox, Crawford, Dabney, Daning, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Finlay, Forrest, Fry, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gilliam, Gilliard, Govan, Haddon, Hardee, Hart, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hill, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, K. O. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, King, Kirby, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Magnuson, Matthews, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGarry, McGinnis, McKnight, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Murphy, Murray, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, Oremus, Ott, Parks, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robinson, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Simrill, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, M. M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Tedder, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, R. Williams, S. Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE APRIL 28, 2022, AS "WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN TRIBUTE TO THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 S. 1106 -- Senators Peeler and Alexander: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 36, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND AND THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND, SO AS TO INCREASE FROM FIVE TO SEVEN PERCENT IN INCREMENTS OF ONE‑HALF OF ONE PERCENT OVER FOUR FISCAL YEARS THE AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUND REVENUE IN THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR REQUIRED TO BE HELD IN THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND AND THE MANNER THE SEVEN PERCENT REQUIREMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED; AND PROPOSING ANOTHER AMENDMENT TO SECTION 36, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE, RELATING TO THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND AND THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND, SO AS TO INCREASE FROM TWO TO THREE PERCENT THE AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUND REVENUE IN THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR REQUIRED TO BE HELD IN THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE FIRST USE OF THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND MUST BE TO OFFSET MIDYEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator PEELER from the Committee on Finance submitted a favorable with amendment report on:

 H. 3346 -- Reps. W. Cox, White, Fry, Haddon, Long, Forrest, G.M. Smith, Caskey, Gagnon, Hyde, West, Thayer, Ligon, Daning, Erickson, Bradley, Weeks, B. Newton, McGarry, Carter, Calhoon and Hixon: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 11‑11‑310, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATUTORY GENERAL RESERVE FUND, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND OF FIVE PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR MUST BE INCREASED EACH YEAR BY ONE‑HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR UNTIL IT EQUALS SEVEN PERCENT OF SUCH REVENUES; TO AMEND SECTION 11‑11‑320, RELATING TO THE STATUTORY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND OF TWO PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR, SO AS TO INCREASE IT TO THREE PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE ABOVE PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT UPON RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 36, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE PROVIDING FOR THE ABOVE.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

 Senator HEMBREE from the Committee on Education submitted a favorable report on:

H. 4944 -- Rep. McGinnis: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59‑136‑140, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO MEETINGS OF THE COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SO AS TO PROVIDE MANDATORY NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS MUST BE SENT EITHER ELECTRONICALLY OR THROUGH THE UNITED STATES MAIL TO EACH TRUSTEE NOT LESS THAN FIVE DAYS BEFORE EACH MEETING.

 Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

**Appointment Reported**

 Senator HEMBREE from the Committee on Education submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointment**

Initial Appointment, Governor’s School of Agriculture at John de la Howe School Board of Trustees, with the term to commence April 1, 2018, and to expire April 1, 2023

At-Large:

Yvonne C. Knight Carter, 1349 Old Cherry Hill Road, Monks Corner, SC 29461-4571 *VICE* Melissa A. Tilden

Received as information.

**Appointments Reported**

Senator SHEALY from the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with term coterminous with Governor

At-Large:

Nancy B. Dunn, 116 Wizard Way, Inman, SC 29349-7098 *VICE* John D. Wilcox, Jr.

Received as information.

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with term coterminous with Governor

At-Large:

Nikki Wooten, 465 Endenhall Dr., Columbia, SC 29229 *VICE* Bevin G. Studstill

Received as information.

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with term coterminous with Governor

At-Large:

David E. Finley, 419 Woodfield Dr., Piedmont, SC 29673-8373

Received as information.

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with term coterminous with Governor

At-Large:

Stephen L. Jones, DHA, 6815 Back Bay Drive, Isle of Palms, SC 29451-2837

Received as information.

Initial Appointment, Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, with term coterminous with Governor

At-Large:

Shawn T. Pinkston, 184 Scott Street, Charleston, SC 29492-7539 *VICE* Valerie A. Brunson

Received as information.

**Message from the House**

Columbia, S.C., March 9, 2022

Mr. President and Senators:

 The House respectfully informs your Honorable Body that it concurs in the amendments proposed by the Senate to:

 H. 3821 -- Reps. W. Newton and Herbkersman: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 TO CHAPTER 5, TITLE 63 SO AS TO ENACT THE “SOUTH CAROLINA UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT”; TO PROVIDE FOR THE UNIFORM MANNER IN WHICH AND PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS UNDER WHICH TRANSFERS OF CUSTODIAL PROPERTY MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF A MINOR; AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE 5 OF CHAPTER 5, TITLE 63 RELATING TO THE “SOUTH CAROLINA UNIFORM GIFTS TO MINORS ACT”.

and has ordered the Bill enrolled for Ratification.

Very respectfully,

Speaker of the House

 Received as information.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO THE INTERRUPTED DEBATE.**

**AMENDED, READ THE SECOND TIME**

 H. 3205 -- Reps. Taylor, Lucas, Pope, Elliott, Allison, Hiott, Fry, J.E. Johnson, Jordan, Caskey, B. Newton, Bryant, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, Willis, Huggins, Blackwell, Erickson, Forrest, Hixon, Herbkersman, Thayer, Wooten, Morgan, Daning, Hardee, B. Cox, Bannister, Hewitt, Felder, Stringer, Davis, Calhoon, Oremus, Bennett, Gilliam, West, Haddon, Trantham, Lowe, McGarry, M.M. Smith, Bustos, V.S. Moss, W. Newton, May, Martin, Brittain, McGinnis, Bradley, Ballentine, Dabney, Carter, T. Moore and Kimmons: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION LIMITED TO PROPOSING AMENDMENTS THAT IMPOSE FISCAL RESTRAINTS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LIMIT THE POWER AND JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND LIMIT THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ITS OFFICIALS AND FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN RESERVATIONS, UNDERSTANDINGS, AND DECLARATIONS LIMITING THE APPLICATION; AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SELECTION CRITERIA FOR COMMISSIONERS AS WELL AS LIMITATIONS UPON THEIR AUTHORITY.

 The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Resolution, the question being the second reading of the Resolution.

**Amendment No. 1**

 Senators HUTTO and SABB proposed the following amendment (3205AMEND10), which was carried over:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 and inserting the following:

 / SECTION 1. The General Assembly of South Carolina, by this joint resolution, hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress, and impose a penalty for specific crimes committed against a victim who was intentionally selected by an offender because of the offender’s belief or perception regarding the victim’s race, color, sex, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, regardless of whether the offender’s belief or perception is correct. /

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator HARPOOTLIAN spoke on the amendment.

 Senator HUTTO spoke on the amendment.

 **RECESS**

 At 4:55 P.M., on motion of Senator SETZLER, with Senator HUTTO retaining the floor, the Senate receded from business not to exceed 5 minutes.

 At 5:11 P.M., the Senate resumed.

 Senator HUTTO asked unanimous consent to carry over Amendment No. 1 and proceed to Amendment No. 7.

**Amendment No. 7**

 Senator CAMPSEN proposed the following amendment (JUD3205.005), which was adopted:

 Amend the joint resolution, as and if amended, page 2, by striking lines 5 and 6 and inserting therein the following:

 / Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina: /

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator CAMPSEN explained the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

 Senator HUTTO asked unanimous consent to return to Amendment No. 1

**Amendment No. 1**

 Senators HUTTO and SABB proposed the following amendment (3205AMEND10), which was withdrawn:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 and inserting the following:

 / SECTION 1. The General Assembly of South Carolina, by this joint resolution, hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress, and impose a penalty for specific crimes committed against a victim who was intentionally selected by an offender because of the offender’s belief or perception regarding the victim’s race, color, sex, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, regardless of whether the offender’s belief or perception is correct. /

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator SABB spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator SABB**

 Thank you, I really was looking forward to having a serious debate on this issue. I believe it is an issue of importance. I think that a close examination of the legislation suggests it is a bridge too far and to not feel free to have that intellectual exchange is a classic example of how we should not do things but I have agreed not to address all matters of concern in the interest of time.

 Years ago, when I served in the House of Representatives, I did not have a practice of watching the Senate debate but for whatever reason I found myself watching the debate where a young senator had a concern -- so that young senator took to the well or the podium. As I examined those comments, because it came back to me as part of this debate when we were talking about the American Experiment of Democracy and how it was an experiment and then we likened it to the Constitution of States; and how it would in effect be an experiment -- I thought about the comments of the young senator who felt the Senate was engaging in an experiment because for the first time in its history one individual would have what the senator classified as being too much power; and too much power concentrated in one place could have an adverse impact on this institution. Therefore, when I looked back on those remarks I said to myself, I likened it to an experiment because it could have had significant impact. I say that because much of what we have talked about has been a discussion about power, authority, and where it belongs, and how it ought to be used and what kind of controls are there on it.

 Here we are talking about the Constitution of the United States of America. The Constitution of the United States of America, the document that when I was in law school, Professor Winston Nagan and Professor Fletcher Baldwin traveled to various countries counting our Constitution as a basis upon which they ought build their own. That sacred document is what we are talking about ultimately. The document that allows us as Americans to declare our place in the world as members of the greatest Nation on the planet when we consider altering it a very limited time. I submit there is something fundamentally wrong with that thought process y'all. I do not know of a matter in my mind of greater importance. I know some of us suggest that it will not happen. That we are doing it as a threat and so something is going to happen in the not too distant future, where what we do today will never come into its -- well that the convention let me say it that way -- that the convention would not take place.

 I want to mention a couple factual things and mention a couple philosophical things and then I will sit down. What is curious to me is that when you look at the states that this attempt is really being made in. Those states, 34 of them, of what I am looking at suggest would have 31.28% of the population. Thirty-four states agreeing to a constitutional convention could have less than a third of the people in the United States of America deciding that is what they want to do -- less than a third. Than half of that, less than a third can decide about the convention of states. You got 16% of Americans deciding what our Constitution ought to look like. If it does not happen then it does not happen, but if it does happen mathematically in my mind does not make sense. I am indebted to Senator Campsen who suffered, I mean that in a kind way, suffered my questions in order that at least some of what I wanted to talk about could be aired in these chambers because as far as I am concerned time no longer permits. I would be remiss if I did not talk about feelings that are invoked with this process. In my church, we sing a song about bearing our burdens in the heat of the day but know that the Lord will make a way. For a person like RONNIE SABB, when we start talking constitutionally that is where it takes me, you all. It takes me back to the beginning when every man wasn’t considered a man constitutionally and from whence we've come; yet realizing we've got a long way to go. I stand here in these hallowed chambers I am more convinced than ever that we are but a few laws away from going back to where we were. You think about it, what is happening in America right now with voting rights being stripped, and voting is becoming more difficult. There is a movement in America to go backwards, now whether we all want to admit it or not it is happening under our noses. When you think about timing and the time to do this in my humble opinion, it could not be worse. I think about voting and the signal that South Carolina sends to the rest of the United States of America when we refuse to even debate the Hate Crime Bill. We won't even allow it to come to the floor and have a conversation about it and forty-eight other states have it in place, why? What does the world think? That we do not care if hate crime happens in South Carolina, that is the natural conclusion folks would reach. South Carolina is a significant State for many reasons not just because it is my home State it is a significant State. The impact we can have on the United States of America -- I submit it is a profound one. Our history gives us unique opportunities to show everybody who we are and whose we are. I think every time we miss on those opportunities we fall short of that which we have been powered to do.

 Two points on the convention of states, and then I am going to leave it alone. So much to talk about and so many real issues that I would hope that some would take under consideration. My understanding is that there is an unwillingness to do that. I accept that from reliable sources whom I trust. The conclusion would be that it would be futile to engage, and so I will again, I simply accept that. As I listen to scholarly conversation rounding enforcement of what a delegate would be required to do, three things come to mind and a couple were brought out in the scholarly conversation. One was the question as to whether or not, because persons are preforming a federal duty, whether the State is allowed to criminalize their conduct. I wish I knew the answer to that question. This is a significant legal question if the desire of the Body is to have some teeth in the directives given to individuals. It is significant.

 The other question I wonder about and I do not know the answer to is do the other states have similar enforcement laws? If they do not then they do not even have the opportunity to control that individual. I just wonder that from an academic standpoint. I leave you with this -- there is nothing profound about it. I believe that the Senate that I know and have come to respect is worth preserving. If we are to become a non-deliberative Body, I think that this moment requires us to search ourselves. To ask ourselves the question why did we come here, knowing it is a deliberative Body. Why did we come without the patience necessary to give those of us, who have legitimate points, that want to share with this Body, an opportunity to do that.

 I'm appreciative for the dinner conversations that I had last night with some of my colleagues. I know the deep love I think that many of us have for each other as individuals, each as Senators. I firmly believe if we allow the roots of the Senate to take hold, we can preserve this Body. I read somewhere that power corrupts absolutely. When I say corrupt, I don't mean corrupt in an evil sense. I mean corrupt from the standpoint of a disregard for minority party, which I likened to a disregard for those less fortunate. When folks are in the minority party, I think they are less fortunate. I would urge serious consideration to what I believe is a significant moment in time. I leave with this point, if we can't debate the Constitution of the United States of America, what can we debate? Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator SABB, were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator HUTTO, with unanimous consent, Amendment No. 1 was withdrawn.

**Amendment No. 6**

 Senator KIMPSON proposed the following amendment (3205AMEND1), which was tabled:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 and inserting the following:

 / SECTION 1. The General Assembly of South Carolina, by this joint resolution, hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress, and provide for reparations to account for racial discrimination rooted in colonialism and slavery to remedy entrenched economic, social, and political inequalities along racial lines. /

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator KIMPSON spoke on the amendment.

 Senator MASSEY moved to lay the amendment on the table.

 The amendment was laid on the table.

 The question then was second reading of the Resolution.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 27; Nays 13**

**AYES**

Alexander Allen Bennett

Campsen Cash Climer

Cromer Davis Fanning

Gambrell Garrett Goldfinch

Grooms Gustafson Hembree

*Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell Massey

Peeler Rankin Rice

Senn Shealy Talley

Turner Verdin Young

**Total--27**

**NAYS**

Corbin Harpootlian Hutto

Jackson *Johnson, Kevin* Kimpson

Loftis McElveen McLeod

Sabb Scott Stephens

Williams

**Total--13**

 There being no further amendments, the Resolution, as amended, was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO A CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED LOCAL AND STATEWIDE CALENDAR.**

**READ THE SECOND TIME**

 H. 4269 -- Rep. Gilliam: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 7‑7‑510, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF VOTING PRECINCTS IN UNION COUNTY, SO AS TO MERGE THE MONARCH BOX 1 PRECINCT WITH THE MONARCH BOX 2 PRECINCT WITH THE RESULTING COMBINED PRECINCT TO BE KNOWN AS THE MONARCH PRECINCT, TO ELIMINATE THE EAST BUFFALO VOTING PRECINCT, AND TO UPDATE THE MAP NUMBER ON WHICH THE NAMES OF THESE PRECINCTS MAY BE FOUND AND MAINTAINED BY THE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

 The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Bill.

 The question then being second reading of the Bill.

 The Bill was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**H. 4269--Ordered to a Third Reading**

 On motion of Senator PEELER, H. 4269 was ordered to receive a third reading on Thursday, March 10, 2022.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator SENN, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Ms. Kelsie Hix of Greenville, S.C. Kelsie was a beautiful young lady who was interested in astrology, numerology and crystals. She adored her dogs Lilah and Gypsy. Kelsie was a member of Mauldin United Methodist Church. Kelsie was a loving daughter and devoted sister who will be dearly missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 At 5:49 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M.

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