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South Carolina House of Representatives

Legislative Update

Robert J. Sheheen, Speaker of the House

Vol. 8

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STATE DOCUMENTS

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House Week in Review

A number of significant bills were ratified as acts last week, including S.388, the Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991, one of the top bills of the 1991 session.

Among the legislation ratified last week were H.3711, saltwater fishing stamp legislation; S.376, the Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Act; H.3140, legislation to prohibit automatically dialed telephone announcing devices; S.190, legislation which would require state government orientation for new state Senate and House members; S.70, requiring public schools to designate a time for the Pledge of Allegiance; and S.662, authorizing a payroll deduction plan to establish retirement credit for various kinds of previous government service.

Also enrolled for ratification last week was an important environmental bill, H.3081, which would prohibit phosphorus in cleaning agents.

The House also amended a Senate resolution regarding *sine die* adjournment for the 1991 legislation session. Under S.999, the respective houses would stand adjourned on June 6 to meet on their own motion in regular statewide session for the consideration of

- gubernatorial vetoes;
- receipt and confirmation of appointments;
- appointment of conference and free conference committees;
- conference and free conference reports;
- ratification of acts;
- local matters if the affected legislation is unanimous;
- elections previously set by the General Assembly;
- matters relating to legislative or congressional reapportionment;
- H.3650, the Appropriations Bill; H.3651, the Bond Bill; and H.3967, a local Greenville County matter, and
- resolutions authorizing a time and date for *sine die* adjournment.

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Under S.999, neither house could adjourn for more than three days without the consent of the other. And upon completion of the above items, the legislature would recede until 11 a.m. July 30.

Under House amendments to S.999, both chambers would adjourn on June 6 no later than 5 p.m. to meet at the call of the chair or on its own motion in regular statewide session between June 7 and June 28 for consideration of the items enumerated in S.999. To these items, the House added provisions to allow for consideration of resolutions to set elections and resolutions to authorize an earlier date or time for *sine die* adjournment.

Further, under the House amendments, both chambers would adjourn on June 28 no later than 5 p.m. and stand adjourn until 11 a.m. July 8, when the General Assembly could continue to meet in statewide session until July 10 to consider gubernatorial vetoes only. The General Assembly would then adjourn *sine die* no later than 5 p.m. July 10, under amendments approved by the House. With these changes, the concurrent resolution was returned to the Senate for consideration.

On Friday, H.3834, House reapportionment legislation, was reported out of the Judiciary Committee favorably with amendments.

Last week, the General Assembly also agreed to meet in joint session Wednesday, May 29, to elect a new associate State Supreme Court justice and two new Circuit Court judges in the 4th and 16th Judicial Circuits.

IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

H.3743 -- Ethics and Lobbying bill

H.3650 -- State Appropriations bill

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Bills Introduced

The following bills were introduced in the House of Representatives last week. Not all the bills introduced in the House are featured here. The bill summaries are arranged according to the standing committee to which the legislation was referred.

Education and Public Works

Science Curriculum and the Origins of Life (H.4020, Rep. Fair). Under this joint resolution, the state school superintendent would inform the science teachers of the state that under U.S. Supreme Court rulings, they have the freedom and flexibility to supplement the present science curriculum with presentations of various methods of the origins of life and humankind if done with the secular intent of enhancing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of science instruction. The joint resolution directs the state superintendent to report back to the General Assembly regarding the notification of the science faculty.

Judiciary

Shoplifting Penalty (H.4016, Rep. Scott). Under current statutes, a lower penalty is authorized for the shoplifting of merchandise worth under \$50. Under this bill, this lower penalty would apply to the shoplifting of merchandise worth under \$200.

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Legislation Passed This Session

Here is a list of some of the more significant bills that either have been enrolled for ratification, ratified or signed into law.

Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (S.388, Sen. Moore). One of the top bills of the 1991 session, here are highlights of this important environmental legislation:

- Establishes a statewide reduction goal of 30 percent of the solid waste received in municipal solid waste landfills and future solid waste incinerators not later than 6 years after enactment.
- Establishes a statewide recycling goal of 25 percent of the solid waste generated not later than 6 years after enactment.
- Not more than one-half of the waste reduction goal may be achieved by removal from the solid waste stream of yard trash, construction debris, white goods, waste tires and similar waste problems.
- Sets a state goal of recycling 25 percent of the solid waste generated not later than six years after the date of enactment. Not more than 40 percent of the recycling goal could be reached by removing yard trash and construction debris from the waste stream.
- Eighteen months after the bill is enacted, DHEC would submit to the governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive state solid waste management plan. Thereafter the department would submit annual reports describing what progress is made.
- Establishes a 16-member Solid Waste Advisory Council to advise DHEC on the preparation of the state solid waste management plan and preparation of the annual reports
- Creates a 14-member Recycling Market Development Council within the State Development Board. This board would assist in identifying and developing markets for recycled materials. Fifteen months after the bill is enacted, the council would have to submit a comprehensive recycling report with annual reports required thereafter.

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- Establishes the requirement for local governments and regions (groups of counties) to submit local solid waste management plans to the governor and General Assembly. The plans must be designed to achieve the statewide goal on solid waste reduction. Local governments could establish higher goals if they wish. DHEC could also modify a statewide goal for a particular local government for good cause.
- Encourages counties to pursue and submit regional plans but they are not required to do so.
- Does not prohibit municipalities from continuing to operate existing solid waste management facilities or from providing solid waste service in their jurisdiction; however, counties have the responsibility of operating solid waste management facilities to meet the needs of both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county.
- Counties would not be held responsible for the operation, closure or post closure of any solid waste management facility privately owned and operated.
- Imposition of a \$10 per ton fee for out-of-state waste unless the other state has a higher fee. All these fees would be deposited in the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.
- Establishes a local Solid Waste Advisory Council for each county or region to advise on the preparation and implementation of a solid waste management plan.
- Requires DHEC to promulgate within one year of enactment regulations for counties and municipalities to use in calculating the full cost of the solid waste services they provide.
- Establishes within DHEC the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling within 90 days of enactment. Among the office's duties would be the receiving and disbursing of funds from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, managing the grant program, promoting private and public waste reduction, educating the public and solid waste professionals on this issue.
- Establishes the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, composed of appropriated funds, public and private contributions, \$3 million in oil overcharge funds, .44 cents of the \$2 per new tire sold fee, \$2 per new lead-acid battery fee, \$2 per white good fee and funds raised by fees imposed on motor oil and interest earned on the trust fund. The funds primarily will be used to fund DHEC operations and assisting local governments.
- Establish a Solid Waste Grant program from trust fund monies to assist local governments in carrying out the provisions of this bill.

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- All branches of state government, all state agencies, all public colleges and universities must establish source separation and recycling plans within 12 months after DHEC submits the statewide plan. Provisions also are included to encourage state agencies to purchase recycled materials.
- This bill would prohibit:
 - Beverage containers with detachable metal rings or tabs -- six months after enactment;
 - Products packed in a container or packing material manufactured with CFC's -- by Jan. 1, 1994;
 - Plastic bags for consumer purchases unless the bags are recyclable -- one year after enactment;
 - Plastic ringer carriers unless they are recyclable -- one year after enactment.
 - Polystyrene foam for products used in conjunction with food unless the packaging products are recyclable -- one year after enactment.
- Eighteen months after enactment, plastic bottle also would be prohibited unless marked with the resin type used to manufacture the bottle. Five years after enactment, if less than 25 percent of the glass, aluminum or plastic containers are being recycled, DHEC will make a report to the General Assembly and the governor.
- Twelve months after enactment, no person would be able to dispose of used oil except by delivery to a used oil collection, recycling, or recovery facility or an authorized agent for delivery to one of these facilities. The State Highway Department would establish at least one collection center in every county. An 8 cents per gallon fee would be imposed on motor oil invoiced to oil distributors on Nov. 1, 1991. These funds would be distributed to the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund's Petroleum Fund.
- Eighteen months after enactment, waste tires may only be disposed at permitted waste tire collection centers or processing facilities, or at a permitted solid waste disposal facility. A \$2 per new tire fee would be imposed; \$1.50 of this fee would go to the counties based on population to the management of waste tires, and 50 cents would go to the Trust Fund to be placed in a separate fund. Additionally, state and county solid waste management plans must include a section on waste tires.
- Twelve months after enactment, lead-acid batteries must be disposed of by returning them to a battery retailer or wholesaler, a recycling facility or a EPA-approved secondary lead smelter. Retailers of batteries must accept used batteries from their customers and battery wholesalers must accept used batteries from retailers. A \$2 per lead-acid battery sold fee would be imposed after Nov. 1, 1991, with the funds going to the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.

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- State agencies would be required to procure recycled lead acid batteries whenever practicable.
- Twelve months after enactment, DHEC would promulgate regulations on the proper disposal of yard trash. Fifteen months after enactment, it would be unlawful to send yard trash or land clearing debris to a municipal landfill, and no landfill could accept this waste unless it has a composting facility.
 - Eighteen months after enactment, DHEC would promulgate regulations regarding disposal of white goods (appliances). Three years after enactment, it would be unlawful to send white goods to a municipal landfill or for the municipal landfill to accept it. A \$2 per white good fee would be imposed after Nov. 1, 1991 with funds going to the Trust Fund.
 - Five year after enactment, DHEC would determine whether newspaper are being recycled at a rate of less than 35 percent. If the rate is less than 35 percent, DHEC would make recommendations regarding incentives and/or penalties.
 - DHEC would have the authority to issue, deny, revoke and modify permits registrations or orders for solid waste management facilities in order to protect human health and safety and the environment.
 - DHEC permits would be required to build or operate a solid waste management facility. Existing landfills must meet closure and postclosure requirements.
 - A demonstration of need provision is included in the act which prohibits the issuance of a permit for a new or expanded municipal solid waste management facility until a demonstration of need of the facility is approved by DHEC. In determining need, DHEC would consider only the solid waste generated in the jurisdictions under the county or region solid waste plan. These facilities would also comply with local zoning or land use ordinances.
 - Establishes an approval procedure for special wastes, which are wastes that are difficult or dangerous to handle.
 - The bill also sets minimum requirements for municipal solid waste landfills, solid waste incinerators, ash management, the and transfer and storage of solid waste. Fine and penalties for non-compliance would be established by DHEC.
 - Establishes a "facility issues negotiation process" to promote better citizen input into the permitting process.

Status: Ratified 5-21-91.

Saltwater Fishing Stamp (H.3711, House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee). This legislation would create the South Carolina Recreational Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1991.

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Under this legislation, both residents and nonresidents, 16-years-old or older, could not catch fish or shellfish from the tidal waters of South Carolina without possessing a marine recreational fisheries stamp. Funds from the sale of the stamp and any other promotional materials from it -- such as commemorative prints -- could be used solely for the marine recreational fisheries conservation and management purposes.

This legislation would authorize the issuance of charter fishing permits and marine public fishing pier permits. The annual fee for the marine recreational fishing stamps would be \$5.50; the public fishing pier permit, \$300; and the charter vessel permit, \$150 (six passengers or less), \$300 (7 to 49 passengers), and \$500 (more than 49 passengers).

Fishermen using a hook and line from the shore would be exempt from the stamp requirement, as would those who fish from a charter vessel with a permit or a fishing pier with a permit. Military personnel who are residents of the state and on leave are also exempt from the fishing stamp requirement.

Funding accrued from the permits would be used for development of marine fishing facilities, scientific research, protection and maintenance of marine habitat, and administrative and coastal enforcement activities. The legislation also establishes a Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Board to assist in prioritizing the appropriation of funding received from the sale of the stamps and permits.

Status: Ratified 5-21-91.

Phosphorus Cleaning Agents (H.3081, Rep. M.O. Alexander) An issue that has been before the General Assembly for the past few sessions, this bill would prohibit the use, sale or distribution of any cleaning agent that contains more than 0 percent phosphorus by weight. The exception would be products containing not more than 8.7 percent phosphorus that are use as dishwashing detergent and products excluded from the limitation by DHEC regulation because there is no adequate substitute or would create a significant hardship on the users.

Status: Enrolled for ratification 5-22-91.

Infants and Toddlers with Handicapping Conditions (S.615, Sen. Nell Smith). This legislation makes changes in the former provisions dealing with handicapped infants and toddlers, including expanding the language to include infants and toddlers with disabilities, instead of "handicapping conditions" as it now appears in the law. The bill states that the purpose of the legislation is to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities contingent upon the appropriation of federal funds. The legislation updates the language of the bill to conform with new federal provisions. Federal, state, local and private programs are directed to work together to provide the intervention services.

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The State Interagency Coordinating Council would advise the Department of Health and Environmental Control in developing a comprehensive system to provide early intervention services for all eligible infants and toddlers. A joint funding plan for these coordinated service would be submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Children by August 1 each year. The legislation also calls for the establishment of county or multi-county local interagency planning councils.

STATUS: Signed into law 4-29-91.

Students and Paging Devices (S.623, Senate Education Committee)
This bill would prohibit any public student from kindergarten through the 12th grade from carrying beepers on school property or at any school sponsored event. Exceptions to this rule would be students who are volunteer firemen or emergency medical service volunteers or those who carry the beepers for legitimate medical reasons. It would be left up to the school principals as to what constitutes a "legitimate medical reason." It would also be left up to school boards to devise the punishment for violation of this prohibition. Any person who discovered a beeper being carried by a student would report the matter to the school administration who would have the beeper confiscated. The beeper would be forfeited to the school district.

STATUS: Signed into law 4-22-91.

English Fluency in Higher Education (S.654, Senate Education Committee). This legislation would require each public institution of higher learning to have a policy that insures that the instructional faculty has adequate proficiency in both written and spoken English. This requirement would apply to every instructor whose first language is not English, including graduate assistants, who teach one or more undergraduate credit courses. The bill also would require the establishment of a student grievance procedure regarding an instructor not able to speak or write the English language. The number of student grievances would be reported annually to the state Commission on Higher Education and the Senate and House Education Committees.

STATUS: Signed into law 4-22-91.

Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Act (S.376, Sen. Wilson). This bill is aimed at reducing the adverse effects of stormwater runoff and sediment and to better safeguard property by strengthening and making uniform the existing stormwater management and sediment control program. Under this legislation, no one would be able to engage in a "land disturbing activity" without first submitting a stormwater management and sediment control plan and obtaining a permit.

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This provision would not apply to farming, forestry, activities regulated by the state Mining Act, construction or improvement of single family dwellings not involving development of a subdivision. Other exceptions for utilities, road building and maintenance are outlined in the bill. The Land Resources Commission would be charged with overseeing the provisions of this act, providing education and advice to those effected, and promulgating regulations regarding stormwater management and sediment reduction.

The bill allows local governments to establish fees to help pay for the activities required by this bill, such as watershed master plans, facility retrofitting and facility maintenance. The legislation outlines what must be included in the watershed master plan. Once adopted, all projects would have to have stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution control requirements consistent with the master plan. Penalties for violations are included in the bill.

This is the first significant enacted dealing with the deficiencies uncovered by the damage done by Hurricane Hugo.

STATUS: Ratified 5-21-91.

Presidential Primaries (H.3069, Rep. Farr). This legislation would authorize political parties to hold presidential preference primaries in South Carolina.

STATUS: Signed into law 5-1-91.

Real Estate Appraiser Registration, License and Certification Act (H.3421, House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee). This committee bill establishes the provisions for the registration, licensing and certification of real estate appraisers in South Carolina.

Federal law states that after July 1, 1991, all appraisals performed in connection with federally related transactions must be prepared by a state certified or state licensed appraiser. Until this bill was signed into law, South Carolina was one of only a handful of states that did not have a licensing and certification system for appraiser in place. Federally related transactions include a vast majority of transactions involving loans, including any transaction involving a FDIC insured lender. Likewise, the Federal Office of Management and Budget has required all agencies subject to its jurisdiction, including the Veterans' Administration and HUD, to determine which transactions (such as VAs and FHAs) should require the use of certified and licensed appraisers. The deadline for this determination is also July 1, 1991.

Prior to this legislation, the only requirement an individual had to meet to appraise property in South Carolina was possession of a real estate salesman's license. The House LCI legislation establishes varying requirements for three different classifications of appraisers: registered, licensed, and certified.

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A registered real estate appraiser cannot perform federally related transactions and is primarily a class of appraisers who are already brokers and who would like to continue to perform market analyses. This classification would also allow an individual who wishes to be licensed or certified as an appraiser to gain necessary experience. The only qualification for a registered appraiser is that he hold a real estate broker-in-charge, broker, or salesman license.

In order to become a licensed real estate appraiser, an individual must have completed 75 hours of courses relating to real estate appraisal; have a minimum two years appraisal experience; and pass an examination.

A "transitional" license may be issued to an applicant who passes the examination but who lacks either the educational or experience requirement, but not an applicant who lacks both. The applicant must meet the lacking requirement within two years or his license is automatically canceled.

An applicant may become certified as a real estate appraiser if he has completed 165 hours of courses relating to real estate appraisal; has a minimum two years appraisal experience; and passes an examination.

All appraisers must complete 10 hours of continuing education as a condition of annual renewal of their registration, license, or certification.

South Carolina's appraiser registration, licensing, and certification program would be run by a nine-member South Carolina Real Estate Appraisers Board. Among the Board's responsibilities will be the regulation of the issuance of registrations, licenses and certifications; investigating complaints; and disciplining appraisers by denying, suspending, revoking or otherwise restricting registrations, licenses or certifications or imposing other sanctions allowed in the legislation.

STATUS: Signed into law 3-22-91.

NAIC Accreditation (H.3508, House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee). With insurer solvency becoming an issue of concern across the nation, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) developed minimum standards for effective solvency regulation by the states. To ensure that all states have the essential statutes, regulations and regulatory resources necessary to regulate the insurance industry, the NAIC instituted a certification program in 1990 whereby over the next three years each state's compliance with these minimum standards will be evaluated by an independent review team.

South Carolina's initial evaluation revealed several areas that need to be addressed legislatively in order to bring South Carolina's insurance solvency regulatory system up to the NAIC standards. The Insurance Department drafted a legislative package to put into place the changes necessary for the Department to receive NAIC accreditation, a move strongly supported by South Carolina's domestic insurance industry.

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This act incorporates the necessary changes for NAIC accreditation into one omnibus bill. Adoption of these standards is important for several reasons. First, it will strengthen existing state statutes to ensure effective solvency regulation of insurance companies in South Carolina. While insurer insolvencies is not a problem in this state, these measures may prevent it from ever becoming an issue in South Carolina. Secondly, at a time when there is increasing discussion about regulation of insurance companies by the federal government, action by states now to address the insolvency issue may discourage federal action and help retain regulation of the insurance industry on a state level.

Finally, domestic companies of states that are not accredited within the three-year period will suffer. A company headquartered in a state that is not accredited may be unable to become licensed to do business in state that is accredited. Likewise, a company headquartered in a state that is not accredited that is already doing business in states that do become accredited will probably be restricted as to its activities in those accredited state.

South Carolina's NAIC audit is scheduled for this summer, and with this legislative package in place, South Carolina will become one of the first small states to be accredited.

STATUS: Signed into law 3-22-91.

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House Passed Legislation

The following is a list of notable bills that have been passed by the House of Representatives this session. The status of each is given after a brief summary of the bill.

State Run Primaries (S.362, Sen. Holland). This legislation would authorize the State Election Commission to run the primaries instead of the political parties. The House added an amendment changing the primary date from June to August.

Status: Passed by the Senate and the House; recommitted to Senate Judiciary when returned to the Senate.

Felony and Misdemeanor Classification Bill (H.3400, Rep. Wilkins). This bill, written by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, would place approximately 700 criminal offenses with a maximum term of one year or more into different categories based on the seriousness of the offense. The bill specifies nine categories of offenses -- six felonies and three misdemeanors. Each of the categories carries a maximum term of imprisonment.

Status: Passed by the House; in Senate Judiciary Committee.

Death with Dignity Amendments (H.3090, Rep. Keyserling). This legislation would add provisions to the current law dealing with permanent unconsciousness and would allow a person to leave instructions regarding the withdrawal of food and water.

Status: Passed the House; second reading in the Senate 5-21-91.

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Drug Testing of State Employees (H.3515, Rep. Neilson). This legislation outlines the procedures to be followed for state employee drug testing and the testing of applicants for state jobs. The legislation addresses what procedures must be followed by employers when instituting drug testing for employees or applicants. It states how the drug testing must be performed, how employees are selected for the testing, how specimen collection must be performed and test results handled, and the rights of employees and employers in connection with this procedure.

The legislation also specifies how laboratories may be selected, what procedures the laboratory must use in testing and reporting the results, the confidentiality of drug testing and its results, and what actions may be sought for violation of this legislation.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Judiciary Committee.

911 Systems (H.3494, Rep. Wilkins). The purpose of this legislation is to authorize each county or municipality to establish and operate 911 public safety communications centers in their jurisdictions, to encourage political subdivisions to do the same, and to provide a funding method that will allow the implementation, operation and maintenance of the 911 system. Under this legislation, a 911 system would provide law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. Other emergency services would be incorporated into the system at the discretion of the local government.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate LCI Committee.

Spousal Sexual Battery (H.3071, Rep. Whipper). This legislation would create the offense of spousal sexual battery. Under this legislation, spousal sexual battery is defined as sexual battery through the use of aggravated force by one spouse against the other if they are living together.

Status: Passed the House; On Senate calendar, committee report favorable with amendment from Senate Judiciary.

Shorter Legislative Sessions (H.3127, Rep. Wilkins). This joint resolution proposes changing the constitution to allow the General Assembly to hold shorter sessions. Under this joint resolution, the Legislature would convene on the second Tuesday in February each year, instead of the second Tuesday in January. The Senate would also be required to have an organizational session following Senate elections like the one currently required of the House of Representatives.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Judiciary Committee.

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Legislative Adjournment and the Budget Process (H.3128, Rep. Wilkins). Under this proposed constitutional change, mandatory adjournment would be moved up one month to the first Thursday in May. In addition, this bill would change the times the state Board of Economic Advisors would issue their forecasts. The legislation proposed the initial forecast of economic conditions be made by October 15, not the current November 1, and that any adjustments to this forecast could be downward adjustments only. The bill also would authority the budget writing committees of the House and Senate to sit jointly to hold budget hearing, beginning on the second Tuesday in December. In addition, the bill would prohibit supplemental appropriations from being included in the General Appropriations Act.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Judiciary Committee.

School Children and Residency (H.3011, Rep. Kirsh). Under this legislation, current laws which allow children who own property in a school district to attend school in that district would be eliminated. If this bill is enacted, school children could attend public schools only in the districts in which they reside. This legislation has been considered in previous sessions.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Education Committee.

Vehicle Inspection (H.3092, Rep. Bruce). This legislation would repeal the state statutes requiring the inspection of vehicles.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Transportation Committee.

Capital Improvement Bond Bill (H.3651, House Ways and Means Committee). This legislation, which comes once every two years, would authorize the issuance of capital improvement bonds for \$274.8 million in state projects.

Status: Passed the House; in Senate Finance Committee.

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Still on the Calendar

Here is a list of bills still pending before the House of Representatives. The status of each bill is noted.

S.C. Parental Responsibility Act (H.3851, Rep. Wright and H.3417, Rep. Glover). The purpose of this act is to place the primary responsibility for a child's education with his or her parents. The bill sets forth the responsibility of parents in connection with their children's education, particularly in the area of attendance. The states it is the intention of the bill to have parents clearly understand their obligations with regards to their children's school attendance, that academic problems associated with poor attendance are identified early, and that when legal remedies are sought, it is only after all other means -- including appropriate social services -- have been exhausted.

Status: In House Education committee.

Parental Choice in Education Act (H.3881, Rep. Jaskwich). Under this legislation, parents would receive certificates to present to schools of their choice allowing their child to receive the school's educational services. All public schools in the state would participate in the program; private schools would decide if they wanted to participate. The certificates would be worth 100 percent of the pupil expenditure supplied by the state based on the Education Finance Act weighting.

Status: In House Education Committee.

Human Life Protection Act (H.3652, Rep. Beasley). This legislation would ban abortions in South Carolina under any circumstances except to save the life of the mother. The bill also would establish the legislative finding that the life of a human being starts at conception and that prosecution for abortion should be directed at those performing the abortion, not the women involved.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

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Informed Consent for Abortion (H.3866, Rep. Corning). This legislation would prohibit any abortion from being performed except with the voluntary and informed consent of the woman, except in the case of a medical emergency.

Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Judicial Screening Committee Make-up (H.3889, Rep. Hodges and S.221, Sen. Bryan). This legislation would change the make-up of the Joint Legislative Judicial Screening Committee.

Status: Both in House Judiciary Committee.

Independent Inspection of the Pinewood Landfill (H.3740, Rep. McElveen). Under this joint resolution, the General Assembly would direct the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to contract with an independent firm to conduct an inspection and evaluation of the Pinewood hazardous waste landfill.

Status: In House Agriculture Committee.

Consolidated Governments (H.3681, Rep. Waites). The intent of this bill is to provide a method of creating consolidated governments to fulfill the unique needs and demands of various county areas. This bill provides the enabling legislation setting out the procedure for counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions to provide for the joint administration of any function.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Fuzzbuster Ban (H.3588, Rep. Sheheen). This bill would make it illegal for a person to operate a motor vehicle in South Carolina equipped with a radar detector. This legislation also would make the sale of the devices illegal. The legislation also provides for the forfeiture of the radar detector to the arresting officer if the device is needed as evidence. When it is no longer needed, the device would be returned to the owner. Unclaimed radar detectors could be destroyed.

Under this bill, the presence of the device in the vehicle is *prima facie* evidence of a violation, and the state would not have to prove the device was operational. However, a person would not be guilty of violating these provisions if at the time of the alleged offense, the device had no power source and was not accessible for use readily by the driver or a passenger in a vehicle.

Status: In House Education Committee.

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Limitations on Terms of Office (H.3594, Rep. Cromer and H.3424, Rep. Cato). This joint resolution would amend the state constitution to limit the number of consecutive terms served by legislators and statewide constitutional officers. Under this legislation, House members could serve only six consecutive two-year terms. The exception would be the House members serving in office when the legislation is ratified. The limitations also would apply to state senators, who would be restricted to three consecutive four-year terms. But seated senators would serve out their term before applying the term limit. Constitutional officers would come under a two consecutive four-year term limit, but this limit would not apply to the constitutional officers serving when the legislation is ratified.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Recalling and Removing Public Officials (H.3426, Rep. Baxley). Under this joint resolution, every person holding public office in the state would be subject to recall from office. Every registered voter in the state would be eligible to sign a recall petition. The basis for recall would be physical or mental lack of fitness, incompetence, violation of oath, official misconduct, or conviction of a felony. No person would be recalled for performing a mandatory duty of an office or for not performing an act that would subject him to prosecution for official misconduct.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Freshwater Wetlands Protection (H.3414, Rep. Sturkie). This legislation, aimed at protecting and conserving the state's freshwater wetlands, outlines the steps the state should take to achieve this goal. Under this legislation, the General Assembly would declare it is the policy of the state to achieve a goal of no overall net loss of regulated wetlands, based on function and value. This would be accomplished through a program of wetlands classification and mitigation.

Status: In House Agriculture Committee.

Grand Jury Revisions (H.3345, Rep. Wilkins). This is the bill, promoted by Attorney General Medlock, which would expand the responsibilities of the statewide grand jury to include investigations into public corruption.

Status: On the House second reading contested calendar.

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Highway Department Reorganization (H.3288, Rep. Beasley). This lengthy bill is the result of the work of the joint legislative committee charged with investigating the State Highway Department. After six months of review, the committee, co-chaired by Rep. Beasley and Sen. Isadore Lourie, recommended both structural and budgetary changes in the department.

Status: In House Education Committee.

Drug Kingpins and the Death Penalty (H.3103, Rep. Waldrop). Under this legislation, being the principal organizer in an illegal drug trafficking operation, also known as a "drug kingpin," would be added to the list of aggravating circumstances in murder cases in which the prosecution may seek the death penalty.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Limit Terms on State Commission (H.3108, Rep. Keyserling). This bill is aimed at limiting the consecutive terms a person may serve on a state board or commission, whether it is by election of the General Assembly or gubernatorial appointment. Under this legislation, the person would be limited to two successive full terms or 12 years, whichever is longer. The exception would be if the person is paid an annual salary. The person may return to the board or commission after an absence of two years. The limitation would not apply to lifetime members of the Clemson University board. This legislation would operate prospectively and would not take into account the time served by sitting commission and board members when the legislation takes effect.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Gubernatorial Cabinet (H.3114, Rep. Wilkins). This joint resolution proposes amending the constitution to allow the governor to appoint all statewide officers, currently elected by the public. This would include the Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Education, Comptroller General, Commissioner of Agriculture and Adjutant General.

Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

Remove State Superintendent as Elected Official (H.3117, Rep. Wilkins). This joint resolution proposes amending the state constitution to remove the state superintendent of schools as a statewide elected official and provide that the superintendent be appointed by the governor.

Status: On the House contested calendar.

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Corporal Punishment (H.3314, Rep. Rama). Corporal punishment in the public schools would be prohibited if this legislation is enacted. This prohibition does not include incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact to maintain order, to quell a disturbance or removal a student from the scene of a disturbance; or reasonable force to prevent a student from harming himself; acting in self defense or reasonable force to obtain possession of a weapon.

Status: On the House second reading contested calendar.

Repeal of the Local Option Sales Tax (H.3019, Rep. Kirsh) This legislation would repeal the Local Sales and Use Tax passed by the General Assembly last session.

Status: In the House Ways and Means Committee.