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Legislative update

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South Carolina House of Representatives

Legislative Update

Robert J. Sheheen, Speaker of the House

Vol. 9 April 28, 1992 No. 15

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House Week in Review

A number of significant bills received approval from the House of Representatives last week, including H.4334, the proposed constitutional amendment calling for a cabinet form of state government in South Carolina.

The House debated the state government restructuring bill all Wednesday afternoon. The debate was marked by numerous amendments and parliamentary maneuvering. In the end, the House voted 81-35 to give the joint resolution a second reading, thereby satisfying the two-thirds vote requirement.

Although it took the House 6 hours and 15 minutes to consider all the amendments to H.4334. only a few amendments ultimately were added to the legislation. The House agreed to a provision that would prohibit the governor from appointing anyone to the executive cabinet who had contributed $1,000 or more to the governor in a one year period. This prohibition would extend to the contributor's immediate family. The House also changed the proposed joint resolution to require that both the Senate and the House approve gubernatorial appointments. Currently, only the Senate advises and consents on gubernatorial appointments. On Tuesday, the House approved an amendment stating that nothing in the joint resolution would affect the powers and duties of the state's constitutional officers.

While the House gave H.4334 second reading Wednesday, the chamber adjourned on Thursday before the third reading vote.

The House also gave final approval to H.4290, legislation that would revise the definition of legislative caucus. However, before debate on the bill ended, the House had deleted the definition of legislative caucuses from the bill and removed caucuses from those groups exempted from the ethics requirement that all entertaining of the House and Senate involve invitations extended to all the members of the chambers or none at all.

Second reading of the bill was given by a 101-0 vote. A motion on Wednesday to reconsider the vote whereby H.4290 was given second reading was rejected and the legislation was read for a third time.

Several House bills received third reading approval and were sent to the Senate. Among these were H.4215, which would change the membership and reporting times of the Board of Economic Advisors. This bill was given second reading on Wednesday and third reading on Thursday.

Also receiving the House's final OK was H.4699, legislation directing the Legislative Audit Council and the State Reorganization Commission to study state government and make recommendations regarding how it can be more efficient and eliminate duplication of efforts. This bill, which also directs the two agencies to recommend how to consolidate functions within state government, was given second reading on Thursday and third reading on Friday.

Legislation that would direct law enforcement officers to videotape the administering of breathalyzer tests in connection with DUI arrests also received a second reading on Thursday and third reading on Friday.

On Thursday, objections placed H.4686, legislation that would allow the State Highway Department to pave private driveways, on the second reading contested calendar. Also placed on the contested calendar was H.4571, the agency action and assessment report bill.

A multi-million dollar package of incentives directed at the current effort to woo the German automaker, BMW, to the Upstate made its way to the House last week. Included in this package is S.1484, which would set aside an additional $10 million in gasoline tax revenue for an economic development project; H.1388, a fee in lieu of taxes bill, and an amendment to H.4480, which would add $25,000 for an economic development project under the Ports Authority category amending the Capital Improvement Bond Act.

The amendment to H.4480 was approved by the House and sent to the Senate. S.1484 and S.1388 went without reference and are pending on the House second reading uncontested calendar.

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 House standing committee to which the legislation was referred.

Education and Public Works

Special Tags for Bronze Star Recipients (H.4778, Rep. Cromer). This legislation would create a special license tag for recipients of the Bronze Star. Fee for the tag would be $15 annually, which would be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee.

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Personal Property Bill of Sale (H.4780, Rep. Jaskwhich). Under this legislation, a bill of sale must be provided for the sale of any personal property valued in excess of $100. The bill of sale must include the name and Social Security number of the seller, the date, a description of the property and purchase price. The bill also gives the buyer the right to request verification of the information by a driver's license or other picture identification.

Without Reference

Patriot's Point Authority (H.4774, Rep. Hallman). This legislation would reconstitute who would serve on the Patriot's Point Authority board. Under this bill, the board would be composed of five members, three appointed by the governor and two appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the House Speaker and Ways and Means Committee chairman for one appointment, and the Senate Finance chairman and Senate President Pro Tempore for the other. The terms of the members of the authority appointed before these changes under the old method (one from each congressional district and three at-large) would end on the effective date of this bill, if enacted.

Special Economic Development Project (S.1484, Sen. J. Verne Smith). This legislation would allow an additional $10 million generated by the gasoline tax to be placed in the separate economic development account to be used for a special economic development project. If the additional $0 million is not needed, it would revert to the SHIMS account. This special economic development project is part of an enhancement package to attract BMW to locate in Upstate South Carolina.

Women of the South Carolina General Assembly

Over sixty years ago, the first woman was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly. Currently, more women are serving in the House of Representatives than at any other time in South Carolina's history. Today, 20 women are serving in the House and three women in the State Senate.

This session, for the first time women House members are of sufficient numbers to form the Women's Issues Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Harriet Keyserling and Carole Wells. Recognizing the growth of women to elected statewide office, as exemplified by the "Purple Posse," here is an updated report on the women who have served in the South Carolina General Assembly. This report first appeared in the *Legislative Update* in 1989. It has been updated to reflect changes through the current legislative session.

The biographical information on women elected to the General Assembly was taken from the Legislative Manual. Thanks to House Clerk Sandra McKinney for allowing the House Research Office to use her collection of Legislative Manuals, especially those from the early years of this century.

Introduction

Unlike in the past, women are now serving at every level of political office. Nationally, for women at all levels of political office, there is a shift from politics as a cause to politics as a career. There is now a new generation of women who will forge new political trails that begin in municipal and county offices.

This trend up the political ladder is markedly apparent at the state level. In 1969, only 301 women held seats in state legislatures. By 1987 there were 1,168 women serving in state legislatures; in 1989, that number had increased to 1,243. In 1992, 1,375 women serve as state legislators, which represents 18.4 percent of the total number of state legislators.

In South Carolina, the first woman to be elected to the General Assembly was Mrs. Mary G. Ellis in 1929. Since that time an additional 45 women have served in the South Carolina Legislature with more being elected to the House than to the Senate. Some of these women have risen to become the chairmen of standing committees and joint committees. More women are serving in the General Assembly this year now than at any time in the history of South Carolina. Three women senators and 20 women representatives currently serving.

The following is a list and brief biography of all the women who have served in South Carolina's General Assembly.

Sen. Mary G. Ellis, D-Jasper

In 1929, Mary G. Ellis became the first woman to be elected to the General Assembly as a state senator from Jasper County. Mrs. Ellis represented Jasper County in the Senate for one term from 1929-1932. Born in 1890 in Gourdin, she listed her occupation as a farmer and her residence as two miles from Coosawhatchie River on Route 2.

A 1913 graduate of Winthrop College, Mrs. Ellis taught at Gillisonville School from 1913-1914 and was County Superintendent of Education from 1924-1928. While in the Senate, she served on several committees, including Senate Education, Incorporations, Military, Natural Resources, Charitable Institutions, Penitentiary, Privileges and Elections, and Retrenchments.

Rep. Harriet F. Johnson, D-York

Harriet F. Johnson was elected to the House Feb. 6, 1945 to fill the unexpired term of York County Rep. Henry Mills, who had resigned. Mrs. Johnson was a member of the York County delegation from 1945-1946. Born in Pelzer, Mrs. Johnson was a 1917 graduate of Winthrop College. Mrs. Johnson also held a B.S. and a M.A. from Columbia University, awarded in 1927 and 1930, respectively. She was a World War I widow whose husband died in France in 1918.

After four years of teaching in the public schools, Mrs. Johnson worked as a home demonstration agent in Spartanburg County from 1919 to 1922. From 1922-1944, she was leader of the State 4-H Club, headquartered at Winthrop College, and for two years was a national 4-H committee member. She also was associate camp director of Camp Long, the State 4-H Camp. While in the House, she served on the House Accounts, Agriculture, Education, Social Security, and State House and Grounds committees.

Rep. Martha T. Fitzgerald, D-Richland

In 1950, Martha T. Fitzgerald was the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives in a general election and to serve a full term. She represented Richland County, serving in the House from 1951-1962. She also served as the first woman chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging from 1959 to 1961.

A 1916 graduate of Winthrop College, Mrs. Fitzgerald received masters degrees from both the University of South Carolina (1930) and Columbia University (1935). Mrs. Fitzgerald had a varied career in education. She worked as a rural school teacher, was the superintendent of the Farm Life School in Pineville, N.C. and a teacher trainer for the Saluda County normal school. She worked at the State Department of Education in rural and elementary education from 1920-1947 as a lecturer and prolific writer of bulletins, pamphlets and manuals. She listed herself as a life member of SCEA and as founder and first state president of Delta Kappa Gamma. She was a trustee of Queens College and trustee board chairman of the Edgewood Sanitarium Foundation.

Aside from the being the first woman chairman of a joint committee, Mrs. Fitzgerald was the first woman to serve as a House standing committee officer. She was the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Education and Public Works Committee in 1951. She also served on House Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Emma J. McDermott, D-York

Also a member of the York County delegation, Emma Jane McDermott was elected to the House in July 1953 to fill one of the unexpired terms caused by the resignation of Reps. Arthur Erwin and J. Lewis Moss. Mrs. McDermott was from Rock Hill and represented York County from 1953-1954.

Born in Virginia, Mrs. McDermott graduated from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia in 1942. She also did graduate study at Winthrop in 1948. Mrs. McDermott was a member of the Veterans' School Staff in Rock Hill, teaching American Government, English, Reading and Spelling. She served on the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Ruby G. Wesson,D-Spartanburg

Representing Spartanburg County, Ruby G. Wesson was one of three women elected to the House in 1959. Born in Gaffney, she graduated from Mary Black Memorial Hospital with an R.N. in 1931 and attended George Peabody College, Scarritt College in 1936. She held a number of offices with district and statewide nursing organizations. Mrs. Wesson served in the House from 1959-1960 and was on the House Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Virginia Gourdin, D-Charleston

Virginia Gourdin was elected to the House in 1959 as a member of the Charleston County legislative delegation. Born in Kingstree, she graduated from Winthrop College with an A.B. in 1941, Columbia University with a B.S. in 1942 and the University of South Carolina with a M.A. in 1951.

Ms. Gourdin had a varied career before her election to the House, including positions at Harvard Graduate Business School, Beaufort High School, Memminger High School, University of California Bureau of Economic Research, the University of South Carolina Department of English, and South Carolina National Bank. At the time of House service she was employed with the Mortgage Banking firm of Stevenson, Zimmerman, & Co. of Charleston and also listed herself as a Williamsburg County farmer. Ms. Gourdin served in the House from 1959-1962 and was on the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

Rep. Ruth Williams, D-Charleston

Ruth Williams was elected to the House in 1963 representing Charleston County. Born in Fort Worth, Texas, she moved to Charleston in March 1941. Ms. Williams attended Winthrop College from 1946-1950 and graduated from the University of South Carolina Law School with a LL.B. in 1954. Ms. Williams was a lawyer and a member of the Charleston Lawyers Club, County Bar Association, and a member of many governmental and civic organizations. Ms. Williams served in the House from 1963-1964 and was on the House Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Carolyn E. Frederick, R-Greenville

Elected in 1967 to represent House District 22 in Greenville County, Carolyn E. Frederick was the first Republican woman elected to the House. Born in Atlanta, she moved to Greenville in 1949. A 1928 Agnes Scott graduate, Mrs. Frederick was a newspaper writer, advertising executive, and at the time of House service, a public relations consultant. She also served as public relations director for the YWCA from 1958 to 1964.

Among her many activities and affiliations, Mrs. Frederick was the manager of the Greenville Symphony from 1954-1970 and executive director of the Greenville Arts Festival from 1963-1965. She was a member of the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission and a 1970 presidential appointee to the advisory commission of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mrs. Frederick served in the House from 1967-1976 and was on the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Interstate Cooperation Committee.

Sen. Thomasine G. Mason, D-Clarendon

Thomasine Grayson Mason was elected to the Senate in 1967 representing District 20 in Clarendon County. Born near Summerton, Mrs. Mason graduated form the University of South Carolina with an A.B. in 1938 and a LL.B. in 1942. A lawyer, Mrs. Mason served as a secretary and a director of Grayson-Elliot, Inc. She also served as a circuit vice president of the South Carolina Bar. Mrs. Mason was in the Senate from 1967-1968 and she served on several committees: Senate Atomic and Nuclear Energy, Commerce and Manufactures, Federal Relations, Judiciary, Military, and Penal and Charitable Institutions.

Sen. Sherry S. Martschink, R-Charleston

Sherry Shealy Martschink is one of the few women who has served both in the House and the Senate. A senior at the University of South Carolina when elected to a Lexington County House seat, she served from 1970-1974. During her House terms, she served on the House Education and Public Works Committee. Active in a wide variety of civic and Republican activities, she was a participant in the 1971 White House Conference on Aging and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

Mrs. Martschink was elected to the Senate on April 21, 1987 to fill the unexpired term of State Sen. Arthur Ravenel, Jr. who had been elected to Congress. She continues to serve as the District 44 senator, representing parts of Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester counties. She serves on several Senate standing committees, including Fish, Game and Forestry; Education; Finance; Transportation; and Rules. In 1990, she ran for lieutenant governor in the statewide Republican primary.

Mrs. Martschink currently is a freelance writer in Mt. Pleasant. Born in Columbia, she graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.A.I.S. in 1976.

Rep. Irene K. Rudnick, D-Aiken

Irene K. Rudnick represents House District 81 in Aiken County. Her eight terms in the House began in 1973; she has served Aiken County from 1973-1978, 1981-1984, and 1987 to the present. During her legislative service, she has served on several House standing committees: House Education and Public Works in 1973-74, Ways and Means from 1975-78, and Judiciary in 1981-84 and 1987 through the present. She also is currently treasurer of the Interstate Cooperation Committee.

Born in Columbia, she graduated from the University of South Carolina with an A.B. in 1949 and a J.D. in 1952. In addition to a number of civic, legal and education organizations, she was Aiken County Superintendent of Education from 1970-1972. Mrs. Rudnick also has been an instructor of Business and Criminal Law at USC-Aiken.

Sen. Norma C. Russell, R-Lexington

Norma C. Russell is also one of the few women to be elected to both the House and Senate. She began her legislative service in the House where she served from 1973-1980 representing Lexington County District 90. She served on the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee and was 2nd vice-chairman from 1975-1976.

Mrs. Russell served in the Senate from 1981-1984 representing Senate District No.8, Seat 3, encompassing parts of Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, Lexington counties. Her Senate committee assignments included: Senate Corrections and Penology, Medical Affairs, Rules, and Transportation.

Born in Joanna, she attended the University of South Carolina from 1955-56. In addition to a variety of civic activities, Mrs. Russell is a freelance court reporter. She also served as a Senate attache from 1964-68. She was the S.C. School Boards Association's Senator of the Year in 1982.

Rep. Jewel S. Baskin, R-Richland

Jewel S. Baskin served in the House from 1973-1976 representing Richland County District 79. She served on the House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee. Born in Lexington County, she attended the University of South Carolina and graduated from the American Institute of Banking & the FRPA School of Northwestern University. Pursuing a career in banking, Mrs. Baskin was the first woman officer of C&S National Bank of S.C.

Active in numerous banking organizations, Mrs. Baskin did not neglect her community. Among her many activities, she was an officer or board member of the state and local League of Women Voters, United Community Services and the Officer Wives Club at Fort Jackson.

Rep. Juanita W. Goggins, D-York

The first black woman to be elected to the General Assembly, Juanita W. Goggins served in the House from 1975 to 1980, representing York County District 49. She resigned on Jan. 8, 1980 due to illness. Born in Pendleton, Mrs. Goggins graduated with a BSHE from S.C. State College and did post graduate study at S.C. State College and the University of South Carolina.

While serving in the House, Mrs. Goggins was on the House Ways and Means Committee. She served on the Steering Committee of the State Black Political Caucus. Mrs. Goggins has been a board member of the Department of Youth Services and had founded the Rock Hill area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

Rep. Jean H. Toal, D-Richland

Jean Hoefer Toal served in the House representing Richland County District 75 from 1975 until February 10, 1988 when she was elected to the S.C. Supreme Court becoming the state's first woman justice. She served on the Judiciary Committee from 1975-1988 and the Rules Committee from 1977-1988. Mrs. Toal served as chairman of the Rules Committee from 1983-1988, becoming the first woman to serve as a chairman of a House standing committee.

Born in Columbia, Mrs. Toal graduated from Agnes Scott College with a B.A. in 1965. She received her J.D. at the University of South Carolina in 1968, where she was managing editor of the S.C. Law Review. Mrs. Toal was a lawyer with the firm of Belser, Baker, Barwick, Ravenel, Toal & Bender. She was the *Greenville News'* Legislator of the Year in 1976, on the Board of Visitors of Clemson, and received the S.C. Municipal Association's 1980 Distinguished Service Award. In addition to her many civic activities, she has served a trustee of the Columbia Museum of Art.

Rep. Joyce C. Hearn, R-Richland

Joyce C. Hearn was elected to the House in a special General Election on Dec. 2, 1975 to fill the unexpired term of Rep. John H. LaFitte, Jr. She served House District 76 continuously until 1989 when Gov. Carroll Campbell appointed her to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission in 1989.

Born in Georgia, she is a former educator and businesswoman, graduating from Ohio State University in 1957.

Among her civic and party activities, Mrs. Hearn served on the board of the Columbia Museum, was Legislator of the Year for the Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (1980), the S.C. Association of Retarded Citizens (1982), and received the 1985 MADD Distinguished Service Award. Mrs. Hearn previously served as chairman of the National Advisory Commission on Occupational Safety & Health. She was assistant minority leader in 1976-78 and 1987-1989.

Mrs. Hearn served on two standing committees during her tenure in the House: the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs from 1977-79, and House Labor, Commerce, and Industry from 1980-89. She was also the chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Handicapped.

Rep. Nancy Stevenson, D-Charleston

Ferdinan (Nancy) B. Stevenson served in the House representing Charleston County District 110 from 1975-1978 when she was elected the state's first woman lieutenant governor, serving from 1978-82. During her House service, Mrs. Stevenson served on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Born in New Rochelle, N.Y., she graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in 1949. Mrs. Stevenson was the co-author of three novels and one autobiographical work. She previously worked for the *New York Herald Tribune*. Among her many civic activities, she served as a trustee of the College of Charleston Foundation.

Rep. Sylvia K. Dreyfus, D-Greenville

Sylvia K. Dreyfus served in the House representing Greenville County District 22 from 1977-78. Born in New York City, she graduated from Adelphi University with a B.A. in 1946 and from Converse College in 1966 with a M.A.T. She taught in Greenville County schools for nine years. Mrs. Dreyfus was the president of the county League of Women Voters from 1972-74. She served on the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Harriet H. Keyserling, D-Beaufort

Harriet H. Keyserling has served in the House since 1977 representing District 124 in Beaufort County. Born in New York, she graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University with a B.A. in Economics in 1943.

Mrs. Keyserling was an at-large member of the Beaufort County Council from 1975-1977. She served on the Advisory Panel on Nuclear Waste Disposal of the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress from 1979-82. Mrs. Keyserling also served on the NCSL executive committee from 1979-82.

She has received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award, was named 1983 Legislative Conservationist by the S.C. Wildlife Association, and was the *Greenville News'* 1983 Legislator of the Year.

Mrs. Keyserling has served on several standing committees, including House Education and Public Works, 1977-79 and House Judiciary, 1980-1982. She now serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, 1983-present and Rules Committee, 1986-present.

She currently serves as chairman of the Joint Committee on Energy and co-chairman of the Women's Issue Caucus. She also serves on the Nuclear Waste Consultation Committee. She is the immediate past chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Cultural Affairs, serving from 1985 to 1991.

Rep. Jean B. Meyers, D-Horry

Jean B. Meyers served in the House representing District 103 in Horry County from 1977-1982. Mrs. Meyers attended Converse College and the University of Georgia. She was a member of the S.C. Coastal Council and the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce. During House service, she served on the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee and was the 3rd vice-chairman from 1981-1982.

Rep. M. Lois Eargle, D-Horry

M. Lois Eargle served in the House from 1977-1984 representing Horry County District 105. Born in Sumter, Mrs. Eargle was co-owner of Eargle's Business Machines. She was the first woman without a law degree elected to the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society, serving from 1974-1977. During her four terms in the House, she served on the House Education and Public Works Committee, Operations and Management Committee and the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Rep. Virginia L. Crocker, D-Laurens

Virginia L. Crocker was elected May 9, 1978 to fill the unexpired term of Rep. Joe S. Holland who resigned. She served in the House representing Laurens County District 15 until June 30, 1984 when she resigned upon her appointment to the South Carolina Workers Compensation Commission.

Born in Clinton, she graduated from Columbia College with a B.A. in 1973 and did graduate work at the University of South Carolina. Ms. Crocker was assistant director of admissions at Presbyterian College. During her House terms, she served on the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee.

Rep. Jean L. Harris, D-Chesterfield

Jean Laney Harris has represented Chesterfield County District 53 since 1979. A resident of Cheraw, she attended the University of South Carolina. She is on the Board of Trustees at Coker College. In 1989, she was selected as the Outstanding House Member by the S.C. School Boards Association; in 1990, she was the S.C. Recreation and Parks Association's Co-Legislator of the Year.

While in the House, she served on the House Education and Public Works Committee from 1979-80. she has been a member of the House Ways and Means Committee since 1981. She also currently serves as second vice chairman of the House Operations and Management Committee.

Sen. Elizabeth J. Patterson, D-Spartanburg

Elizabeth Johnston Patterson served in the Senate from Dec. 4, 1979 through her election to Congress in 1986. Born in Columbia, she is the daughter of the late U.S. Sen. Olin B. Johnston. She graduated from Columbia College with a B.A. in 1961 and attended graduate school at the University of South Carolina. In addition to working with the public affairs division of the Peace Corps, she worked with the Office of Economic Opportunity and was tri-county and state coordinator of the Head Start program.

Mrs. Patterson served on the Spartanburg County Council in 1975-1976. She also served on the Wofford College Board of Trustees. During her state Senate service, Mrs. Patterson served on the Senate Education, Finance, Medical Affairs, and Rules Committees, and was chairman of both the Governor's Task Force on Hunger and Nutrition and the Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse.

Rep. Juanita M. White, D-Jasper

Juanita Mitchell White has served in the House from April 8, 1980 when she was elected to fill the unexpired term of Rep. L. Martin Sauls III. She was the first black woman to be elected to chair a House standing committee.

Representing District 122 incorporating Jasper and parts of Beaufort counties, she was born in Savannah and graduated from Eastman Business School. Mrs. White has worked as the assistant to the special projects director of the Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Service. She also has served as the chairman of the board of directors of the LLBH Water Company from 1973-77. She currently is a development consultant.

In addition to being chairman of the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee from June 29, 1987 to December 1988, Mrs. White has served on the State Reorganization Commission and is a past chairman of the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus. Currently, she serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Operation and Management Committee. She also is a member of the Health Care Planning and Oversight Committee and on the advisory committee of the National Center for Policy Alternatives.

Sen. Nell W. Smith, D-Pickens

Nell Whitley Smith was elected to the Senate on November 10, 1981 to fill the unexpired term of her husband, the late Sen. Harris Page Smith. She has served continuously representing Senate District 2 in Pickens County. Born in Washington, N.C., she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a B.S. in 1951 and was a science teacher in the Easley public schools. She is a member of the MUSC's Board of Visitors and the President's Council at Clemson. She has received numerous awards and citations during her tenure in the Senate including the S.C. Council for Exceptional Children 1986 Legislator of the Year, the 1990 Outstanding State Senator from the S.C. School Boards Association and UNC-G's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987.

While in the Senate, she has been on several Senate committees, and became the first woman to serve as the chairman of a Senate standing committee. Her past service includes Corrections and Penology, Judiciary and General committees. Currently, she serves as the chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and serves on Senate Finance, Invitations, Medical Affairs, Education, and Labor, Commerce and Industry committees.

In addition to serving as a Senate standing committee chairman, Sen. Smith also is chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Children.

Rep. Mary P. Miles, D-Calhoun

Mary P. Miles served in the House from 1983-1984 representing District 93, incorporating parts of Calhoun, Orangeburg and Lexington counties. Born in Calhoun County, she graduated from S.C. State College and received an M.A. from the University of South Carolina. Mrs. Miles, a full time legislator, served on the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee serving as committee secretary.

Rep. Denny W. Neilson, D-Darlington

Denny Woodall Neilson was elected to the House on August 7, 1984 to fill the unexpired term of Rep. John P. Gardner, Jr. and has represented Darlington County House District 58 continuously since then.

A district vocational job placement coordinator, she graduated from Coker College with a B.S. in 1973 and from Winthrop College with a MBA in 1975. She served on the Darlington City Council from 1975-83, has been a member of the board of the Darlington County Council on Aging since 1983. She is also on the board of trustees of the Governor's School for Science and Math and the board of visitors of Winthrop College. Mrs. Neilson is president of the National Association of Accredited Talent and Beauty Judges. She received the S.C. Distinguished Teacher-Citizen Award in 1979 and the SCEA Human Relations Award in 1978.

She has served on the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee since 1985 and currently chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

Rep. Donna A. Moss, D-Cherokee

Donna Anderson Moss served in the House from 1985 to 1990 as a full-time legislator representing Cherokee County District 30. Born in Spartanburg, she graduated from the College of Charleston with a B.S. in 1977. Mrs. Moss has served on the Cherokee County Development Board and is a member of the Appalachian Council of Governments.

She was chairman of the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, becoming the second woman chairman of that standing committee. She also served on the House Ethics Committee.

Rep. Sara V. Shelton, D-Greenville

Sara Valena Shelton served in the House from 1985-1988 representing Greenville County District 23. Born in Union County, she is a retired educator. Mrs. Shelton graduated from Benedict College with a B.S. in 1940, and Furman University with a M.Ed. in 1968. During her two terms in the House, she served on the Joint Legislative Committee on Cultural Affairs, the EIA Select Committee and the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs. She was a member of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Lucille S. Whipper, D-Charleston

Lucille Simmons Whipper has served in the House since her election on August 5, 1986 representing District 109 in Charleston County. Born in Charleston, she is a retired college administrator. Mrs. Whipper graduated from Talladega College with an A.B. in 1948 and the University of Chicago with a M.A. in 1955. She also received a Counseling Education Certification from S.C. State College. Mrs. Whipper has been a member of the state Advisory Committee for Technical and Vocational Education and was on the legislative committee to study Minimum Competency Testing. She is the president of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History & Culture and minister of music of St. Matthew Baptist Church. She also serves on the executive committee of the S.C. Baptist Woman's Convention.

Mrs. Whipper has served on the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee from 1986 to 1990, serving as committee secretary from 1989-90. She currently serves on the House Labor, Commerce, and Industry committee.

Rep. Carole C. Wells, R-Spartanburg

Carole C. Wells has represented Spartanburg County House District 34 since 1987. Born in Akron, Ohio, Mrs. Wells has been active in PTA and community organizations in Spartanburg. She was a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in 1987-88 and currently serves on the House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee. She is also co-chairman of the Women's Issues Caucus.

Rep. Candy Y. Waites, D-Richland

Candy Y. Waites was elected to Richland County House District 75 on June 14, 1988 to fill the unexpired term of Rep. Jean H. Toal. Born in New York City, she graduated from Wheaton College with a B.A. in 1965. Mrs. Waites was a member of the Richland County Council from 1976-1987, serving as chairman in 1979.

In addition to serving on the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations from 1977-87, she has been on the board of the S.C. Association of Counties, Central Midlands Regional Planning Council and South Carolina National Bank - Columbia. She also has been a trustee of the Columbia Museum of Art, S.C. Federation of the Blind and was a member of the CCI Relocation Task Force. She received the President's Award from the Association of Counties in 1983.

Mrs. Waites currently serves on the House Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Environmental Committee and the House Rules Committee.

Rep. Maggie W. Glover, D-Florence

Maggie Wallace Glover has represented House District 62 which incorporates parts of Florence and Darlington counties since 1989. Born in Florence, she is the Director of Student Support Services at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Glover graduated from Fayetteville State University with a B.A. in 1970 and from Frances Marion College with a M.Ed. in 1982. She was in the U.S. Army from 1974-77. She was a member of the Florence School District 1 School Board of Trustees from 1983-1988. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Florence Branch NAACP and the Florence Housing Resource Board. Ms. Glover served on the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee until 1990. She currently is a member of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Sandra S. Wofford, R-Dorchester

In 1989, Sandra S. Wofford began her service in the House representing District 92, covering parts of Berkeley and Dorchester counties. Born in Maryland, she attended Trident Technical College. She is vice-president of Berkeley Pizza Inc. Mrs. Wofford has served as executive vice-president of Citizens Against Violent Crime (CAVE) from 1984-88 and is on the State Victims Compensation Board. Mrs. Wofford continues to serve in numerous civic activities, including secretary of the College Park PTO. She currently is secretary of the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Sarah G. Manly, D-Greenville

Sarah Gillespie Manly was elected in a special election Dec. 6, 1988 filling the vacancy left by the death of Rep. Charles H. "Chick" Rice. Born in Greenville, Mrs. Manly received her undergraduate degree from Furman University in 1947 and an M.Ed. from Clemson University in 1980. She has also studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cambridge University.

Mrs. Manly taught physics in Greenville county schools and at Clemson University. In addition, She has worked for MIT, Georgetown University, and NASA. Prior to her service in the House, Mrs. Manly was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the Greenville County School Board. Mrs. Manly serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Sen. Holly A. Cork, R-Beaufort

Holly Ann Cork was elected to the House in an October 1989 special election to fill the unexpired term of her late father Rep. William Cork. In March, Ms. Cork was elected to the Senate to fill the unexpired term of Senator James Waddell, making her one of the few women to be elected to both the House and the Senate. She represents Senate District 46, consisting of Beaufort and Jasper counties.

A Savannah, Georgia native, Ms. Cork is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and prior to her election to the House served as a legislative assistant to 1st District Congressman Arthur Ravenel. While in the House, Ms. Cork served on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. Her Senate committee assignments include the General Committee and....

Rep. Kathleen G. Kempe, D-Spartanburg

Kathleen Gayle Kempe began her service in the House in 1991, representing District 37 of Spartanburg County. Ms. Kempe was Born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She received a B.A. from Ohio State University in 1978 and a J.D. and M.P.A. from the University of South Carolina in 1981. From 1983-87, Ms. Kempe served on the S.C. Commission on Women and, from 1985-86, on Leadership South Carolina. She was also a member of the Task Force To Develop a System for Service Delivery for Persons with Head and/or Spinal Injuries. A lawyer, Ms. Kempe serves on the House Judiciary Committee. She previously was a member of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Rep. Rebecca D. Meacham, R-York

Representing District 48 of York County, Rebecca Davis "Becky" Meacham began her House service in 1991. Born in Chester, Mrs. Meacham graduated with a B.A. from Limestone College in 1965. In 1988, she became the first Republican and first woman to be elected to the Fort Mill City Council.

Mrs. Meacham is active in her church and community, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fort Mill Area Chamber of Commerce. A full time legislator, she serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Rep. Annette D. Young, R-Dorchester

Annette D. Young began her House service in 1991, representing District 96 of Dorchester County. A Mississippi native, Mrs. Young is president of Young Enterprises. Ms. Young is active in her community, serving as vice president of Givhans Elementary School PTA and the 1987 president of Rollings Elementary School PTO. She was Dorchester County Republican of the Year in 1986-87. Ms. Young serves on the House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Alma W. Byrd, D-Richland

Elected on June 25, 1991 to fill the unexpired term of former Rep. Frank E. McBride, Alma Weaver Byrd represents Richland County House District 74. Mrs. Byrd received her A.B. from Benedict College in 1944, her M.A. from Columbia University in 1960, and her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1978. She has also studied at the Sorbonne (Universite de Paris) and Universite de Poitiers a La Rochelle.

Born in Aiken, Mrs. Byrd taught foreign languages in South Carolina public schools until 1960 when she went to Benedict College. She has served on the School Board of Richland County District One in a variety of capacities, including chairman in 1985. Ms. Byrd has also served as a school board consultant in West Africa. She has been recognized for many community service activities, including co-founding the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. She serves on the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Levola S. Taylor, D-Richland

Also elected on June 25, 1991, Levola S. Taylor filled the unexpired term of former State Rep. James Faber. Mrs. Taylor represents District 70 in her native county of Richland. She received her B.S. from Benedict College and has done graduate work at the University of South Carolina. A social worker and educator, Mrs. Taylor has served on the Richland County District One School Board and is chairman of the Educational Task Force of the Lower Richland Development Council. Mrs. Taylor serves on the House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Rep. Kimberly T. Burch, D-Chesterfield

Kimberly Thomas Burch was elected to the House on October 15, 1991 to fill the unexpired term of her husband, State Rep. Paul M. Burch. She represents District 51 consisting of parts of Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster counties. Born in Charlotte, Mrs. Burch received a B.A. from Wingate College in 1975.She serves on the House Education and Public Works Committee. In addition to her political party activities, Mrs. Burch is active in her church, serving in a variety of capacities.

Rep. June S. Shissias, R-Richland

June Strother Shissias was elected on January 7, 1992 to fill the unexpired term of retired State Rep. T. Moffatt Burriss. She represents District 78 of Richland County. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Shissias received a B.S. in Secondary Education from Longwood College. Prior to her service in the House, Ms. Shissias was a social worker and a long time public school volunteer. She is on the Women's Board of Baptist Medical Center, a member of the Christa McAuliffe Scholarship Board, the AARP, the D.A.R. and the Richland County Republican Women's Club. She serves on the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs.

Rep. Gilda Y. Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg

On January 28, 1992, Gilda Yevette Cobb-Hunter was elected to the House to fill the unexpired term of former State Rep. Kenneth E. Bailey. She represents District 94, consisting of parts of Orangeburg County. Ms. Cobb-Hunter received a B.S. from Florida A & M and an M.A. from Florida State University. The social work administrator is also on the Board of Directors of Grassroots Leadership, S.C. Fair Share, S.C. ACLU and the S.C. Low Income Housing Coalition. Ms. Cobb-Hunter serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Rep. Brenda H. Council, R-Orangeburg

Brenda Hayes Council was also elected on January 28, 1992 to fill the unexpired term of State Rep. William S. McCain. She represents District 95, which consists of part of Orangeburg County. Mrs. Council received an associate degree from Anderson College and a B.A. from Columbia College. She has been vice president and president of the Community Betterment Division of the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and was on the Community Advisory Panel of the Ethyl Corporation. Mrs. Council is the vice-president/secretary of Council Lumber Company, Inc. She serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

Concluding Notes

Of the 46 women who have been elected to the General Assembly, nine have been black -- all elected to the House. South Carolinians have sent 12 Republicans and 34 Democratic women to serve in the state legislature.

Legislative Update, April 28, 1992

Twenty of the 46 counties in South Carolina have elected a woman to the Legislature. Chief among these has been Richland County, which has produced eight women legislators. Five women legislators have come from Charleston county. Four female legislators have been elected from Greenville, Spartanburg and York counties. Beaufort, Chesterfield, Dorchester, Horry, Jasper, Lexington, and Orangeburg counties each have elected two women to the General Assembly. Other counties that have sent a woman to the Statehouse include Aiken, Beaufort, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clarendon, Darlington, Florence, Laurens, and Pickens.