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SC legislative news

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SC Legislative News

June 23, 2023

This update is prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) Legislative Liaison to keep you informed of bills introduced in the General Assembly that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare issues, or state employee issues. Budget information and pertinent news from the General Assembly will also be provided. This publication is also available to employees on the SCDMH intranet site. Contact Robin Crawford, SCDMH Legislative Liaison, with questions or for more information at (803) 898-8391 or robin.crawford@scdmh.org.

The General Assembly has passed an FY24 budget and the Governor did not veto many items. The only item in SCDMH's budget that was vetoed was a member request for a local project. SCDMH's budget includes funding for critical staff retention for mental health professionals, law enforcement, and nurses; the state's 988 call centers and the Office of Suicide Prevention; a state-operated intensive group home; contracted community beds; a pilot program for mental health access for incarcerated individuals; and expansion of the alternative transportation program. The committee also approved a pay increase for state employees: employees making \$50,000 and under will receive a \$2,500 pay increase, and employees making over \$50,000 will receive a 5% pay increase. This pay increase will go into effect in July. The General Assembly will not reconvene to override vetoes and plans to meet again in January for the second year of the two-year session.

Visit the SC State House [website](#) to read any legislation of interest, [find out who represents you in the SC House and SC Senate](#), and to contact your legislators.