



SC Legislative News April 10 – April 14, 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.

This week, the House was on furlough and the Senate took a break from the Budget until they debate it on the floor next week. Once the Senate finalizes and passes their budget, it will be sent back to the House, which can amend or adopt the Senate budget. Anything that is not agreed upon by the House and Senate will go to a conference committee with designees from each chamber. The conference committee will work to arrive at a budget agreed upon by all designees, that will then have to be approved by both bodies. Once the House and Senate approve a budget, it will be sent to the Governor's office for consideration.

On Thursday, the Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee passed [S.610](#) favorably; this bill, called the *Professional Counseling Compact Act*, would allow South Carolina to recognize professional counselor licensure from other states that are members of the compact.

Legislation of note introduced this week includes [S.730](#), which would allow for the division of memory care facilities and assisted living facilities and require sufficient staff to provide appropriate care for residents.

The Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee on [S.399](#), a bill that would split apart DHEC, abolish SCDMH and DAODAS, and create a new behavioral health agency, is scheduled to meet next Thursday at 9am. If S.399 passes out of subcommittee, it will be on the agenda of the full Senate Medical Affairs Committee, which will meet at 10am the same day.

All Senate bills mentioned above failed to make the April 10th "crossover deadline", meaning the House will not consider these bills this calendar year. The SC General Assembly is in the first year of its two-year legislative session; therefore, bills that did not cross chambers this year are still viable for next year. The only exceptions are bills that are expressly identified in the Sine Die Resolution, which would allow the Legislature to continue working on them past the Sine Die date. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn Sine Die this year on Thursday, May 11th.

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.