



SC Legislative News

May 12, 2025

This update is prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) to keep you informed of state legislative and budget updates that may affect the Agency. This publication is also available to employees on the SCDMH Intranet site. Contact Robin Crawford, Director of Governmental Affairs, for more information at robin.crawford@scdmh.org.

On Thursday, the General Assembly adjourned Sine Die, marking the last day of the 2025 legislative session. This year is the first of a two-year session, so any bills that did not pass this year can still be considered next year.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health is now the Office of Mental Health under the newly created SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (SCBHDD). Structural changes will be communicated to each Office and Governor McMaster will announce his selection for director of SCBHDD in the coming weeks.

[H.3752](#), the Social Work Compact Act, passed both the House and Senate with amendments and was enrolled for ratification on Thursday. This legislation allows reciprocal social work licensure in [member states](#).

The House adopted the “H2” budget amendment for the appropriations bill, [H.4025](#), last week and sent it back to the Senate. Any items not agreed upon by both bodies will go to a Conference Committee where members will negotiate until they reach agreement. Each chamber will then have to vote to adopt the conference reports. The Conference Committee appointees for the budget are Senators Peeler, Alexander, and Jackson, and Representatives Bannister, Hewitt, and Stavrinakis. The General Assembly plans to reconvene to continue the budget process on May 28th, per the Sine Die resolution that allows them to continue this specific work past the adjournment date. This year, the General Assembly plans to spend more than \$14 billion even after eliminating earmarks. The Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) will release a new budget forecast on May 20th.

SCDMH’s administrative offices are moving to Otarre Parkway in Cayce this week to join the SC Department of Public Health and other SCBHDD Offices.

Visit the SC State House [website](#) to read any legislation of interest, to find the legislators that represent you, or to contact legislators.