

Under the Dome – Legislative Report Fall Update | November 30, 2017

Governor Henry McMaster announces Running Mate

On Tuesday, Governor Henry McMaster announced Pamela Evette as his 2018 running mate. Ms. Evette is an accountant who owns Quality Business Solutions, a human resources firm, and has no political experience. Governor McMaster stated, “Pamela is exactly what South Carolina needs – she is smart, hard-working and knows how to get things done.” Ms. Evette becomes the first person in South Carolina history to be chosen for a joint Governor/Lt. Governor ticket, as 2018 marks the first year the Governor and Lt. Governor will run together. Governor McMaster will face primary opponents Catherine Templeton, current Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant and former Lt. Governor and Senator Yancey McGill next June. Representative James Smith (D – Richland) has also announced his campaign for Governor in hopes to secure the Democratic nomination. Representative Smith will face Phil Noble in the June primary.

New Medicaid Director – Josh Baker

On November 9th, Governor McMaster promoted Joshua Baker to Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Baker previously served as the Director of Operations for the Department, and prior to his time at the agency served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Budget and Policy under former Governor Nikki Haley. Baker must be confirmed by the Senate when session begins in January.

General Assembly Membership Update

2018 is an election year for not only the Governor and all statewide offices, but the House of Representatives as well. So far in 2017 we have seen numerous changes in the House, with two current vacancies for the District 56 seat in Myrtle Beach and the District 99 seat in Daniel Island. The most recent elections include:

- The November 28th primary runoff election of Nancy Mace – R, a Daniel Island real estate professional who was the first woman to graduate from the Citadel. Mace is highly favored to win the special election for District 99 on January 16th against Cindy Boatwright – D.
- The November 14th primary election of Ashley Trantham – R, a real estate professional whose family runs a dairy farm, for District 28 in Greenville. Representative Eric Bedingfield (R) is resigning in January to take a job in the private sector but held his seat to complete the off-session work of the House Opioid Abuse Prevention Study Committee. Bedingfield has served as the House

lead on several opioid abuse initiatives. With no Democratic opponent, Trantham will be the only name on the January 16th ballot.

- The November 7th special election of Marvin Pendarvis – D, a Charleston attorney who was elected to fill District 113 formerly held by Seth Whipper who resigned to become a Charleston Magistrate Judge. Pendarvis has been sworn in to office.
- The October 24th primary election of Tim McGinnis – R, a former TV news anchor and restaurant owner, for the District 56 seat held by Mike Ryhal before he resigned to take a job in the private sector. With no Democratic opponent, McGinnis will be the only name on the January 2nd ballot.

Three House members not running for re-election, possibly a fourth

Representative Katie Arrington (R – Dorchester) has announced a run for Congressional District 1 against current Congressman Mark Sanford, and as noted above Representative James Smith has announced a run for Governor. We expect both Arrington and Smith to serve out their current House terms. Representative Tommy Stringer (R – Greenville) announced last week that he will not run for re-election. It has been reported that Todd Atwater (R – Lexington) will soon announce a run for state Attorney General. Atwater would be unable to run for both his current House seat and statewide office but could serve out the remainder of his term as the District 87 representative.

Two other legislators – Senator John Courson (R – Richland) and Representative Rick Quinn (R – Lexington), remain suspended from office after their indictments in the ongoing State House corruption probe. Representative Quinn's trial date has been set for February 26, 2018 as he hopes the charges will be dismissed and he can file for re-election. Senator Courson's trial date has not yet been set.

House Committee Membership

Speaker Lucas announced on Tuesday the appointment of Representatives Heather Ammons Crawford (R – Myrtle Beach) and Todd Rutherford (D – Richland) to fill the two vacancies on the House Ways and Means Committee. The Speaker appointed Representative Sylleste Davis (R – Berkeley) to fill the one House Judiciary Committee vacancy.

2018 Major Issues

All Things Nuclear

- The V.C. Summer Nuclear Project failure is already sucking the wind out of the 2018 legislative session. The House Utility Ratepayer Protection Committee and the Senate V.C. Summer Nuclear Project Review Committee were appointed to address difficult issues related to the project failure - see additional information below regarding current and forthcoming prefiled legislation.

House Tax Reform Study Committee

- The Committee has met several times in the off-session to review various proposals related to income tax brackets, state tax exemptions, corporate income tax and other matters. The Committee will meet again next Monday, December 4th at 10:30 a.m.

November 30, 2017

Page 2 of 15

Abbeville School Equity Lawsuit / Education Reform

- Several legislative initiatives pending in both the Senate and House – see additional information below regarding the Supreme Court’s recent ruling.

Opioid Abuse Epidemic

- A package of 13+ bills was introduced in the 2017 legislative session, and the House Opioid Abuse Prevention Study Committee has held numerous meetings and public hearings in the off-session to receive testimony and recommendations. The Committee will meet again next Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. and is expected to bring forth recommendations to be drafted into additional legislation for 2018.

Medical Marijuana

- Continued study and review of pending legislation led by Senator Tom Davis (R – Aiken)

State Budget

- Annual juggernaut of debate with House budget subcommittee hearings slated to begin the first week of session. On November 9th, the state Board of Economic Advisors projected \$292 million dollars in new recurring revenue for the state, with the next projection due on February 15, 2018.

V.C. Summer Nuclear Project Failure

Both the Senate and House special committees have taken hours of testimony from SCANA / SCE&G executives, Santee Cooper executives, the Public Service Commission, the Office of Regulatory Staff, and ratepayers regarding the V.C. Summer Nuclear Project failure. Most agree that major provisions of the Base Load Review Act enacted in 2007 must be repealed so ratepayers will no longer be charged monthly for the project – currently an 18% increase on each bill for SCE&G customers and a 4.3% increase on each bill for electric co-op customers under the purview of Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility. Many ideas and recommendations have been discussed, and the committee notes below merely scratch the surface of what is to come in 2018 before final decisions on legislation are made. This highly controversial, emotional issue is expected to dominate the session – especially in the House of Representatives with 2018 being an election year.

Action taken by the House Utility Ratepayer Protection Committee / full House Judiciary Committee

On November 21st, the full House Judiciary Committee gave a favorable report to a package of six bills which were prefiled on November 9th. The goal was to complete Committee debate on the bills so they would be on the House calendar when session convenes the week of January 9th. Additional legislation is expected to be prefiled and introduced later in session.

- **H.4375 – Electric Utility Ratemaking** – deals with the Base Load Review Act. Would require the utility to pay for the cost of the abandoned project. SCE&G has an 18% increase on ratepayer bills, or \$37M per month going toward a project which will likely never be completed. The bill strips that 18% and protects the ratepayer from having to pay any further money toward the project. Also instructs the PSC to set an “interim rate” which would be in place during any ongoing litigation, as lawsuits have already been filed and additional lawsuits are anticipated. Favorable report as amended by the full Committee.

- **H.4379 – Office of Regulatory Staff and Utility Consumer Advocate** – Adds a Consumer Advocate to the ORS, allows ORS to have subpoena powers, and requires the ORS to represent the public interest. **Favorable report by the full Committee by a vote of 21 - 0.**
- **H.4377 – Public Service Commission (PSC) Revisions** – Right now there are seven members, one from each congressional district. There have been discussions about adding more members, but no consensus has been reached on the number of new members or how they would be appointed. This bill would require that certain qualifications must be met to serve on the PSC. Adds 6 hours of continuing education requirements for Commissioners. Allows the PSC to speak with the PURC Committee, but not about pending or future matters. Only on matters that have been decided on in the past. **Favorable report by the full Committee.**
- **H.4376 – Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper)** – Ends the terms of the sitting Santee Cooper Board and requires certain qualifications for Board members similar to H.4377. Board membership is revised. New or revised electric rates must also go through the PSC. Lastly, new or revised rates may not include costs associated with the abandonment of V.C. Summer. **Favorable Report by the full Committee by a vote of 21 - 0.**
- **H.4378 – Utility Oversight Committee, formerly Pubic Utilities Review Committee (PURC)** – change the appointment process, total number of those serving on the Board to 12. Three members each from Senate and House, one member of the general public appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore, one member of the general public appointed by the Speaker of the House, and four members of the general public appointed by the Governor. Important to change the makeup and add several lay appointments – going to 6 legislators and 6 lay people – equal number for each. Same qualifications as the PSC for Board members. **Favorable report as amended by a vote of 21 - 0.**
- **H.4380 – Electric Utility Rate Refund** – one of the main issues we have head is that we are addressing the future, but we are not considering the costs which have already been paid by ratepayers. We asked staff to draw up a bill that we think is a reasonable way to refund by asking to the PSC to refund ratepayers. This would not impact co-op ratepayers. **Favorable report by the full Committee by a vote of 20 – 0.**

Action taken by the Senate V.C. Summer Nuclear Project Review Committee

The following decisions will be drafted as pre-filed legislation and sent to the appropriate committees – primarily Senate Judiciary and Senate Finance:

- Senator Shane Massey (R – Edgefield), Senate Majority Leader and Co-Chairman of the Project Review Committee, moved to **reduce the number of members of the Public Service Commission from 7 to 5 members.** This proposed legislation passed on a 7 to 4 vote with the Chairman of Senate Judiciary, Luke Rankin, voting against the recommendation – likely to be referred to Senate Judiciary.
- Senator Massey moved, and the Committee agreed to, proposed legislation which would **create a Consumer Advocate position at Office of Regulator Staff** and update qualifications of the ORS Executive Director.
- Senator Nikki Setzler (D – Lexington), Senate Minority Leader and Co-Chairman of the Project Review Committee, moved and the Committee agreed to, proposed legislation to **reduce the Santee Cooper Board term from 7 to 5 years.** Comments included wanting to be certain the bond rating is not impacted which could in turn adversely impact rates. This proposed legislation will likely be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Senator Massey moved and the Committee agreed to proposed legislation to **eliminate retirement plans at Santee Cooper.**
- Senator Massey moved and the Committee agreed to proposed legislation to **set Santee Cooper’s borrowing limit at 50% of assets,** which was said to be \$12.3 billion currently, and anything borrowed above 50% must be reviewed by and recommended by the Joint Bond Review Committee.

- Senator Massey made the motion to move Santee Cooper to the Public Service Commission and argued this huge failure shows the need for more oversight. Senators Rankin and Hutto were against this motion and asked to carry the motion over. Rankin and Hutto argued that a valuation is under way and there is a need to gain more information and input from experts and the public, plus learn how other states govern public utilities. Senator Massey's motion failed on a 5 to 4 vote, and Massey predicted stand-alone legislation will be pre-filed addressing this issue.
- Senator John Scott (D – Richland) moved and the Project Review Committee agreed to proposed legislation which would **require any future public-private partnerships entered into by Santee Cooper to be approved by PSC.**
- Senator Mike Fanning (D – Fairfield) moved to **amend Santee Cooper's governing statute to allow Santee Cooper to perform its own evaluation.** The Project Review Committee agreed to motion.
- Senator Massey moved to **block Santee Cooper from continuing to charge customers 4.3% of their power bills for the failed project and additionally moved block Santee Cooper from immediately spending Toshiba Settlement dollars – approximately \$900 million.** Both motions were agreed to, and the proposed legislation will likely be referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
- The Committee voted to **abolish additional retirement plans for Santee Cooper employees** (due to former CEO Lonnie Carter's \$800K/year retirement).
- Senators Massey and Fanning moved to repeal the Base Load Review Act for any new future project. This language may be included in proposed legislation.

South Carolina Supreme Court dismisses School Equity Funding Lawsuit

On November 17th, the South Carolina Supreme Court dismissed the Abbeville School Equity Lawsuit, a case which has been pending for 24 years impacting the “Corridor of Shame” and inequitable school funding throughout the state. Three years ago, the Supreme Court ordered the General Assembly to come up with a plan to provide equitable funding to each of the more than 40 school districts listed in the lawsuit – mostly rural districts with a small tax base and therefore significantly less revenue for public schools. The order passed by a 3-2 margin with Justices saying the General Assembly responded in “good faith” to the Court’s 2014 order mandating a plan to aid failing schools. The order further noted the 2014 decision was a “gross overreach of judicial power.” Speaker of the House Jay Lucas (R – Hartsville), Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman (R – Florence), Senate Finance K-12 Education Subcommittee Chairman Vincent Sheheen (D – Kershaw) and other legislators pledged to continue efforts to improve struggling districts and schools. Numerous legislative committees have been formed and received hours upon hours of testimony over the past three years with ideas and recommendations on how the General Assembly can help these districts. Most agree the funding formulas are outdated and are no longer serving the needs of public schools, but the General Assembly has not made progress in addressing the formula issue.

Legislative Session Timeline Reminders

122nd Session of the South Carolina General Assembly – 2nd Regular Session (2018)

- Convenes Tuesday, January 9th
- Second year of a two-year session
- Legislation not enacted during the 2018 session will be null and void
- Crossover deadline is April 10th – especially important in the second year of a two-year session
- Statutory Sine Die date – Thursday, May 10, 2018

2017 – Meetings and Events

[Latest Senate meeting posts](#)

[Latest House meeting posts](#)

Monday, December 4th	
Education Oversight Committee – EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee – Discussion of all Education Improvement Act (EIA) Budget and Provisos	10:00 a.m. 433 Blatt
House Tax Policy Review Committee – Committee discussion re: Individual Income Tax, Sales and Use Tax and other Tax Proposals	10:30 a.m. 516 Blatt – Live Stream Available
Tuesday, December 5th	
Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee – Budget requests from the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) and the Department of Health and Human Services	12:30 p.m. 207 Gressette
Wednesday, December 6th	
House Opioid Abuse Prevention Study Committee – Agenda TBD	10:00 a.m. 110 Blatt – Live Stream Available
Monday, December 11th	
Full Education Oversight Committee – Subcommittee reports, FY 2018-18 Budget Recommendations	1:00 p.m. 433 Blatt
Tuesday, December 12th	
Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee – Budget request from the Department of Social Services and possibly other agencies	Time, location TBA

November 30, 2017

Page 6 of 15

Tuesday, December 19th	
Full House Legislative Oversight Committee – Review of Subcommittee recommendations related to the State Election Commission and the Department of Health and Environmental Control	10:00 a.m. 110 Blatt
<p style="text-align: center;">2018 – Meetings and Events *Additional Meetings May be Posted*</p>	
Tuesday, January 9th	
First day of the 2018 legislative session	<i>IMPORTANT:</i> 2018 is the second year of a two-year session. Any legislation not achieving passage by Sine Die adjournment will be null and void.
House Ways and Means Committee Budget Schedule January 9 – 11 First week of session & budget subcommittees January 16 – 18 Budget subcommittee meetings January 23 – 25 Budget subcommittee meetings January 30 – Feb 1 Budget subcommittee meetings February 6 – 8 Budget subcommittee meetings February 13 – 15 PROVISIO Subcommittee meeting February 20 – 22 FULL COMMITTEE budget deliberations February 27 – March 1 Appropriation bills printed March 6 – 8 Appropriations bills placed on member desks March 12 – 15 HOUSE FLOOR budget deliberations	*Subject to change at the discretion of the Chairman February 1 st – Deadline for proviso submittals February 15 th : Board of Economic Advisors estimate due
Tuesday, April 10th	
Crossover Deadline for legislation	<i>IMPORTANT:</i> Legislation not passing one chamber before the crossover deadline is likely null and void, as a majority vote would be required for the receiving chamber to accept and take up the bill.
Thursday, May 10th	
Statutory Sine Die date – 5:00 p.m.	As noted above, any legislation not achieving passage by this date is null and void.

House Prefiled Legislation – November 9th

RPL reviews all legislation introduced in the Senate and House each week plus all legislation prefiled in November and December. [Click here](#) to review all November 9th prefiled legislation. The list below includes bills of interest to our clients which will be tracked throughout the session. The Senate will prefile legislation on December 6th, and the House will prefile one additional round of legislation on December 13th.

Please let us know if there are any specific bills you would like receive updates on as they move through the legislative process, and feel free to call Ted, Hobart or Tara anytime at (803) 799-9993 or email tboone@rplfirm.com with questions or comments.

V.C. Summer – Utility Reform – Main Package of Bills recommended by the House Utility Ratepayer Protection Committee *All six bills received a favorable report by the full House Judiciary Committee on November 21st and will be placed on the House calendar for consideration beginning the first week of session.

[H. 4375](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Henegan, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 34 TO TITLE 58 SO AS TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS FOR SPECIFIC UTILITY PLANTS OR PROJECTS IN REGARD TO RATE DETERMINATIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE GENERAL RATE PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 27, TITLE 58; TO AMEND ARTICLES 4 AND 5, CHAPTER 33, TITLE 58, RELATING TO THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT OF 2007, SO AS TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURAL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ACT, INCLUDING PROVISIONS TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT RATE INCREASES FOR THESE BASE LOAD PLANTS PROSPECTIVELY SHALL BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 27, TITLE 58, AS WELL AS CERTAIN REVISED PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE; TO AMEND SECTION 58-27-850 RELATING TO CHANGES OF RATES BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AFTER INVESTIGATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND THE ARTICLE WHEREIN IT IS CONTAINED SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 34; AND TO DELETE ARTICLES 1, 3, AND 7 OF CHAPTER 33, TITLE 58, RELATING TO UTILITY FACILITY SITING, PROTECTIONS, AND CERTIFICATION.

[H. 4376](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Henegan, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 58-31-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE TERMS OF ALL PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL EXPIRE ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AT WHICH TIME NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WITH SPECIFIED QUALIFICATIONS SHALL BE APPOINTED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN THE SECTION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE RECONSTITUTED BOARD; BY ADDING SECTION 58-31-25 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT NEW OR REVISED ELECTRIC RATES AND CHARGES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY AS PROPOSED BY THE AUTHORITY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL AND DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 27, TITLE 58 AS SUPPLEMENTED BY ANY OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 58-31-30, RELATING TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC

November 30, 2017

Page 8 of 15

SERVICE AUTHORITY AND ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SO AS TO REVISE THE POWER OF THE AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES AND CHARGES SO THAT NEW AND REVISED RATES AND CHARGES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION AND APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND THAT NO NEW RATES OR REVISED CHARGES MAY BE IMPOSED OR APPROVED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING ANY OF THE ABANDONMENT COSTS OF THE TWO NEW NUCLEAR REACTORS CONSTRUCTED PURSUANT TO THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT; AND TO AMEND SECTION 58-31-360, RELATING TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S COVENANTS WITH HOLDERS OF BONDED OR OTHER INDEBTEDNESS OF THE AUTHORITY, SO AS TO CLARIFY AND FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THESE COVENANTS AS A RESULT OF THE ABANDONMENT OF THE TWO NUCLEAR REACTORS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

[H. 4377 \(Word version\)](#) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP; TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-30, RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND AT LEAST SIX HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CURRICULUM; TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-225, RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSIONERS TO QUESTION THE PARTIES THOROUGHLY DURING HEARINGS OF CONTESTED CASES WHEN APPROPRIATE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-260, RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE AND CERTAIN OTHER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

[H. 4378 \(Word version\)](#) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Henegan, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 TO CHAPTER 3, TITLE 58 SO AS TO CREATE THE UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION, DUTIES, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMITTEE; TO REPEAL ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 58 RELATING TO THE STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE; AND TO AMEND SECTIONS 8-13-935, 58-3-5, 58-9-280, 58-9-285, 58-9-2689, 58-27-2630, 58-31-20, AND 58-39-140, ALL RELATING TO UTILITIES AND THE REGULATION AND OVERSIGHT OF UTILITIES, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

[H. 4379 \(Word version\)](#) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Henegan, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 9 TO CHAPTER 7, TITLE 1 SO AS TO CREATE THE UTILITIES CONSUMER ADVOCATE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UTILITIES CONSUMER ADVOCATE, AMONG OTHER THINGS; TO AMEND SECTION 58-4-10, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF AND ITS MISSION, SO AS TO REMOVE THE PRESERVATION OF THE FINANCIAL INTEGRITY OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC UTILITIES, CONTINUED INVESTMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES FROM THE MISSION; TO AMEND SECTION 58-4-50, RELATING TO REGULATORY STAFF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SO AS TO ADD THAT THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE RESEARCH, EXPERTISE, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE UTILITIES CONSUMER ADVOCATE AND MAKE OTHER CONFORMING CHANGES; TO AMEND SECTION 58-4-55, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF'S ABILITY TO REQUEST CERTAIN INFORMATION, SO AS TO ADD THAT THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE SUBPOENA POWERS AND THAT THE UTILITIES CONSUMER ADVOCATE MAY REQUEST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS ON HIS BEHALF, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE

REQUESTED INFORMATION UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND TO AMEND SECTION 58-4-80, RELATING TO INTERVENTION IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ON APPEAL THE OFFICE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

[H. 4380](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. McCoy, Ott, Lucas, Anderson, Ballentine, Blackwell, Caskey, Crawford, Crosby, Davis, Finlay, Forrester, Gilliard, Hardee, Henegan, Hixon, Mack, Pope, Rutherford, J. E. Smith, Sandifer and Stavrinakis: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 58-27-875 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL ORDER REFUNDS TO RATEPAYERS OF AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR COSTS ATTRIBUTED TO PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES; TO PROVIDE UTILITIES BEAR THE BURDEN OF PROVING THAT COLLECTED COSTS MAY BE RECOVERABLE UNDER STATE LAW; AND TO PROVIDE THE COMMISSION SHALL ORDER SUCH REFUNDS ON JUST AND REASONABLE BASES AND MAY MAKE SUCH REFUNDS BY ESTABLISHING CREDITS TO RATEPAYERS OVER PERIODS OF TIME AND UNDER CONDITIONS THAT ARE JUST AND REASONABLE.

Additional bills addressing Utility Reform

[H. 4401](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Rutherford: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MUTUALLY RETAIN A PRIVATE BUSINESS OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FACILITIES TO AID THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DETERMINING THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH THE STATE SHOULD SELL ITS MINORITY OWNERSHIP POSITION, HELD BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, IN THE V.C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY.

[H. 4414](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. J. E. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AFTER RECONSTITUTION, SO AS TO CHANGE THE APPLICABLE DATE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 58-3-20 AND 58-3-24, BOTH RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE AND TO CHANGE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION; TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-140, RELATING TO THE POWER OF THE COMMISSION TO REGULATE PUBLIC UTILITIES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ACT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST; TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-260, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS IN MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE VIOLATIONS TO BE REPORTED TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 58-3-520 AND 58-3-530, BOTH RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE IN SELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 58-3-560 RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.

[H. 4415](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Putnam: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION, AS PREVIOUSLY CONSTITUTED, IS RECONSTITUTED TO CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-20, RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION, AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION, SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MUST BE PUBLICLY ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE RESPECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE MEMBERS RESIDE, TO PROVIDE FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM AGE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

OF THE SENATE EACH SHALL APPOINT ONE COMMISSIONER TO SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE RESPECTIVE APPOINTING AUTHORITY.

[H. 4417](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Stavrinakis and McCoy: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 2-17-30, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE LOBBYIST'S REPORT OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REPORT WHEN A LOBBYIST HAS PERFORMED LOBBYING ACTIVITIES OR HAD OTHER WORK-RELATED CONTACTS WITH A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR WITH AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF; TO AMEND SECTION 2-17-35, RELATING TO THE LOBBYIST'S PRINCIPAL'S REPORT OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REPORT WHEN A LOBBYIST ACTING ON BEHALF OF A LOBBYIST'S PRINCIPAL HAS PERFORMED LOBBYING ACTIVITIES OR HAD OTHER WORK-RELATED CONTACTS WITH A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR WITH AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-700, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION FOR FINANCIAL GAIN, SO AS TO PROHIBIT MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OR THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF FROM RECEIVING ANYTHING OF VALUE FROM A UTILITY, COMPANY, CORPORATION, ENTITY, JOINT VENTURE, OR PERSON WHOSE BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE, OPERATIONS, OR ACTIVITIES ARE REGULATED, WHETHER WHOLLY OR IN PART, BY A GOVERNMENTAL REGULATORY AGENCY PURSUANT TO TITLE 58 OF THE 1976 CODE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-1332, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO UNLAWFUL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES, SO AS TO PROHIBIT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OR STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS OR CANDIDATES FOR A STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE FROM SOLICITING OR ACCEPTING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A UTILITY, COMPANY, CORPORATION, ENTITY, JOINT VENTURE, OR PERSON, WHOSE BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE, OPERATIONS, OR ACTIVITIES ARE REGULATED, WHETHER WHOLLY OR IN PART, BY A GOVERNMENTAL REGULATORY AGENCY PURSUANT TO TITLE 58 OF THE 1976 CODE.

[H. 4419](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Finlay: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 58-3-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ARE FOR FOUR YEARS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SERVING IN OFFICE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018, MAY NOT SERVE IN A HOLDOVER CAPACITY FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR TERMS.

[H. 4420](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Finlay: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 58-33-282 SO AS TO PROHIBIT A UTILITY THAT EMPLOYS THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT'S ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES FROM GIVING OR AWARDING TO AN OFFICER OR A "C-SUITE" OR "C-LEVEL" EXECUTIVE A SEVERANCE PACKAGE WITH A VALUE OR WORTH THAT EXCEEDS THE LARGEST SEVERANCE PACKAGE GIVEN OR AWARDED TO AN EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TERMINATED AS A RESULT OF THE UTILITY'S ABANDONMENT.

[H. 4421](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. J. E. Smith, McCoy, Ott, G. M. Smith and Ballentine: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 25 TO CHAPTER 27, TITLE 58 SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT" TO DEFINE CATEGORIES OF COSTS TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER CHARGES, TO LIMIT RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER CHARGES TO CAPTURE ONLY CUSTOMER-RELATED COSTS, AND TO REQUIRE EACH ELECTRICAL UTILITY TO INCLUDE A LINE ITEM ON CUSTOMER BILL STATEMENTS TO SHOW THE PERCENTAGE OF RETAIL RATES ATTRIBUTABLE TO DEFERRED RECOVERY OF THE COST OF THE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION ABANDONED DURING CONSTRUCTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 58-33-225; BY ADDING CHAPTER 42 TO TITLE 58 SO AS TO ESTABLISH STATEWIDE STANDARDS PROVIDING CUSTOMERS WITH THE ABILITY TO INSTALL AND UTILIZE ONSITE

November 30, 2017

Page 11 of 15

DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SOURCES, TO DEFINE RELEVANT TERMS, TO ESTABLISH STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS, TO PROHIBIT UTILITIES FROM PREVENTING CONSTRUCTION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO PROVIDE THE STATEWIDE NET METERING STANDARDS, TO ALLOW SETTLEMENT-BASED COST RECOVERY FOR INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES FOR CUSTOMER-GENERATORS BUT TO PROHIBIT COST RECOVERY OF LOST REVENUES WITHIN THE STATEWIDE NET METERING PROGRAM, TO EXEMPT INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS WHO ADOPT ONSITE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES FROM INCREMENTAL DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE PROGRAM COSTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE OWNER OF AN ONSITE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE WHO HAS REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF AS A LESSOR OF THESE FACILITIES MAY NOT BE REGULATED AS A PUBLIC UTILITY FOR OFFERING A SERVICE THAT PROVIDES ONSITE GENERATION TO CUSTOMER-GENERATORS THROUGH A POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT, TO REQUIRE EACH ELECTRICAL UTILITY TO PROVIDE A DISASTER READINESS INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR AND STORAGE COMBINATION ONSITE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES FACILITIES ON THE RESIDENCES OF FIRST RESPONDERS AND DESIGNATED PUBLIC SHELTERS; BY ADDING SECTION 27-1-80 SO AS TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST USE OF ONSITE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES THROUGH RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, DEED RESTRICTIONS, OR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION DOCUMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 58-40-10, RELATING TO TERMS APPLICABLE TO NET ENERGY METERING, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "CUSTOMER-GENERATOR"; TO AMEND SECTION 58-40-20, RELATING TO NET ENERGY METERING RATES, SO AS TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REMOVE LANGUAGE PROVIDING THAT NET METERING RATES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 40, TITLE 58 ARE THE EXCLUSIVE NET METERING RATES AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMER-GENERATORS; TO AMEND SECTION 58-27-2600, RELATING TO TERMS APPLICABLE TO THE LEASE OF RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES PROGRAMS, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "RETAIL ELECTRIC PROVIDER"; TO AMEND SECTION 58-27-2610, RELATING TO THE LEASE OF A RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY, SO AS TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROVIDE THAT LESSORS OF RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES MAY OFFER WARRANTY SERVICES, AND TO REMOVE THE CURRENT TWO PERCENT CAP ON LEASED RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES; TO AMEND SECTION 58-27-2630, RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF A RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY LEASED TO A CUSTOMER-GENERATOR LESSEE, SO AS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT CUSTOMER-GENERATOR NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT WITH A SIGNED DECLARATION FROM THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR THAT IT WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO RESELL OR SELL ELECTRIC OUTPUT TO A THIRD-PARTY THAT IS NOT THE ELECTRIC RETAIL SUPPLIER; AND TO AMEND SECTION 12-37-220, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM PROPERTY TAX, SO AS TO EXEMPT RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE PROPERTY HAVING A NAMEPLATE CAPACITY OF NO GREATER THAN TWENTY KILOWATTS, AS MEASURED IN ALTERNATING CURRENT.

[H. 4425 \(Word version\)](#) -- Rep. J. E. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO ENACT THE "PUBLIC UTILITY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 58-33-299 SO AS TO PROHIBIT FUTURE BASE LOAD REVIEW APPLICATIONS OR PETITIONS FOR MODIFICATION; BY ADDING SECTION 58-33-300 SO AS TO REQUIRE A UTILITY TO MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS BEFORE IT MAY RECOVER COSTS OF AN ABANDONED BASE LOAD PLANT; BY ADDING SECTION 58-33-305 SO AS TO REQUIRE A UTILITY TO BEAR THE DUTY OF CANDOR TO THE COMMISSION; BY ADDING CHAPTER 41 TO TITLE 58 SO AS TO CREATE THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATE OFFICE, TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, TO ESTABLISH THE TERM AND POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR, TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE IN REPRESENTING CONSUMERS IN PROCEEDINGS AND TO ESTABLISH A SOURCE OF FUNDING; TO AMEND SECTION 1-11-20, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF OFFICES, SO AS TO TRANSFER THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THIS STATE, TO AMEND SECTIONS 48-52-410, 48-52-440, AND 48-52-460, AS AMENDED, ALL RELATING TO THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; TO AMEND SECTION 58-33-110, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY, SO AS TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE APPROVAL OF A PLAN TO RECOVER THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN THE RATES FOR THE

November 30, 2017

Page 12 of 15

UTILITY; TO AMEND SECTION 58-33-220, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT, SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM "PRUDENCE"; TO AMEND SECTION 58-33-270, RELATING TO BASE LOAD REVIEW ORDERS, SO AS TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR A PARTY TO CHALLENGE A BREACH OF A UTILITY'S DUTY OF CANDOR AND TRANSPARENCY; TO AMEND SECTION 58-37-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO PUBLIC UTILITIES, SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM "ENERGY EFFICIENCY"; TO AMEND SECTION 58-37-20, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ADOPTING PROCEDURES ENCOURAGING ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SO AS TO ESTABLISH ENERGY SAVINGS GOALS, TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO PROMULGATE RULES, TO REQUIRE A UTILITY TO SUBMIT ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLANS AND TO ENUMERATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PLANS, TO REQUIRE A UTILITY TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT, TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF TO PRODUCE A REPORT EVERY THREE YEARS, TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC UTILITIES PROVIDING GAS SERVICES TO INVEST IN COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES, TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT GUIDELINES REFLECTING THE DEDICATION TO INVEST IN ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY; AND TO AMEND SECTION 58-37-40, RELATING TO INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS, SO AS TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, TO REQUIRE ELECTRICAL UTILITIES TO PREPARE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS AND ENUMERATE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS AND TO REQUIRE THE PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO PREPARE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS.

CPR Training for all public-school teachers

[H. 4387](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Gilliard: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59-26-120 SO AS TO REQUIRE ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ASSIGNED TO SCHOOLS ON CAMPUSES WITH RETAINING PONDS BEFORE THE END OF THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR, TO REQUIRE SUCH TRAINING FOR NEW TEACHERS, TO PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST OFFER THIS TRAINING AT NO COST TO THEIR TEACHERS, TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION RESULTING FROM THIS TRAINING IS NOT REQUIRED, TO PROVIDE CRITERIA FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS, TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION FOR TEACHERS WHO HOLD VALID CERTIFICATION IN ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION FROM PROGRAMS THAT MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA, AND TO PROVIDE WAIVERS FROM A CERTAIN COMPONENT OF THE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS WITH PROHIBITIVE PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS.

Firearms

[H. 4404](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Bryant and Pope: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 23-31-600, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A QUALIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING TO QUALIFY TO CARRY A FIREARM THAT MUST BE OFFERED TO A QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT RESTRICTS THE CARRYING OF A CONCEALED WEAPON ONTO CERTAIN PREMISES.

[H. 4424](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Stavrinakis, Sottile and Clary: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16-23-540 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION, OR MANUFACTURE OF A DEVICE, PART, COMPONENT, ATTACHMENT, OR ACCESSORY INTENDED TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF FIRE OF A SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARM, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AND TO ALLOW EXCEPTIONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

[H. 4396](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Taylor: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1-23-665 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REVIEW WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT, TO PROVIDE RELATED GENERAL FUNCTIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE AND THE COURT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO PROVIDE APPLICABLE PROCEDURES, AND TO EXEMPT DATA FROM VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS MADE BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE MOUNTED RECORDING DEVICES OR DASHBOARD CAMERAS; TO AMEND SECTION 30-4-100, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO EQUITABLE REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ENFORCE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, SO AS TO MAKE SUCH REMEDIES AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REVIEW, TO PROVIDE FOR APPEALS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT, TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES CONCERNING THE AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES TO PREVAILING PARTIES, TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS EFFECTIVE UPON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF RELATED COURT RULES, AND TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS ONLY APPLICABLE TO ACTIONS FILED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 30-4-110, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO EQUITABLE REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC BODIES TO ENFORCE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REVIEW, SO AS TO MAKE SUCH REMEDIES AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REVIEW, TO PROVIDE FOR APPEALS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT, TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES CONCERNING THE AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES TO PREVAILING PARTIES, TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS EFFECTIVE UPON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF RELATED COURT RULES, AND TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS ONLY APPLICABLE TO ACTIONS FILED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

Multi-Family Dwellings, Balcony requirements

[H. 4392](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. J. E. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ENACT THE "MULTIFAMILY DWELLING SAFETY ACT" BY ADDING CHAPTER 21 TO TITLE 40 SO AS TO PROVIDE NECESSARY DEFINITIONS, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION TO ADOPT A MULTIFAMILY DWELLING BALCONY CODE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR BALCONY RAILINGS THAT ARE PRIMARILY CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD AND ARE LOCATED IN MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT PERIODICALLY TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF SUCH BALCONIES TO ASCERTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE, AND TO PROVIDE REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

State Government / Political Subdivisions - Reapportionment

[H. 4416](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. B. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 6-1-180 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THOSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE THAT ARE NOT OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW TO UNDERGO PERIODIC REAPPORTIONMENT AND WHOSE GOVERNING BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COUNCIL IS POPULARLY ELECTED FROM SINGLE-MEMBER ELECTION DISTRICTS, RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS, OR A COMBINATION OF AT-LARGE AND SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS, MUST BE REAPPORTIONED TO A POPULATION VARIANCE OF LESS THAN TEN PERCENT WITHIN THREE YEARS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE LATEST OFFICIAL UNITED STATES DECENNIAL CENSUS IS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR CONTINUITY OF REPRESENTATION WHEN REAPPORTIONMENT LOCATES TWO OR MORE ELECTED MEMBERS IN THE SAME ELECTION DISTRICT, AND TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE REGARDING REAPPORTIONMENT.

[H. 4412](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Henderson: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 13-7-45, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING IN PART TO THE REGULATION OF TANNING ESTABLISHMENTS, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO INSPECT SOURCES OF NONIONIZING RADIATION AND TO RETAIN FEES TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.



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