

Under the Dome – Special Session Legislative Report
June 17 | 20 – 2022

Special Session I --- Conference Reports Rule the Day

The Senate and House of Representatives convened in statewide session at noon on Wednesday to consider Conference Reports and other matters authorized by the [Sine Die Resolution](#). Three Free Conference Reports and 20 Conference Reports were considered, with two Conference Reports – [S.935](#) (Education Scholarship Accounts) and [S.17](#) (DHEC Permit extensions for certain economic development projects) failing to receive a vote in the Senate. Conferees could not reach an agreement on [S.908](#) regarding “Carolina Squat” altered vehicles, and the bill is now null and void.

Special Session II --- Tuesday, June 28th

Members will reconvene at noon on Tuesday, June 28th to focus on budget vetoes issued by Governor McMaster. The Sine Die Resolution does not allow for further consideration of conference reports which failed to receive a vote on June 15th, but additional matters which may be considered include:

- (1) receipt and consideration including, but not limited to receipt, consideration, and disposition of conference and free conference reports concerning the General Appropriations Bill, the Capital Reserve Fund Resolution, any Supplemental Appropriations Bill, any rescission bill, and any Continuing Resolution to fund the ordinary expenses of state government, if necessary, until the passage of the General Appropriations Bill;
- (2) receipt and consideration of gubernatorial vetoes;
- (3) introduction, receipt, and consideration of resolutions affecting Sine Die adjournment;
- (4) introduction, receipt, and consideration of legislation necessary to address any shortfall in revenue meeting the conditions of Section [11-9-1140](#);
- (5) receipt and consideration of appointments;
- (6) introduction, receipt, and consideration of resolutions expressing sympathy or congratulations;
- (7) receipt and consideration of local legislation that has the unanimous consent of the affected delegation;
- (8) convening of a joint assembly to conduct elections for offices or vacancies in any offices filled by election of the General Assembly; and
- (9) introduction, receipt, and consideration of redistricting legislation including, but not limited to, receipt, consideration, and disposition of conference or free conference reports, appointment of conference and free conference committees, messages pertaining to such reports and appointments, and amendments to redistricting legislation enacted by the General Assembly concerning the South Carolina House of Representatives and the United States Congressional Seats allocated to South Carolina.

S.935 – Education Scholarship Accounts Failed to Achieve Passage

The demise of [S.935](#), the much-debated bill allowing taxpayer funds to be utilized to pay for lower-income students attending failing public schools to attend private schools, came as somewhat of a shock late Wednesday evening. S.935 was the final conference report of the day to be considered, and Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey (R, Edgefield), a longtime proponent of education scholarship accounts, killed S.935

because the accountability standards passed by the Senate were not included in the S.935 Conference Report. This issue is not going away and will likely be prefiled for resurgence in the 2023-24 legislative session late this year.

FY 2022-23 State Budget and S.1087, Comprehensive Tax Cut Act of 2022

The Conference Report on [H.5150, the General Appropriations bill](#), was adopted by a vote of 107 – 8 in the House and 40 – 2 in the Senate. Ratified yesterday, Governor McMaster now has five days, excluding Sunday, to issue any line-item dollar vetoes or provisos – midnight next Wednesday, June 22nd is the deadline. Highlights of the Budget Conference Report include:

- A minimum starting salary of \$40,000.00 for K-12 teachers;
- \$1 billion for the state’s roadways;
- A 3% pay increase for state employees, along with a \$1,500.00 bonus in addition to no health insurance premium increase;
- \$37M for public employers such as local governments to pay for the 1% increase in retirement system contributions;
- \$3.5M for the Firefighter Cancer Fund;
- \$39M for workforce development scholarships through the Technical College System to help higher education students receive degrees or certificates in high-demand fields;
- \$712.8M recurring and \$1.015B nonrecurring (almost \$2 billion dollars total) to fund [S.1087](#), the Comprehensive Tax Cut Act noted below;
- \$7.972M to exempt all military retirement pay from state income tax per [H.3247](#) signed into law on May 13th;
- \$100M nonrecurring for Capital Funding for Disadvantaged Schools;
- \$61.5M nonrecurring under the Department of Health and Human Services for Behavioral Health Programs;
- \$20M nonrecurring under the Department of Public Safety for Local Body Cameras and Vests Grants;
- \$10M nonrecurring under the Medical University of South Carolina re: infrastructure for the state’s children’s hospitals;
- \$3M nonrecurring under DHEC for the Conestee Dam Emergency Mitigation Project;
- \$2M nonrecurring under the Department of Administration for the Palmetto 800 Radio System for First Responders;
- \$750,000 for Law Enforcement and First Responders post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, plus an additional \$250,000 recurring for SLED and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation for PTSD treatment; and
- \$12.5M added to the base Local Government Fund.

The Conference Report on [S.1087, the Comprehensive Tax Cut Act of 2022](#), was adopted by a vote of 110 – 0 in the House and 42 – 0 in the Senate. Ratified yesterday, Governor McMaster now has five days, excluding Sunday, to issue any line-item dollar vetoes or provisos – midnight next Wednesday, June 22nd is the deadline.

S.1087 highlights include:

- The House version of income tax reform, which is an immediate reduction of the top income tax rate from 7% to 6.5% with an additional 0.5% reduction down to 6% over five years if the state’s general fund increases by a certain threshold, plus taking the number of income tax brackets down to three;
- An immediate reduction in the manufacturing property tax rate from 9% to 6% while ensuring local governments are made whole due to any lost revenue as a result of the reduction; and
- The Senate version of a \$1 billion dollar taxpayer rebate which will be distributed late this year.

Primary Election Results

Tuesday’s Primary Election brought about unexpected results when several incumbents, including a member of House leadership, lost their races. In all, we will see at least 20 new members of the House of Representatives, as 13 members previously announced they would not run for re-election. With the Primary Runoff on June 28th

and General Election in November, we may see even more new members of the House for the 2023-24 term. [Click here](#) to review all Primary Election results.

The two most surprising upsets belong to House Education and Public Works Committee [Chairlady Rita Allison](#) (R, Spartanburg – House District 36) and longtime [Representative Brian White](#) (R, Anderson – House District 6). Chairlady Allison and Representative White, who formerly chaired the House Ways and Means Committee, lost their bids for re-election to primary candidates who ran on issues such as immigration and abortion. Representatives [West Cox](#) (R, Anderson – House District 10), [Lin Bennett](#) (R, Charleston – House District 114), [Wendy Brawley](#) (D, Richland – House District 70) and [Vic Dabney](#) (R, Kershaw – House District 52) also lost their bids for re-election. The Kershaw County House District 52 seat is a major area of contention, as it is the subject of a recent settlement reached resulting from a lawsuit filed challenging the state’s redistricting plans. The settlement would essentially absorb House District 52, and the House District 70 seat currently held by Representative Brawley would be changed to include a portion of Kershaw County. Redistricting legislation is included in the Sine Die Resolution, and more on this issue could be forthcoming over the summer and into the fall.

Former Speaker of the House Jay Lucas (R, Darlington), who resigned from the Speaker’s office on May 12th, submitted a letter of resignation from the House of Representatives this week, and June 28th will be his final day in office.

Conference Committee Actions

Senate Daily Action Summary
June 15, 2022

CONCURRED IN HOUSE AMENDMENT AND ENROLLED

[SB1024](#) ELECTIONS - HORRY COUNTY VOTING PRECINCTS

CONFERENCE REPORT RECEIVED AND ADOPTED

[HB3055](#) NATURAL RESOURCES
[HB3346](#) STATUTORY GENERAL RESERVE FUND
[HB3696](#) INCREASE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES
[HB4775](#) ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
[HB4776](#) MEDICAL ETHICS AND DIVERSITY ACT
[HB5150](#) FY 2022-2023 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS
[HJR4831](#) OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY
[SB202](#) DEFINITIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL
[SB243](#) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RECORDS
[SB901](#) SOLAR ENERGY
[SB1077](#) STORM RECOVERY BONDS
[SB1087](#) COMPREHENSIVE TAX CUT ACT OF 2022
[SB1090](#) INSURED WORKER'S WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT
[SJR133](#) FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
[SJR560](#) HEIRS PROPERTY STUDY COMMITTEE
[SJR1106](#) RESERVE FUNDS

FREE CONFERENCE POWERS GRANTED

[HB3056](#) FISH AND GAME

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FREE CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

HB3056	FISH AND GAME
ORDERED ENROLLED FOR RATIFICATION	
HB3055	NATURAL RESOURCES
HB3056	FISH AND GAME
HB3346	STATUTORY GENERAL RESERVE FUND
HB5150	FY 2022-2023 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS
SB202	DEFINITIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL
SB243	CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RECORDS
SB901	SOLAR ENERGY
SB1077	STORM RECOVERY BONDS
SB1087	COMPREHENSIVE TAX CUT ACT OF 2022
SJR133	FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
SJR560	HEIRS PROPERTY STUDY COMMITTEE
SJR1106	RESERVE FUNDS

House Daily Action Summary
June 15, 2022

CONFERENCE REPORT RECEIVED AND ADOPTED

HB3055	NATURAL RESOURCES (Rep. Bill Hixon)
HB3346	STATUTORY GENERAL RESERVE FUND (Rep. Westley Cox)
HB3696	INCREASE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (Rep. James Lucas)
HB4775	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING (Rep. David Hiott)
HB4776	MEDICAL ETHICS AND DIVERSITY ACT (Rep. Mark Willis)
HB5150	FY 2022-2023 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS (Rep. G. Murrell Smith, Jr.)
HJR4831	OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY (Rep. Elliott)
SB202	DEFINITIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL (Sen. Greg Hembree)
SB233	SPOUSE PROPERTY EXEMPTED FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION (Sen. Ross Turner)
SB243	CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RECORDS (Sen. Tom Young, Jr.)
SB901	SOLAR ENERGY (Sen. Daniel Verdin, III)
SB935	EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS (Sen. Larry Grooms)
SB1077	STORM RECOVERY BONDS (Sen. Thomas Alexander)
SB1087	COMPREHENSIVE TAX CUT ACT OF 2022 (Sen. Harvey Peeler, Jr.)
SB1090	INSURED WORKER'S WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT (Sen. A. Shane Massey)
SJR17	EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT APPROVALS AFFECTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Luke
SJR560	HEIRS PROPERTY STUDY COMMITTEE (Sen. John Scott, Jr.)
SJR1106	RESERVE FUNDS (Sen. Harvey Peeler, Jr.)

FREE CONFERENCE POWERS GRANTED

HB3056	FISH AND GAME (Rep. Bill Hixon)
SB968	VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION BURIAL HONOR GUARD SUPPORT FUND (Sen. Thomas Al

FREE CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

HB3056	FISH AND GAME (Rep. Bill Hixon)
SB968	VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION BURIAL HONOR GUARD SUPPORT FUND (Sen. Thomas Al

ORDERED ENROLLED FOR RATIFICATION

HB3696	INCREASE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (Rep. James Lucas)
HB3729	PARKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH PERMISSION (Rep. William Sandifer, III)
HB4775	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING (Rep. David Hiott)
HB4776	MEDICAL ETHICS AND DIVERSITY ACT (Rep. Mark Willis)
HJR4831	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY TO EVALUATE THE STATE'S BUSINESS ADVANTAGES (Rep.
SB233	SPOUSE PROPERTY EXEMPTED FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION (Sen. Ross Turner)
SB968	VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION BURIAL HONOR GUARD SUPPORT FUND (Sen. Thomas Al

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2022 – Legislative Meetings and Events

[Scheduled Live Broadcasts link](#)

Click this link for all notations of Live Broadcast

[Bill Number Search](#)

Click this link to enter bill numbers and review full text

Tuesday, June 21st

Joint Bond Review Committee - AGENDA	10:30 am 105 Gressette – Live Broadcast
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Monday, June 27th

Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children - Informational Briefings: - 2022 Child Well-Being Data Book by Dr. Liyun Zhang, Data Scientist - School Mental Health Recap by Shealy Reibold	10:30 am 105 Gressette – Live Broadcast
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Tuesday, June 28th

Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee - Continued Discussion of Committee Slides from Brattle	9:00 am 308 Gressette – Live Broadcast
Senate Convenes at 12:00 noon - Budget Bills, consideration of Gubernatorial Vetoes, Conference Reports and initiatives authorized by the Sine Die Resolution	Live Broadcast
House Convenes at 12:00 noon - Budget Bills, consideration of Gubernatorial Vetoes, Conference Reports and initiatives authorized by the Sine Die Resolution	Live Broadcast

2022 – State Agency Meetings of Interest

<p>South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office State Board of Economic Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed <p>Monthly General Fund Revenue Reports ---- Forecast Data Local Government Finance Reports Legislative Fiscal Impact Statements</p>	<p>1:00 pm unless otherwise noted 417 Rembert Dennis Building – Bowers Conference Room Columbia, SC 29201</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Agenda and Materials posted on Board meeting information page
<p>South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control DHEC Board Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, July 7th Thursday, August 11th 	<p>11:00 am unless otherwise noted DHEC – 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Agendas Meeting Live Broadcast
<p>South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, August 9th Tuesday, November 8th 	<p>10:00 am unless otherwise noted DHHS – 1801 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201</p>



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Please call, text or email us if we can be of assistance to you and your team. We will be monitoring the media and sharing updates as they are available.

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