

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 12, 2019

Inside this issue

## This Week at the Statehouse

### Legislative Update - Week 14

The South Carolina Young Farmers and Ranchers joined us at the State House Tuesday where they shared their stories with legislators.



The House will be on Furlough next week and the Senate will be taking up the Budget.

**Issue: Disaster Aid**

The Senate will begin debating the Budget next Wednesday. Part of the budget includes a Proviso allocating \$25 million for farmers affected by Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael this year. Please contact your Senator and ask them to vote "YES" on this important proviso.

***(S-A) 20. Disaster Fund - SCFB recommends the establishment of a fund by the SC General Assembly, to be administered by the SCDA that could assist SC farmers when they are severely damaged by regional natural disasters (drought, flood, hurricane, etc.).***

**Issue: Santee Cooper**

The General Assembly continues to work on finding solutions to many issues arising from the failed Nuclear stations - VC Summer 2 & 3. One outstanding issue is how to handle the impact this has had on Santee Cooper and its ratepayers. Since last year, the General Assembly has studied the idea of selling Santee Cooper and has received 4 anonymous bids, through the help of a consulting firm, offering various solutions as to what to do with Santee Cooper. In March, both the House and Senate introduced joint resolutions directing the sale of Santee Cooper. [H. 4287](#) - which was adopted in the House and sent to the Senate - authorizes the Public Service Authority Evaluation and Recommendation Committee (a joint committee of Senators, Representatives, and the Governor) to utilize funds to review the potential sale of Santee Cooper. [S. 678](#) - which is on the Senate Calendar for consideration but currently contested by Senators Hutto and Grooms - would direct the Department of Administration to conduct a competitive bidding process for the sale of Santee Cooper. GR staff will continue to monitor this important issue.

***(S-GP) 1. Utilities - We support prudent decisions that have the least negative impact on utility rates, the state's economic stability and our citizens' quality of life.***

**Issue: CDL Truck Drivers**

SCFB signed onto a letter supported by fellow members of the "Truck Caucus" in support of [H. 4381](#)- a bill that creates a non-rebuttable presumption that a driver is qualified to be hired and entrusted to drive a commercial motor vehicle if the person has a commercial driver license issued by a state in accordance with the minimum federal standards for the issuance of commercial motor vehicle driver licenses, if the person's license is not suspended, revoked, or cancelled and if the person is not disqualified from driving a

commercial motor vehicle. This bill seeks to help ease abuse of negligence (hiring and entrustment) claims against employers in truck-involved lawsuits.

**Issue: Rollback Taxes**

The House passed [H. 3596](#) - a bill that will take rollback taxes from five years down to three years. This bill has been introduced and read a first time in the Senate where it has been assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

[Top](#)

## New Bills of Interest

### Introductions of Interest This Week

[S. 745](#) -- Senator Alexander: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE CLEMSON PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EMERGING LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE FOR ITS VALUABLE EFFORTS IN FOSTERING FUTURE LEADERS IN THIS STATE.

[S. 754](#) -- Senator Hembree: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-35 SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN TRAINING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN DE LA HOWE SCHOOL; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-85 SO AS TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SCHOOL'S FACULTY; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-112 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH THE STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY OF THE SCHOOL; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-115 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-117 SO AS TO PROVIDE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-135 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A FOUNDATION AND MAINTAIN AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE SCHOOL; BY ADDING SECTION 59-49-160 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE BOARD MAY EMPLOY CAMPUS POLICE, TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THESE CAMPUS POLICE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS ON CAMPUS, AND TO PROVIDE THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE CERTAIN RELATED REGULATIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-10, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOHN DE LA HOWE SCHOOL, SO AS TO RENAME AND REESTABLISH THE SCHOOL AS THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE AT JOHN DE LA HOWE, AND TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-20, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SO AS TO ADD CERTAIN EX OFFICIO MEMBERS; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-30, RELATING TO REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS BY THE GOVERNOR FOR CAUSE, SO

AS TO MAKE GRAMMATICAL CHANGES; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-40, RELATING TO MEETINGS OF THE BOARD, SO AS TO MAKE GRAMMATICAL CHANGES; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-70, RELATING TO THE DECLARATION OF THE SCHOOL AS A BODY POLITIC, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES CONCERNING THE RENAMING OF THE SCHOOL; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-100, RELATING TO THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ADMISSIONS CRITERIA; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-110, RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF FORESTRY AND FARM PRACTICES BY THE SCHOOL AND USE OF REVENUE DERIVED FROM THESE PRACTICES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL SHALL SERVE AS A DEMONSTRATION FARM AND PROVIDE INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT TO FARMERS AND PERSONS WORKING IN, OR WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, THE BUSINESS OF AGRICULTURE; TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-130, RELATING TO OBSOLETE PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF INCOME DERIVED FROM CERTAIN ENDEAVORS, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF INCOME DERIVED FROM CERTAIN CURRENT ENDEAVORS OF THE SCHOOL; AND TO AMEND SECTION 59-49-150, RELATING TO EXPENSES OF STUDENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WHO ARE LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY TUITION BUT SHALL PAY CERTAIN FEES FOR MAINTENANCE AND FOOD SERVICES UNLESS THEY MEET CERTAIN POVERTY REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE ALL OUT-OF-STATE AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE SCHOOL SHALL PAY TUITION AND CERTAIN FEES FOR MAINTENANCE AND FOOD SERVICES.

[H. 4431](#) -- Reps. Jordan, Fry, Rose, Atkinson, Daning and Forrest: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 4 TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 6 SO AS TO PROVIDE BUSINESS LICENSE TAX REFORM, TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAY IN WHICH A BUSINESS LICENSE TAX IS COMPUTED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAY IN WHICH TO PURCHASE A BUSINESS LICENSE, TO PROVIDE THAT A TAXING JURISDICTION SHALL ADOPT THE LATEST STANDARDIZED BUSINESS LICENSE CLASS SCHEDULE, TO PROVIDE THE WAY IN WHICH A BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICIAL SHALL SERVE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS LICENSE TAX DUE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 4-9-30 AND 5-7-30, RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF POWERS IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE POWERS CONFERRED UPON MUNICIPALITIES, RESPECTIVELY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A BUSINESS LICENSE TAX MUST BE GRADUATED ACCORDING TO THE BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME AND THAT A WHOLESALER DELIVERING GOODS IN CERTAIN INSTANCES IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE BUSINESS LICENSE TAX; TO AMEND SECTION 6-1-120, RELATING TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL TAXPAYER INFORMATION, SO AS TO ALLOW THE SHARING OF CERTAIN DATA AND CERTAIN BUSINESS LICENSE TAXES; TO AMEND SECTION 12-4-310, RELATING

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE'S POWERS AND DUTIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE CERTAIN RECORDS AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN AUTHORITIES LEVYING A TAX BASED ON BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME.

[Top](#)

## Congressional Report

### National News

On Tuesday, House Democrats introduced a new \$17.2 billion disaster relief package([H.R. 2157](#)) that includes \$3 billion for Midwestern states affected by flooding this year. The bill is the latest introduction for disaster relief, and comes when talks have not reached a compromise over what should be included in a final relief package.

Congress will be in recess for the next two weeks.