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This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week 18

The 2019 Legislative Session is over!

Issue: Disaster Relief: This week the House amended their version of the budget to include the \$25 million for Farm Aid for those affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. The budget has not been fully adopted yet by the General Assembly, but once it is, it will go to the Governor for his review, any vetoes, and ultimately signature. The \$25 million will be administered by the SC Department of Agriculture in a similar program to the 2016 Farm Aid program. Farmers will be asked to sign an affidavit stating they will return any state funds if they receive any Federal Disaster Relief funds. We would like to thank the General Assembly for their support of farmers!

Issue: Cell-based "meat": H. 4245 - a bill that would make it illegal to represent or label any cell-cultured protein as "meat" in South Carolina - made it out of both the House and the Senate in the final week of the 2019 Legislative Session. The Governor will need to sign this bill before it becomes law.

Sine Die Resolution: The General Assembly will be returning on May 20, 2019 to take up issues pursuant to *Sine Die* resolution. They will deal with the budget, any gubernatorial vetoes, Santee Cooper, and other issues like appointments or elections for offices filled by the General Assembly.

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New Bills of Interest

Introductions of Interest

[H. 4327](#) -- Reps. R. Williams, Jefferson, Ott, Magnuson, Chumley and Burns: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 6-9-65, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN BUILDING CODES ON FARM STRUCTURES, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "FARM STRUCTURE" FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

[H. 4574](#) -- Rep. Finlay: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 16-11-510, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE MALICIOUS INJURY OF AN ANIMAL, SO AS TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION; AND TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 47, RELATING TO "SHEEP-KILLING DOGS", SO AS TO APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THAT ARTICLE TO "LARGE LIVESTOCK-KILLING DOGS" AND TO DEFINE THE TERM "LARGE LIVESTOCK".

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Congressional Report

National News

The House plans to vote today on a revised disaster aid package ([H.R. 2157](#)) which include \$17.2 billion of assistance for areas that were heavily impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding over the past two years. Since this bill is very similar to the bill ([H.R. 268](#)) The house passed in January, it is expected to receive a positive vote. However, since it includes the same type provisions for Puerto Rico, it will probably face the same concern in the Senate. The Senate continues to work on their compromise version of a disaster relief package.