



February 6, 2020

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## This Week at the Statehouse

### Legislative Update - Week 4

**[H. 4209 SC Farm Aid Fund](#)**: Please contact your representatives to give them a big THANK YOU for passing H. 4209 - the SC Farm Aid Fund! This bill would create a permanent statutory structure to help farmers recover from catastrophic weather events. It passed the House with a vote of 99-4! This bill is now in the Senate and has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Please contact your Senator to let them know that farmers need the SC Farm Aid Fund.

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## New Bills of Interest

### Introductions

**[S. 1074](#)** -- Senator Campbell: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 10, 2020 AS "4-H DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO COMMEND THE 4-H LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR ITS NUMEROUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FOR THE LEADERSHIP THAT IT HAS DEMONSTRATED.

**[S. 1076](#)** -- Senators Scott, Hembree, Campsen, McElveen, Rice, Sheheen, Cromer, Peeler, Shealy, Grooms, Williams, Malloy, Sabb, Campbell, Jackson, Kimpson, McLeod, M. B. Matthews, Allen, Gregory, Setzler, Johnson, Nicholson, Hutto, Reese, Talley, Turner, Harpootlian and Gambrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 25 TO CHAPTER 9, TITLE 58 ENTITLED "BROADBAND ACCESSIBILITY ACT" SO AS TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; TO DEFINE RELEVANT TERMS; TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE THE PROVISION OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE BY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE "ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ACT", SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM "BROADBAND SYSTEM"; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-150, RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF OVER

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, SO AS TO VEST THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF WITH THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS, AUDITS, AND EXAMINATIONS REGARDING THE COMPLIANCE OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-250, RELATING TO THE POWERS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A COOPERATIVE HAS THE POWER TO WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY OWN, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, AND REPLACE A BROADBAND SYSTEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THROUGH ITSELF OR THROUGH ANOTHER ENTITY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A SUBSIDIARY, A CORPORATION, OR A COOPERATIVE OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER OR AN AFFILIATE.

[S. 1080](#) -- Senator Cromer: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 25 TO CHAPTER 9, TITLE 58 ENTITLED "BROADBAND ACCESSIBILITY ACT" SO AS TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; TO DEFINE RELEVANT TERMS; TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE THE PROVISION OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE BY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-20, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE "ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ACT", SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM "BROADBAND SYSTEM"; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-150, RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF OVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, SO AS TO VEST THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF WITH THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS, AUDITS, AND EXAMINATIONS REGARDING THE COMPLIANCE OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-250, RELATING TO THE POWERS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A COOPERATIVE HAS THE POWER TO WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY OWN, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, AND REPLACE A BROADBAND SYSTEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THROUGH ITSELF OR THROUGH ANOTHER ENTITY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A SUBSIDIARY, A CORPORATION, OR A COOPERATIVE OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER OR AN AFFILIATE.

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## **Congressional Report**

### **National News**

Monday, February 3, 2020, the USDA began releasing the third, and final, batch of payments as part of the most recent tariff relief program.

Washington, DC, focus this week was mainly on the final Senate impeachment vote and the President's State of the Union address.