



February 13, 2020

Inside this issue

This Week at the Statehouse

- [Legislative Update - Week Five](#)

New Bills of Interest

- [Introductions of Interest this Week](#)

Congressional Report

- [This week in Washington](#)

This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week Five

The Senate continued debating the Education Reform bill- [S. 419](#).

Santee Cooper: This week the Department of Administration released their report on options for Santee Cooper. The report included a Santee Cooper Reform Plan, a Management proposal from Dominion Energy, and a Sale bid from NextEra. The General Assembly was briefed on this report and will begin week next week to determine the best path forward for Santee Cooper.

H. 4431 Business License Tax: This week, the Labor, Commerce, and Industry (LCI) Committee's Ad Hoc subcommittee on Business License Taxes met and amended the bill. The concept of having delivery fees was not kept in the bill, but there was clarifying language added a wholesale transaction includes delivery to the reseller. This will help address the issue we have been seeing where Municipal judges have not always given

farmers the benefit of the wholesale exemption for business license taxes. The bill will next head to the full LCI committee for consideration.

[Top](#)

New Bills of Interest

Introductions of Interest this Week

[H. 5125](#) -- Reps. Cogswell, Sottile, Clary, McCoy, Hyde, Davis, B. Newton, W. Newton, Moore, Stavrinakis, Brown, Willis, Ott, Anderson, Elliott and Wheeler: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 61 TO TITLE 48 SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA THIRTY-BY-THIRTY CONSERVATION ACT", TO ESTABLISH THE GOAL OF PROTECTING THIRTY PERCENT OF THE STATE BY 2030, TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, TO ESTABLISH THE THIRTY-BY-THIRTY INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASKFORCE, TO REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS TO PROTECT THE LAND AND WATERS OF THIS STATE AND TO REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSED PLAN WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD.

[H. 5152](#) -- Reps. Ott, Kirby, Hiott, Clary, Clyburn, B. Cox, Dillard and Forrest: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE "EQUINE INDUSTRY SUPPORT MEASURES STUDY COMMITTEE" TO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER GROWTH OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY IN THIS STATE AND THE RESULTING ECONOMIC IMPACT.

[Top](#)

Congressional Report

This week in Washington

On February 10, 2020, the Trump Administration released the President's [Federal Budget for Fiscal Year](#) (FY) 2021. The budget included \$21.8 billion in discretionary funding for USDA which is a decrease of 8% below current levels. Please note that the President's budget is only the first step in the annual federal budget process. It is the Congress that sets the budget and writes appropriations bills.

The AFBF is opposed to the administration's USDA budget proposal due to the cuts in funding during this time of a poor agriculture economy.