



February 21, 2020

### Inside this issue

This Week at the Statehouse

- [Legislative Update - Week 6](#)

New Bills of Interest

- [Introductions of Interest](#)

Congressional Report

- [National News](#)

## This Week at the Statehouse

### Legislative Update - Week 6

**Budget:** House Ways and Means (W&M) adopted the budget that will be sent to the floor. Of note are the following items:

- SC Department of Agriculture:
  - \$1.1 million for hemp programming
  - \$630,000 for hemp testing lab equipment
- Creation of the Natural Disaster Resiliency Reserve Fund that includes financial assistance for verifiable losses of agricultural commodities due to a natural disaster. This will be funded in part from the \$25 million allocated to SC Dept. of Agriculture last year for Farm Aid Relief for a total allocation of \$50 million.

The House will take up the budget the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**H. 4431 - Business License Taxes**: The full Labor, Commerce, and Industry (LCI) Committee had a hearing on H. 4431 - the Business License Tax Reform bill. LCI gave a favorable report on the bill, which includes clarifying language that 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 move to the floor of the House for consideration.

[Top](#)

## New Bills of Interest

### Introductions of Interest

[H. 5244](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Forrest, Hiott, Ott and Lucas: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 46-55-10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE HEMP FARMING ACT, SO AS TO REMOVE THE BAN ON UNPROCESSED OR RAW HEMP MATERIAL FROM THE DEFINITION OF "HEMP PRODUCTS"; AND TO AMEND SECTION 46-55-20, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO HEMP LICENSES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ISSUE AN IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR A LICENSEE AND THE LICENSEE'S EMPLOYEE.

[H. 5245](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Hiott, Alexander, Allison, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Bales, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bennett, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brawley, Brown, Bryant, Burns, Calhoun, Caskey, Chellis, Chumley, Clary, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cogswell, Collins, B. Cox, W. Cox, Crawford, Daning, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Finlay, Forrest, Forrester, Fry, Funderburk, Gagnon, Garvin, Gilliam, Gilliard, Govan, Haddon, Hardee, Hart, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hill, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Hyde, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kimmons, King, Kirby, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mace, Mack, Magnuson, Martin, Matthews, McCoy, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, McKnight, Moore, Morgan, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Murphy, B. Newton, W. Newton, Norrell, Oremus, Ott, Parks, Pendarvis, Pope, Ridgeway, Rivers, Robinson, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Simrill, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, Sottile, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Thigpen, Toole, Trantham, Weeks, West, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, R. Williams, S. Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND SOUTH CAROLINA'S FFA MEMBERS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA, AND ALL WHO SUPPORT, PROMOTE, AND ENCOURAGE THESE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TO JOIN THEM IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL FFA WEEK, FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020.

[Top](#)

## **Congressional Report**

### **National News**

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, China announced that it would allow importers to apply for exemptions on additional trade war tariffs on nearly 700 type goods from the United States as China continues to battle the coronavirus outbreak. This includes farm (soybeans, pork and beef) and energy products.

The Protecting America's Food & Agriculture Act of 2019 has been approved by both the Senate and the House and was presented to the President this week. This bill would authorize funding to hire additional customs and border protection personnel needed to conduct Agriculture Quarantine Inspections at international ports of entry. The bill passed unanimously and was supported by a number of state governors including Governor McMaster.