



January 15, 2021

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This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week One

SC State Legislative Update - Week One

The first regular session of the 124th South Carolina General Assembly convened on Tuesday, June 12, 2021. This is the first year of a two year session. There were over 900 bills and/or resolutions pre-filed during December 2020. The annual session begins the second Tuesday in January and by law must adjourn *sine die* not later than 5 p.m. the second Thursday in May, except when an extension is voted by two-thirds vote of both Houses or as otherwise provided.

The General Assembly welcomed twenty-one (21) new members to the body. There are six (6) new members of the Senate and fifteen (15) new members in the House of Representatives. In total, there are 170 members of the General Assembly.

House of Representatives

There are 124 total representatives for the state: 81 Republicans and 43 Democrats. All Members elected in 2020 will serve until the Monday after the General Election in November of 2022.

December 1st and 2nd 2020, the House of Representatives met for Organizational Session. During Organization Session, leadership is elected, officers are elected and members are assigned to committees.

Speaker of the House and Committee Chairs

Speaker of The House and Committee Chairmen

Speaker of the House	James H. "Jay" Lucas
Speaker Pro Tempore	Thomas E. "Tommy" Pope
Majority Leader	J. Gary Simrill
Minority Leader	J. Todd Rutherford
Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Com	David R. Hiott
Education and Public Works Com	Merita A. "Rita" Allison
Ethics Com	Wallace H. "Jay" Jordan, Jr.
Interstate Cooperation Com	Mark N. Willis
Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Com	Dennis C. Moss
Judiciary Com	Chris Murphy
Labor, Commerce and Industry Com	William E. "Bill" Sandifer III
Legislative Oversight Com	Wm. Weston J. Newton
Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Com	Leon Howard
Operations and Management Com	Garry R. Smith
Regulations and Admin. Procedures Com	Chip Huggins
Rules Com	Anne J. Thayer
Ways and Means Com	G. Murrell Smith, Jr.

House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee

David R. Hiott, Chairman	Cally R. "Cal" Forrest	Richard "Rick" Martin
V. Stephen "Steve" Moss, 1st V.C.	Kambrell H. Garvin	Robert J. "RJ" May, III
William M. "Bill" Hixon, 2nd V.C.	Leon D. "Doug" Gilliam	JA Moore
James Mikell "Mike" Burns, Secy.	Patrick B. Haddon	Roger A. Nutt
Lucas Atkinson	Thomas R. "Randy" Ligon	Marvin R. Pendarvis
William M. "Bill" Chumley	Josiah Magnuson	Shedron D. Williams

Week One House Highlights

The House started the first week of session with numerous Ways and Means Subcommittee meetings where state agencies are requesting funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

There were numerous bills of interest filed during the week. This includes multiple tax related bills and minimum wage bills. We will continue to monitor and provide updates on these bills when and if any actions are taken. Additional bills of interest filed include:

- **H.3601 Dams** - Owners of dams that failed on or after October 1, 2015, that are also associated with a public road or highway, must make notification of the intent to repair. If there is no intent, the Department of Transportation shall proceed with the process of repairing the public road or highway if suitable rights of way or easements afford the state or the Department of Transportation the right to do so without the necessity of saving or repairing the dam.
- **H.3698 South Carolina COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor Act** - Provides liability protections for a limited time period for healthcare providers and businesses that follow public health guidance in response to the coronavirus public health emergency.
- **H.3607 General Bond Bill** - Allows for the issuance of general obligation bonds to defray the cost of infrastructure for certain economic development projects. There is a companion bill in the Senate - S.443.

The Senate

There are 46 total Senators for the state: 30 Republicans and 16 Democrats. All Senators elected in 2020 will serve until the Monday after the General Election in November of 2024.

Elected Officers for the Senate

Senate President and Committee Chairmen

President of the Senate Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.

Majority Leader A. Shane Massey

Minority Leader Brad Hutto

Agriculture and Natural Resources Com Wes Climer

Banking and Insurance Com Ronnie W. Cromer

Corrections and Penology Com Shane R. Martin

Education Com Greg Hembree

Ethics Com Sean M. Bennett
 Family and Veterans' Services Com Katrina Frye Shealy
 Finance Com Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
 Fish, Game and Forestry Com George E. "Chip" Campsen III
 Interstate Cooperation Com Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
 Judiciary Com Luke A. Rankin
 Labor, Commerce and Industry Com Thomas C. Alexander
 Legislative Oversight Com Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
 Medical Affairs Com Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin III
 Rules Com A. Shane Massey
 Transportation Com Lawrence K. "Larry" Grooms

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

<u>Wes Climer, Chairman</u>	<u>Stephen L. Goldfinch</u>	<u>Billy Garrett</u>
<u>Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin, III</u>	<u>Scott Talley</u>	<u>Penry Gustafson</u>
<u>Kent M. Williams</u>	<u>Richard A. "Dick" Harpootlian</u>	<u>Michael Johnson</u>
<u>J. Thomas McElveen, III</u>	<u>Dwight A. Loftis</u>	<u>Josh Kimbrell</u>
<u>Ronnie A. Sabb</u>	<u>Tom Davis</u>	<u>Vernon Stephens</u>
<u>Mike Fanning</u>	<u>Brian Adams</u>	

Senate Fish, Game and Forestry

<u>George E. "Chip" Campsen, III, Chairman</u>	<u>Stephen L. Goldfinch</u>	<u>Margie Bright Matthews</u>
<u>Brad Hutto</u>	<u>Scott Talley</u>	<u>Brian Adams</u>
<u>Ronnie W. Cromer</u>	<u>Thomas D. "Tom" Corbin</u>	<u>Penry Gustafson</u>
<u>Kent M. Williams</u>	<u>Sean M. Bennett</u>	<u>Michael Johnson</u>
<u>J. Thomas McElveen, III</u>	<u>Ross Turner</u>	<u>Vernon Stephens</u>
<u>Tom Young, Jr.</u>		

Week One Senate Highlights

The Senate started the first week of session with Organizational Session. The Senate also adopted rule changes for the upcoming session. There were multiple new bills filed during the week. We will continue to monitor and provide updates on these bills when and if any actions are taken. A bill of interest that was filed:

- **S.443 General Bond Bill** - Allows for the issuance of general obligation bonds to defray the cost of infrastructure for certain economic development projects. There is a companion bill in the House - H.3607.

Governor Henry McMaster State of the State

Governor McMaster held the annual State of the State Wednesday January 13, 2021. Major themes addressed included the states response to Covid-19, current fiscal outlook, Covid-19 liability protection, Santee Cooper reform, DHEC restructuring, checks and balances of executive powers and a 15% reduction plan on personal income tax.

Upcoming Legislative Week

Next week, House and Senate committees and subcommittees will meet virtually. These meetings include continued budget hearings, committee organizational sessions and Santee Cooper reform. SC Farm Bureau Government Relations will continue to provide updated information on action items when available.

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More News!

AFBF Annual Meeting Held Virtually

SC Farm Bureau Voting Delegates met virtually yesterday to vote on the Resolutions. This year has definitely been different with American Farm Bureau Federation doing the annual convention virtually.