



April 1, 2021

This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week 12

South Carolina State Legislative Weekly Update - April 1, 2021

The General Assembly returned to the Capitol this week for their twelfth week of the legislative session to continue their work for the state.

[House of Representatives Easter Break;](#)

[Senate Short Schedule; Crossover Looming](#)

The House spent this week in furlough after clearing their calendar in preparation for Easter. Speaker Lucas (Darlington) told members to be prepared to work long and hard upon their return on April 6th in order to beat crossover deadline - April 10. All bills need to receive at least second reading by April 8th with automatic third April 9.

The Senate convened Tuesday, March 30, for a two-day work week. The President announced they would not meet in regular Session Thursday, April 1.

"Crossover" deadline requires bills to move from one legislative chamber to the other to have a realistic chance of passage during this session. After the crossover deadline, it is more difficult for a bill to be passed. For example, for a House bill to be considered by the Senate it requires two-thirds vote even to be considered.

Illegal Transportation of Feral Hogs

The **Feral Hog Transportation Bill, House Bill 3539**, made its way to the Senate floor for debate this week.

SC Farm Bureau Government Relations team is deeply engaged with the committee, and other members of the Senate, working to push this crucial legislation.

The ***National Geographic*** magazine is the latest news outlet to identify the need for immediate action to assist farmers, landowners and environmentalists with controlling the devastation created by feral hogs. South Carolina Farm Bureau continues to provide the avalanche of interest and urgent need of assistance in controlling feral hogs in South Carolina. This national spotlight can be found .

Feral hogs are responsible for \$115 million in damage statewide each year and have been a growing problem for farmers. The Feral Hog Transport Bill gives law enforcement the tools needed to identify and prosecute individuals

illegally transporting feral hogs. While it is currently illegal in South Carolina to transport feral hogs, it is very difficult to prove hogs are wild. This legislation would require individuals to obtain proper identification of the animals to prove their origin. An amendment was adopted that created additional documents that can be used for identification of hogs during transportation. More information on this priority issue can be found [here](#).

DHEC Restructuring

A Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee met on **Senate Bill 2**, a bill by President Peeler and others, to reconfigure DHEC into two separate cabinet agencies while placing food related regulatory programs within the Department of Agriculture.

The subcommittee will continue their work next week on the bill. *The State* newspaper provided coverage of the bill and can be found [here](#).

Other Information

South Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Locator

Need assistance with vaccine information?

Call DHEC's Vaccine Information Line at **1-866-365-8110** for answers to vaccine related questions and help finding contact information you need to make an appointment.

DHEC updates the listing of providers and appointments often. Choose a location near you to see contact information to make an appointment.

Link:

VACCINE LOCATOR

VACCINE INFORMATION

All South Carolinians Aged 16 and Older to be Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine Beginning March 31, 2021

South Carolina's phased approach to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout recognizes the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19 increases with age and people with certain medical conditions and occupations are at higher risk of exposure to the virus. Because of this, South Carolina has continued to move phase by phase, based on risk level, with the **goal of vaccinating every South Carolinian who wishes to receive a vaccine by this summer.**

Governor Henry McMaster and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced that all South Carolinians aged 16 and older will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine beginning March 31, 2021 and can begin scheduling their appointments as of next Wednesday.

"Our priority with the vaccine has been to save the lives of those at the greatest risk of dying. By staying the course and resisting distractions, we've expanded South Carolinians' access and eligibility for vaccinations faster than originally

anticipated," said Gov. Henry McMaster. "Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our state's health care professionals, we are now able to make the vaccine available to anyone who wants it, and to do so ahead of schedule."