



May 14, 2021

Legislative Update

South Carolina State Legislative Weekly Update - May 14, 2021

Close the Books on the Regular Session

The last three days of the General Assembly's regular session were fraught with long hours and continued intensity. It is currently anticipated that the House will return to work on the state's budget May 14 - June 8. This return is needed due to increased projections of revenue by the Board of Economic Advisors. Full budget House debate will restart the week of June 8 - 10. With this in mind, an amended budget will be sent back to the Senate for review and consideration; potentially requiring the Senate to return. The state's budget year runs July 1 - June 30 annually.

The General Assembly anticipates returning to work throughout the remainder of the calendar year focusing on committee work, allocating federal dollars related to COVID-19 money and reapportionment.

***Photo credit to Rick Caldwell*

Feral Hog Transportation Bill

Illegal Transportation of Feral Hogs Bill Passes! Next Stop Governor McMaster's Desk

The **Feral Hog Transportation Bill**, [House Bill 3539](#), has passed the House and Senate. Next stop is Governor McMaster's desk for his signature. Thanks to the tremendous effort undertaken by members of SC Farm Bureau in helping educate staff and members of the General Assembly on the priority of this bill and getting it passed.

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 Reform

[DHEC Reform S.2](#)

Senate Medical Affairs Special Subcommittee anticipates meeting throughout the summer to hear from additional entities, including SC Farm Bureau, on the potential reform of SC DHEC. SC Farm Bureau Government Relations will be in attendance at these meetings.

National News

This week we want to thank Senator Scott, Senator Graham, and Reps. Mace and Timmons for signing on to the Growing Climate Solutions Act bill.