

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 26, 2021

This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update Week 7



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

South Carolina's **COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor** bill (Senate Bill 147 which can be found [here](#)) that provides liability protections for healthcare providers and businesses that follow public health guidance in response to the Coronavirus public health emergency was amended and passed successfully out of the Senate. The bill now heads over to the House for consideration.

The Senate this week debated, amended and passed **an economic development bond bill, [Senate Bill 491](#)** that authorizes \$550 million in general bonds to support infrastructure projects at the **Charleston Port**. The South Carolina Ports Authority promotes, develops and facilitates waterborne commerce to meet the current and future needs of its customers, and for the economic benefit of the citizens and businesses of South Carolina.

Illegal Transportation of Feral Hogs

The **Feral Hog Transportation Bill**, [House Bill 3539](#), passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Senator Wes Climer from York County. 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](#).

Congressional Report

National News

CFAP deadline has been extended! For more information about eligibility and how to apply, please go to: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> or your local USDA service center.

This week, Congressman Timmons joined as a co-sponsor of the ***PPP Flexibility for Farmers and Ranchers Act***. This bill would allow for farmers and ranchers categorized as a partnership (LLCs, LLPs) to utilize gross income when calculating their PPP maximum loan amount. Currently, SBA only allows net income to be considered by farm partnerships, which results in a lower max PPP loan amount. Additionally, the bill contains a retroactive provision that allows producers who haven't already had their loans forgiven to reapply for their PPP loan, and receive a check from their lender reflecting the difference they would've received if, in fact, the loan amount were to increase using gross income in their PPP calculations.

Additionally, South Carolina Farm Bureau came out in support of the ***Small Business Succession Act***, co-sponsored by Congressman Rice. This bill would provide tax breaks to small businesses to incentivize creating plans to pass along their businesses if/after owners pass away, retire, or other scenarios. It also creates a program at SBA to help with this. "Most farmers' top priority is seeing their farm continue on after they retire. Their legacy is their greatest asset," said SCFB President Harry Ott. "This legislation would help farmers with the often difficult task of making a succession plan, and we are excited to support it."

