

South Carolina Farm Bureau State Legislative Weekly Update January 14, 2022



On Your Mark, Get Set... GO!!

Members of the General Assembly returned to the capitol Tuesday to begin the 2nd regular session of the 124th South Carolina General Assembly. The main focus this week centered on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget allocations, Ways & Means Subcommittee hearings, Congressional Redistricting and the Governor's Executive Budget.

Immediately out of the gate in the Senate, a Finance subcommittee approved allocations of ARPA funds for use across the state. The subcommittee recommendations included \$435 million to the Department of Transportation, \$900 million for rural infrastructure (water and sewer projects, resilience, storm protection, aging infrastructure and capacity) and \$400 million to the Office of Regulatory Staff to complete statewide broadband expansion.

House Ways & Means subcommittees met diligently throughout the week hearing from numerous state agencies on their budget requests. These subcommittee hearings will continue throughout the next couple of weeks. This week the SC Department of Natural Resources had their subcommittee hearing. Next week, Clemson PSA, SC State PSA and SC Forestry Commission will go before subcommittee members.

The House approved their version of the Congressional Redistricting plan this week after a thorough debate on the merits of the lines. The bill now heads over to the Senate for action.

Governor Henry McMaster unveiled his Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget this week. Governor McMaster identified numerous priorities including increased funding for education, highways and bridges, port expansion, statewide broadband expansion and a new income tax reduction plan.

Introductions of interest

[Senate Bill 961](#) would exempt beekeepers who file for and obtain an exemption certificate from the Dept. of Agriculture to sell directly to inspected food processing establishments.

[House Bill 4803](#) is similar to Senate Bill 2 (SC DHEC Restructuring) in that it aims to reorganize SC DHEC into the Department of Public Health and