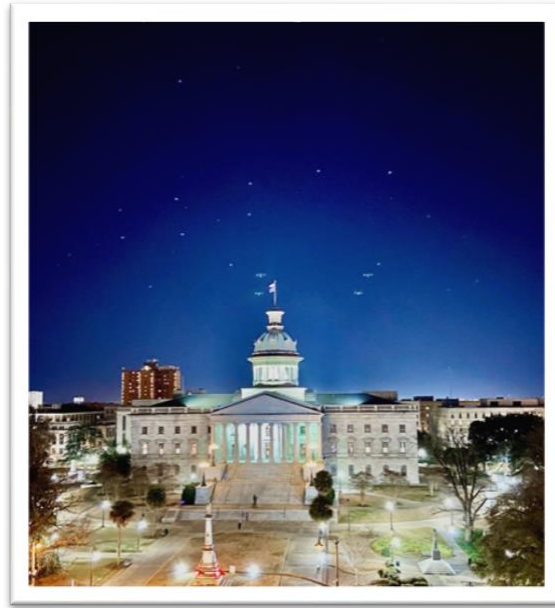


South Carolina Farm Bureau State Legislative Weekly Update

February 11, 2022



Senate Finance Advance SRS Funding, Honey Exemption, SC FFA and Clemson Seed Certificate Moving Forward, Medical Marijuana Passes the Senate and Numerous Introductions

Senate SRS Settlement Funding Bill Moves to the Floor

A joint resolution, [S. 956](#), to appropriate settlement funds paid to the state by the federal government for storing plutonium at the Savannah River site passed out of the Senate Finance Committee. The settlement of the lawsuit between the State of South Carolina and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) concerning the termination of the Mixed Dioxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and the DOE's failure to remove the plutonium stored at the SRS which is located in Aiken, Barnwell, and Allendale Counties ("SRS Settlement").

South Carolina FFA Recognition Week

A **concurrent resolution** sponsored by House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment committee **Chairman Davey Hiott** (House District 4 including Pickens County) passed out of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee unanimously this week. **Senator Danny Verdin** (Senate District 9 including Laurens and Greenville counties) encouraged his fellow committee members that this is a very special week to learn about agriculture from the youth of South Carolina. The bill recognizes and commends South Carolina FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, and all who support, promote, and encourage these outstanding students of agricultural education and join them in observance of National FFA Week, February 19

- 26, 2022.

Sale of Honey

During full committee deliberations, [Senator Josh Kimbrell](#) (Senate District 11 including Spartanburg County) explained the subcommittee recommendation on [Senate Bill 961](#). The bill introduced by [Senator Sandy Senn](#) of Charleston, exempts beekeepers who file for and obtain an exemption certificate from the Department of Agriculture to sell their products directly to inspected food processing establishments. Senator Penry Gustafson (senate District 27 including Chesterfield, Kershaw and Lancaster counties) shared during the committee meeting that she had received multiple calls of support for the bill. The bill passed out of full committee unanimously. It will now head to the Senate floor for deliberations.

New DHEC Chair Candidate Confirmed

The Senate confirmed SC DHEC Board Chairman nominee [Robert Bolchoz](#) this week. Bolchoz was appointed to the Board by Governor Henry McMaster as a Member-at-Large. During the confirmation process, Mr. Bolchoz was asked several questions about splitting DHEC into two agencies to which he responded that he would favor splitting the agency.

SC Compassionate Care Act Passes the Senate

After weeks of long days and nights debating South Carolina's [medical marijuana bill](#), the Senate passed the SC Compassionate Care Act by a vote of 28-15. The bill had numerous amendments proposed before being finalized. [Senator Marlon Kimpson](#) (Senate District 42 including Charleston and Dorchester counties) offered an amendment that requires SC DHEC to establish a system to numerically score competing medical cannabis establishment applicants, and to provide additional consideration for existing agricultural businesses in operation for over two years in the state. The amendment was adopted and included in the final senate version of the bill.

Introductions this Week

[House Bill 4939](#) is a bill, filed by [Representative Patrick Haddon](#) (House District 19 including Greenville county), that directs the SC Department of Agriculture to develop a 'Certified S.C. Raised Beef' designation, label, and application for beef producers in South Carolina.

Representative Haddon also is the primary sponsor for [House Bill 4866](#) that is related to the South Carolina Agriculture Tax Exemption card (SCATE). The bill stipulates that the tax exemption card is free and a person can apply for the SCATE card online, in person and or by mail and does not require providing social security numbers.

Farmers of the Week

The South Carolina Cattlemen's Association

2022 SC YF&R People's Choice Photo Award Winner

[Taryn Chumley, Spartanburg County](#)



Upcoming Training Opportunity

Clemson Extension's Center Pivot Irrigation Test Program Workshop

Date: 2/14/22 and 2/22/22

Time: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Blackville, SC (2/14) and Florence, SC (2/22)

You can register [here](#).

SC Farm Bureau was excited to host the South Carolina Cattleman's Association as our Farmers of the Week at the capitol. Members of the Association from across the state descended on Columbia to share their ranching and farming story with our elected officials and others. Thanks to all that participated!