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This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week Two

Priority Issue: Dams & Reservoirs: On January 16, 2019, the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Environmental Subcommittee held a hearing on S. 107 - the Dam Safety Program Bill. Catherine Porth, a farmer from Lexington County, testified on behalf of Farm Bureau about the importance of this legislation which includes a tax credit to help dam owners pay for the costs of repairs required due to reclassification of a dam. The Subcommittee gave S. 107 a unanimous favorable report while making a few technical adjustments to the bill. The next step is for the bill to go before the full committee which has not been scheduled yet. It is important to contact your senator to tell them to support S. 107 because it is a common sense bill that improves safety within the dam safety program, concentrates the limited resources of DHEC onto our significant and high hazard dams, and provides much needed relief of the financial burden placed on dam owners facing repairs from reclassification due to encroaching urban sprawl into rural areas.

South Carolina Farm Bureau supports reasonable standards concerning the construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of all high risk pond dams. SCFB seeks to find a solution that will maintain the safe operation of dams and reservoirs in South Carolina while seeking to ease the regulatory burden and financial burden borne by dam owners facing

reclassification due the encroaching urban sprawl in once rural areas.

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Other Information

Introductions of Interest

[S. 384](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Senators Campbell, Davis and Williams: A BILL TO REPEAL CHAPTER 55, TITLE 46 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE CULTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP, UPON THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S SUBMISSION OF THE STATE'S INDUSTRIAL HEMP PLAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

This bill would repeal the current hemp law in place upon adoption of the SC Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Plan by the USDA which would then be controlling.

[H. 3596](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Long, Erickson, Clemmons, Bales, Fry, Loftis, Burns, Hewitt, Bannister, Forrester, Herbkersman, Huggins, Lowe, D. C. Moss, B. Newton, W. Newton, Pope, Robinson, Sandifer, Simrill, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, Tallon, Toole and Trantham: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 12-43-220, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY AND ASSESSMENT RATIOS FOR PURPOSES OF AD VALOREM TAXATION, SO AS TO LIMIT ROLLBACK TAXES TO ONE YEAR WHEN LAND CLASSIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL REAL PROPERTY IS APPLIED TO ANOTHER USE.

This bill would change rollback taxes from 5 years to 1 year.

[H. 3626](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Rep. Hart: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6, ARTICLE X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX AND THE METHOD OF VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY AND THE LIMITS ON INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF THE PROPERTY TAX, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE BY LAW A DEFINITION OF "FAIR MARKET VALUE" FOR REAL PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF THE PROPERTY TAX, TO ELIMINATE THE FIFTEEN PERCENT LIMIT ON INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY OVER FIVE YEARS AND TO ELIMINATE AN ASSESSABLE TRANSFER OF INTEREST AS AN EVENT THAT MAY CHANGE THE VALUE OF THE REAL PROPERTY.

This Joint Resolution would pose the following question on ballots: whether "the General Assembly by law shall define fair market value of real property for purposes of the property

tax, to eliminate the fifteen percent limit on increases in the value of real property over five years, and to delete an 'assessable transfer of interest' as an event that may change the value of real property for purposes of imposition of the property tax?"

[H. 3653 \(Word version\)](#) -- Reps. Pendarvis, Thigpen, Rivers and S. Williams: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 46-3-290 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN FARMING GRANT PROGRAM, AND PROVIDE FOR ITS OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Would create a grant program to private and public entities for the purpose of transitioning convicted felons into the workforce with a career in urban farming. Program to be administered by SCDA.

[H. 3660 \(Word version\)](#) -- Reps. McCoy, Mace, Taylor, Bennett, Rose, Stavrinakis and Gilliard: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT" BY ADDING ARTICLE 20 TO CHAPTER 53, TITLE 44 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A SALE CAN OCCUR; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; TO PROVIDE FOR FEES AND TO CREATE CRIMINAL PENALTIES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS AND SUBMIT REPORTS; TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM FUND AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL CANNABIS ADVISORY BOARD AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; TO AMEND SECTION 12-36-2120, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA SALES AND USE TAX, SO AS TO EXEMPT FROM SALES TAX CANNABIS SOLD BY A DISPENSARY TO A CARDHOLDER; AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 53, TITLE 44 RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH.

Allows for medical marijuana to be grown and sold in SC.