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This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week Three

Both the Senate and the House focused their work this week on having many subcommittee hearings on the various bills that have been filed so far.

On Tuesday, SCFB Government Relations Director, Gary Spires, spoke before the House Agriculture Subcommittee in support of [H. 3250](#), a program that would seek to expand on and make more efficient the current SNAP benefit that allows individuals to use "healthy bucks" or other resources to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from a farmer's market. Support for this type of legislation is found from the following policies:

(S-A) 1. SNAP/WIC/Senior Vouchers Training and Authorization - We support agency and legislative efforts to streamline farmer and farmers market authorization to accept SNAP, Senior Vouchers, and WIC vouchers via training and authorization for farmers and farmers' markets online, through the mail, and at least one in-person training and authorization option for farmers and markets that wish to travel and train in-person to accept these types of

purchases. We ask that funding be sought and initiative enacted for this effort to make the training process adaptable for our growers and marketers to benefit from the voucher system.

(SN-A) 13. Efforts should be continued to combine workshops of interest for producers and marketers. Train the Trainers programs are already underway and the committee would like to see efforts made to use SNAP/WIC workshops as times to include other educational workshops.

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New Bills of Interest

Introductions of Interest

[S. 427](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Senator Campbell: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 70 TO TITLE 12 SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA AGRIBUSINESS, RURAL, AND OPPORTUNITY ZONE JOBS ACT", TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL AS A GROWTH FUND, TO PROVIDE FOR CRITERIA FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO EITHER GRANT OR DENY AN APPLICATION, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN INCOME TAX CREDITS, TO PROVIDE FOR CRITERIA FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO REVOKE A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE, TO PROVIDE THAT A GROWTH FUND MAY REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT CERTAIN WRITTEN OPINIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND ISSUE FORMS AND NOTICES, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE OF THE NAME OF ANY INSURANCE COMPANY ALLOCATED CERTAIN TAX CREDITS.

Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

[H. 3750](#) ([Word](#) version) -- Reps. Hewitt, Yow, Ott, Crawford, Kirby, Hardee, Hiott and W. Newton: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 50-9-650, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEER HUNTING, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A RESIDENT WHO PURCHASES A SOUTH CAROLINA HUNTING LICENSE AND A BIG GAME PERMIT MUST RECEIVE AT LEAST TWO ANTLERLESS DEER TAGS THAT ARE NOT DATE SPECIFIC.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

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Congressional Report

On the National News

We are in day 35 of the government shutdown. On Thursday, six GOP senators peeled off to vote in favor of a bill to reopen the government with no additional wall funding, compared to only one Democrat who voted in favor of Trump's proposed immigration deal. Both "messaging votes" failed in the Senate, as expected. We are hopeful that this will soon be resolved and a budget will get passed.

At the end of last week Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) introduced a bill ([H. R. 641](#)) providing a path to citizenship for agricultural workers. We are hoping that this will lead to discussions on guest worker provisions. We will be following this legislation closely and will keep you updated.

The Health Insurance Tax (HIT Tax) is set to return on January 1, 2020, increasing the cost of coverage for small business owners and their employees, hardworking families and seniors. Two bipartisan bills have been introduced in the Senate to provide farmers and ranchers with relief from the Health Insurance Tax (HIT Tax). Bill [S. 80](#) would repeal the HIT Tax and Bill [S. 172](#) would suspend the HIT Tax for 2020 and 2021.