

# South Carolina Student Legislature Spring Session 2013



“Our Freedom, Our Future, Our Responsibility”



# South Carolina Student Legislature

“Our Freedom, Our Future, Our Responsibility.”

Office of the Governor

April 11, 2013

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am honored to welcome you to the 2013 Spring Session of the South Carolina Student Legislature. We are excited to have you here in Myrtle Beach. We look forward to hearing each of you present the legislation you have authored this semester.

I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the Executive Committee, the Cabinet, and the Office of the Governor, as well as the Delegation Chairs for all of their hard work and dedication to SCSL. I must also thank you, the delegates, from across the state of South Carolina for all of the time and effort you have put forth in preparing for this session. It is because of your commitment to this organization that makes all of this possible. I could not be more proud of the growth and unity that I have witnessed in preparing for this session. From the countless hours we have spent organizing and preparing this session, to the cosponsoring of bills and mock trial sessions across different delegations from numerous institutions, the organization as whole has grown tremendously. Indeed, SCSL is an institution like no other, one in which we can all be proud. This growth is what Dr. Douglas Hilton Carlisle intended for SCSL.

In addition to thanking all of you who have worked to make this session possible, I would also like to thank our advisors. Your support and guidance have helped us not only as individuals, but have helped us grow and increase unity within the organization. You all have better equipped us not only be involved on campus, but also you have prepared us to better our local communities, states, and our great nation.

I would like to thank Coastal Carolina University and Columbia International University for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities. Because of their contributions, SCSL has further been able to thrive and will only continue to do so. SCSL has become a part of many of us. I, like many of you, hold it in the highest regard. It is our wish to push this organization to its fullest potential.

Thank you again for joining us for the 2013 Spring Session. I am excited to hear all of the debate on the legislation you all have worked tirelessly to prepare. I encourage you all to continue in your efforts to effect positive change in the great Palmetto State.

Yours truly,

W.R. Simpson, III  
Governor, SCSL

South Carolina Student Legislature  
Executive Board  
2013

---

**Governor**

W. R. Simpson, III

Francis Marion

University

803-460-5302

[governor.scsl@gmail.com](mailto:governor.scsl@gmail.com)

**Lt. Governor**

Brandon Reilly

Coastal Carolina

University

401-595-1078

[bdreilly@g.coastal.edu](mailto:bdreilly@g.coastal.edu)

**Speaker of the House**

Emily Urban

Clemson University

864-561-3484

[urban@g.coastal.edu](mailto:urban@g.coastal.edu)

**President Pro Tempore**

John Moss

The Citadel

704-641-7132

[jmoss@citadel.edu](mailto:jmoss@citadel.edu)

**Speaker Pro Tempore**

Matt Thomas

Bob Jones University

864-982-1036

[mthom668@students.bju.edu](mailto:mthom668@students.bju.edu)

South Carolina Student Legislature  
Executive Cabinet  
2013

---

Secretary of State  
Autumn Weidman  
Columbia College

Treasurer  
Colton Smith  
The Citadel

Chief Justice of Supreme Court  
Tyler Paul Smith  
The Citadel

Comptroller General  
Stefanie Nifenecker  
Bob Jones University

Attorney General  
Blair Bolen  
Clemson University

Fundraising Chair  
*TBD*

South Carolina Student Legislature  
Office of the Governor  
2013

---

Chief of Staff  
Allison Rhodes  
Francis Marion University

State Chaplain  
Kenneth Fipps  
Charleston Southern University

Deputy Chief of Staff  
Stevie Galicia  
College of Charleston

Upstate Regional Director  
Hayden Smith  
Clemson University

Deputy Chief of Staff  
James McManus  
The Citadel

Assist. Upstate Regional Director  
Michael Darlin  
Bob Jones University

Deputy Chief of Staff/Comm. Of Ag.  
Sidney Nimmons  
Clemson University

Assist. Upstate Regional Director  
Kimberly Modica  
Lander University

Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff  
Lauren Goodwin  
Anderson University

Pee Dee Regional Director  
Kaitlin Page  
Coastal Carolina University

Parliamentarian  
Daniel Prohaska  
Erskine College

Midlands Regional Director  
Katherine Besley  
Columbia College

Historian  
Dylan Gunnels  
Charleston Southern University

Lower State Regional Director  
Stevie Galicia  
College of Charleston

South Carolina Student Legislature  
Supreme Court  
2013

---

**Chief Justice**

Tyler Paul Smith

**Associate Justice**

Cate Cardinale

**Associate Justice**

Ty'on Jones

**Associate Justice**

Jayde Barton

**Associate Justice**

Pete Klimek

South Carolina Student Legislature  
Delegation Chairs  
Spring 2013

---

Anderson University  
Lauren Goodwin

Columbia College  
Autumn Weidman

Bob Jones University  
Stefanie Nifenecker

Columbia International University  
Tim Caiello

Charleston Southern University  
Dylan Gunnels

Erskine College  
Daniel Prohaska

The Citadel  
John Moss

Francis Marion University  
Libby Sims

Clemson University  
Matt Castello

Furman University  
Stephanie Eckert

Coastal Carolina University  
Desmond Wallace

Lander University  
Aaron Talmage

College of Charleston  
Rebecca Stanley

Governors of the South Carolina Student Legislature

Year	Governor	School	Miscellaneous
1956			Organizational Meeting
1957	Robert McNair	University of SC	
1958	Robert Fogarty	Wofford College	
1959	Jim Creel	Clemson University	
1960	Jim Creel	Clemson University	
1961	William Schachte*	Clemson University	
1962	James Truesdale	University of SC	James Truesdale (USC)
1963	Mike Daniel	University of SC	
1964	Pete Levintis, III	The Citadel	
1965	William Youngblood	University of SC	
1966	William Yarborough	Furman University	
1967	John Ellenburg	Clemson University	
1968	William McDougall	University of SC	
1969	Huck Nelson*	Greenville Tech	
1970	John Linton	Wofford College	Barney Blackwell (USCS)
1971	Edward Woodward	The Citadel	
1972	Polly Spann	University of SC	
1973	Gerry Hough*	Clemson University	
1974	Lee Atwater	Newberry College	Sharon Davi (Winthrop)
1975	James Hitch	University of SC	
1976	Eugenia Bettis	North Greenville College	
1977	Alvin Roof	Newberry College	
1978	Lemuel Gray*	Trident Technical	
1979	Steve Columbia*	The Citadel	David Watson (FMU)
1980	Laura Harris	University of SC	Van Hipp (USC)
1981	Joey Hudson	Winthrop University	
1982	Joey Hudson	Winthrop University	
1983	Ricky Wade	University of SC	
1984	Tony Snell	University of SC	
1985	Tony Snell	University of SC	
1986	Steven Neeves	Coastal Carolina	
1987	Jody Styron	Erskine College	
1988	Tracy Johnson	Columbia College	
1989	Hamilton Nelson*	The Citadel	
1990	Gardner Jackson	Furman University	Janie Randal(Columbia)
1991	Jeff Fowler	Clemson University	
1992	Keith Melton	Clemson University	
1993	Dan Herren	Furman University	
1994	Melinda Diller	Presbyterian College	
1995	Todd Thayer*	Clemson University	
1996	Jennifer Graziano	Bob Jones University	James Duke (Coastal)
1997	Stuart Cate	The Citadel	
1998	Bryan Menees	University of SC	
1999	Adrian Scott Frederic	Clemson University	
2000	Marcinak, III Ashley	The Citadel	
2001	Walters	Columbia College	
2002	Luke Frans	Bob Jones University	
2003	Joseph Opperman	University of SC	
2004	Mandy Kulcsar	Clemson University	
2005	Ed Sutton	The Citadel	
2006	Timothy Silvester	Bob Jones University	
2007	Phillip Paradise	College of Charleston	
2008	Jade Roy	The Citadel	
2009	Will Freeman	College of Charleston	
2010	Chandler Hudson	Clemson University	
2011	Anderson Rouse	Bob Jones University	
2012	Blair Bolen	Clemson University	
2013	W.R. Simpson, III	Francis Marion University	

\*denotes resignation



**A Bill**  
**Presented by JP Basham and Benjamin Jeffers**  
**Bob Jones University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To establish a recycling system that benefits the environment and the consumer.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** Americans throw away 25 million plastic beverage bottles every hour; and,  
8  
9 **Whereas,** Less than 8% of all recyclable products are actually recycled in the United States;  
10 and,  
11  
12 **Whereas,** Recycling creates 5 times as many jobs as landfill management; and,  
13  
14 **Whereas,** Recycling lowers the cost of waste and trash cleanup; and,  
15  
16 **Whereas,** The recycling industry has a \$6.5 billion impact on the state’s economy according  
17 to a study conducted by the College of Charleston’s Department of Economics  
18 and Finance; and,  
19  
20 **Whereas,** The Economic Impact of the Recycling Industry in South Carolina study shows  
21 that the recycling industry is directly responsible for more than 15,000 jobs, \$1.5  
22 billion in annual personal income, and \$69 million in tax revenue each year; and,  
23  
24 **Whereas,** Economic incentives will boost recycling by South Carolina citizens.  
25  
26 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
27 assembled the following:  
28  
29 **Section I:** Citizens of South Carolina will receive \$1 tax credit per pound of recyclables  
30 brought to a recycling center.  
31  
32 **Section II:** Each recycling center will provide an individual with a tax credit receipt stating  
33 the credit amount for the donated recyclables.  
34  
35 **Section III:** The recycling center will provide the state government a receipt stating the  
36 amount to be deducted from the individual’s state taxes.  
37  
38 **Section IV:** A 1% increase in the state sin tax for a 1 year period will fund any startup costs  
39 for plant maintenance, and necessary equipment.  
40  
41 **Section V:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
42 the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Briley Hughes and Michael Darlin**  
**Bob Jones University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To improve road safety and reduce costs by replacing signalized traffic  
6 intersections with modern roundabouts.  
7
- 8 **Whereas,** According to the Federal Highway Administration, roundabouts have been shown  
9 to reduce crashes by 48% compared to signalized intersections; and,  
10
- 11 **Whereas,** According to a study by the Washington State Department of Transportation,  
12 roundabouts can save up to \$10,000 per intersection, per year on maintenance and  
13 upkeep costs compared to a signalized intersections; and,  
14
- 15 **Whereas,** According to a study by Kansas State University, roundabouts have been shown  
16 to reduce traffic delays by 20% compared to signalized intersections; and,  
17
- 18 **Whereas,** According to a study by the New York Department of Transportation,  
19 roundabouts can reduce up to 85 kg/day of emissions compared to signalized  
20 intersections.  
21
- 22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24
- 25 **Section I:** In the 2014 fiscal year, the South Carolina Department of Transportation  
26 (SCDOT) shall be required to allot \$5.5 million from the Federal/State  
27 Construction Maintenance portion of their approved budget. The allotted fund  
28 shall be used to replace signalized intersections with modern roundabouts, under  
29 the supervision and discretion of the Transportation Commission.  
30
- 31 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:  
32 A) 'Modern Roundabout' shall be defined as: A circular intersection designed to  
33 promote traffic safety and efficiency, with either single or multiple lanes,  
34 containing a variable number of entrances.  
35 B) 'Signalized intersections' shall be defined as: An intersection with traffic  
36 signals.  
37
- 38 **Section III:** The SCDOT shall report to the Secretary of Transportation concerning the  
39 expenditure and result of the allotted \$5.5 million.  
40
- 41 **Section IV:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
42 the Governor.

**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Kristen Ince and Isaac Sloat**  
**Bob Jones University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To reduce the cost to the state funded identity theft protection in the future.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** 15 million Americans annually are victims of identity theft; and,  
8  
9 **Whereas,** Last year, 3.6 million Social Security numbers and 387,000 credit and debit card  
10 numbers were stolen by a foreign hacker; and,  
11  
12 **Whereas,** The state of South Carolina offered a year of free identity theft protection from a  
13 credit and identity monitoring system offered through Experian costing the state  
14 \$12 million annually; and,  
15  
16 **Whereas,** It is more cost effective to offer tax credits to individuals or families who acquire  
17 this protection themselves; and,  
18  
19 **Whereas,** Tax credits could have saved the state an estimated \$10 million last year; and,  
20  
21 **Whereas,** The taxpayer would have saved approximately \$800 last year through the  
22 implementation of a tax credit program.  
23  
24 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina State Legislature in regular session assembled  
25 the following:  
26  
27 **Section I:** A tax credit, not exceeding one thousand (1000) dollars per family or three  
28 hundred fifty (350) dollars per individual shall be granted for up to five (5) years  
29 to those who buy identity theft protection for themselves instead of opting to use  
30 the state's identity theft program  
31  
32 **Section II:** For the purpose of this bill:  
33 A) 'Tax credits' shall be defined as: A sum deducted from the total amount in  
34 taxes that a taxpayer owes to the state in a current year.  
35  
36 **Section III:** This joint resolution shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
37 signature of the Governor.

1 **A Bill**  
2 **Presented by Matt Ledbetter, Billy Kauffman, and Stefanie Nifenecker**  
3 **Bob Jones University**  
4

5 **Purpose:** To prohibit the sale of chilled alcoholic beverages of any retail  
6 establishment, with the exception of restaurants or bars which hold a valid  
7 beer and wine retail permit.  
8

9 **Whereas,** South Carolina has one of the largest drunk driving death counts in the  
10 nation; and,  
11

12 **Whereas,** It is in the interest of the state to promote safety of all people both in  
13 transit while on the roadway system and pedestrians in close proximity to  
14 the roads; and,  
15

16 **Whereas,** Enforcement and disincentives to transport alcohol with a broken seal  
17 inside of a motor vehicle should be promoted.  
18

19 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
20 assembled the following:  
21

22 **Section I:** SECTION 61-6-1500. Restrictions upon retail dealers.  
23

24 "For purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases are defined  
25 as follows:  
26

27 (1) "Chilled" means any refrigeration or cooling of the liquid.  
28

29 (2) "Retail establishment" means a holder of a license issued under the  
30 provisions of Section 61-6-20(11), other than a manufacturer or  
31 wholesaler.  
32

33 (3) "Alcoholic beverages" means any spirituous malt, vinous, fermented,  
34 brewed (whether lager or rice beer), or other liquors or a compound or  
35 mixture of them by whatever name called or known which contains  
36 alcohol and is used as a beverage, but does not include:

37 (i) Wine when manufactured or made for home consumption and which is  
38 not sold by the maker of the wine or by another person; or

39 (ii) A beverage declared by statute to be nonalcoholic or non-  
40 intoxicating."  
41

42 **Section II:** Retail establishments with the exception of restaurants or bars which hold  
43 a valid beer and wine retail permit will be prohibited from selling chilled  
44 alcoholic beverages. The retailer shall not offer or display for sale, or sell,  
45 barter, exchange or give away a bottle, can, container, or package of beer  
46 that was iced or cooled before or at the time of the sale, exchange, or gift.

47

48 **Section III:** First offense shall result in a fine of \$2,500. Second offense shall result in  
49 the loss of the retail beer and wine permit for a space of one month. A  
50 third offense shall result in the permanent revocation of the retail beer and  
51 wine permit.

52

53 **Section IV:** This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, after passage by the General  
54 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Ben Nicholas and Ashley Archibald**  
**Bob Jones University**

**Purpose:** To amend the code of laws to enforce minimum sentences for drug felonies.

**Whereas,** Minimum sentences will help discourage gateway and future drug abuse; and,

**Whereas,** Minimum sentences will discourage gang activity; and,

**Whereas,** Minimum sentences will discourage those who have previously committed a felony from committing another one; and,

**Whereas,** We would be following in line with what other states have done.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session here assembled by the following:

**Section I:** Minimum Sentences for narcotics misdemeanor:

**First time offense:** First time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 5 days in prison.

**Second time offense:** Second time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 25 days in prison.

**Third time offense:** Third time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 50 days in prison.

**Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

A) 'Drug felonies' shall be defined as: Already stated in the South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-1-90.

**Section III:** Minimum Sentences for Schedule 1 and 2 narcotics felonies:

**First time offense:** First time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 1 year in prison.

**Second time offense:** Second conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of double of what the first conviction was.

**Third time offense:** Third time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

**Section IV:** Minimum Sentences for Schedule 3 narcotics felonies:

**First time offense:** First time conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 15 days in prison.

**Second time offense:** Second conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 50 days in prison.

**Third time offense:** Third conviction for felony narcotic charges will incur a minimum sentence of 150 days.

- 47 **Section V:** Time served can be allotted to all of these convictions.  
48  
49 **Section VI:** These guidelines will be added to the code of law Title 44 Section 44-53-370.  
50  
51 **Section VII:** These policies will apply only to arrests and convictions made after the enactment  
52 of this bill. Those already in trial will not have these policies affect them.  
53  
54 **Section VIII:** This act shall go into effect 30 days after passage by the General Assembly and  
55 signature of the Governor.

**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Kenneth Fipps**  
**Charleston Southern University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

**Purpose:** To curb the redundancy of legislation that is presented to the South Carolina Student Legislature.

**Whereas,** Nearly every Session, a bill is presented regarding the current positioning of the Confederate Flag on the grounds of the South Carolina State House; and,

**Whereas,** The members of this body have heard the arguments and voted on this issue multiple times; and,

**Whereas,** There are other issues that are important to this body, the organization that is South Carolina Student Legislature, and ultimately our State.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Bills may only be submitted or argued by the South Carolina Student Legislature regarding the issue of the Confederate flag on years that end in odd numbers.

**Section II:** This joint resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.



**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Richard Fitzsimons**  
**Charleston Southern University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38

- Purpose:** To make Physical Education and Nutrition classes mandatory for all South Carolina public school students in grades 6-12.
- Whereas,** Thirty to sixty minutes of daily physical activity is only mandatory for students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade; and,
- Whereas,** Physical Education classes are simply offered for students in grades 6-12, but most students don't participate in these classes due to low self-esteem, obesity, and various health issues; and,
- Whereas,** Childhood and teenage obesity is an epidemic in this country, and it needs to be eradicated.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** All South Carolina public school students in grades 6-12 shall be required to take a Health and Physical Education, Nutrition, or Sports/Fitness class in each grade.  
A) These classes shall be a set curriculum per grade, and be determined by each school district within the state.  
B) Students shall have the choice between Health/Physical Education, Nutrition, or Sports/Fitness classes each year, as long as they fulfill the required curriculum prior to High School Graduation.
- Section II:** All students will take a Physical Fitness Test at the end of each grade. This will be an assessment of their physical fitness progress, but will not determine whether they move up to the next grade.
- Section III:** The Physical Fitness Test shall be compiled according to the standards set out by the individual school district and administered by each public school during regularly scheduled class or exam time.
- Section IV:** This joint resolution shall take effect at the beginning of the following academic year, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Dylan Gunnels**  
**Charleston Southern University**

**Purpose:** To amend Section 56-5-3900, Subsection A of South Carolina law in order to align with Section 56-5-6520 of South Carolina law, and promote and attempt to ensure the safety of all South Carolina residents operating an open vehicle.

**Whereas,** Section 56-5-3900 currently states the following:

“(A) It is unlawful to transport a person under fifteen years of age in the open bed or open cargo area of a pickup truck or trailer. An open bed or open cargo area is a bed or cargo area without permanent overhead restraining construction.

(B) Subsection (A) does not apply when:

(1) an adult is present in the bed or cargo area of the vehicle and is supervising the child; (2) the child is secured or restrained by a seat belt manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, installed to support a load of not less than five thousand pounds for each belt, and of a type approved by the Department of Public Safety; (3) an emergency situation exists; (4) the vehicle is being operated in an organized hayride or parade pursuant to a valid permit; (5) the vehicle is being operated while hunting or in an agricultural enterprise; (6) the vehicle is being operated in a county which has no incorporated area with a population greater than three thousand five hundred; or (7) the vehicle has a closed metal tailgate and is being operated less than thirty-six miles an hour. (C) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined twenty-five dollars.

(D) No driver's license points or insurance surcharge may be assessed for a violation of this section.

Never carry passengers in a truck bed unless they are properly restrained;” and,

**Whereas,** SECTION 56-5-6520 currently states the following:

“The driver and every occupant of a motor vehicle, when it is being operated on the public streets and highways of this State, must wear a fastened safety belt which complies with all provisions of federal law for its use. The driver is charged with the responsibility of requiring each occupant seventeen years of age or younger to wear a safety belt or be secured in a child restraint system as provided in Article 47 of this chapter. However, a driver is not responsible for an occupant seventeen years of age or younger who has a driver's license, special restricted license, or beginner's permit and who is not wearing a seat belt; such occupant is in violation of this article and must be fined in accordance with Section 56-5-6540;” and,

**Whereas,** A South Carolina resident is considered an “adult” at age seventeen in regards to operating a motor vehicle. At which time, the resident is seen as capable of making decisions in recognition of personal safety; and,

47  
48 **Whereas,** Section 56-5-6520 states that decisions shall be made for those seventeen and  
49 under. Section 56-5-3900 should follow suit.  
50  
51 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
52 assembled the following:  
53  
54 **Section I:** Amend Section 56-5-3900 to read:  
55  
56 “(A) It is unlawful to transport a person under ~~fifteen~~ *seventeen* years of age in the  
57 open bed or open cargo area of a pickup truck or trailer. An open bed or open  
58 cargo area is a bed or cargo area without permanent overhead restraining  
59 construction.  
60 (B) Subsection (A) does not apply when:  
61 (1) an adult is present in the bed or cargo area of the vehicle and is supervising the  
62 child; (2) the child is secured or restrained by a seat belt manufactured in  
63 compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, installed to  
64 support a load of not less than five thousand pounds for each belt, and of a type  
65 approved by the Department of Public Safety; (3) an emergency situation exists;  
66 (4) the vehicle is being operated in an organized hayride or parade pursuant to a  
67 valid permit; (5) the vehicle is being operated while hunting or in an agricultural  
68 enterprise; ~~(6) the vehicle is being operated in a county which has no incorporated~~  
69 ~~area with a population greater than three thousand five hundred; or (7) the vehicle~~  
70 ~~has a closed metal tailgate and is being operated less than thirty six miles an hour.~~  
71 (C) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon  
72 conviction, must be fined twenty-five dollars.  
73 (D) No driver's license points or insurance surcharge may be assessed for a  
74 violation of this section.  
75 Never carry passengers in a truck bed unless they are properly restrained.”  
76  
77 **Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
78 the Governor.

1 **A Bill**

2 **Presented by Michael Hammond and Christopher McFadden**  
3 **Charleston Southern University**

4  
5 **Purpose:** To promote the health and well-being of South Carolina residents, as well as the  
6 state itself, by eliminating the grimacing threat of second hand smoke.  
7

8 **Whereas,** There is a multitude of negative effects that occur to persons who unwillingly  
9 breathe the toxins of cigarettes themselves, as well as the amount of harmful  
10 emissions in the atmosphere; and,  
11

12 **Whereas,** Those who choose to smoke are entitled to their habit and should be able to  
13 continue their practice on their private properties or in designated smoking areas  
14 which will grant them full liberty under the law; and,  
15

16 **Whereas,** Studies show that second hand smoke can be just as harmful as smoking itself.  
17

18 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
19 assembled the following:  
20

21 **Section I:** Public smoking in the state of South Carolina shall be limited to private  
22 residences and establishments that have been deemed places for recreational use  
23 of tobacco smoking.  
24

25 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill,  
26 A) ‘Smoking tobacco’ shall be defined as: Any kind of tobacco which is lit in any  
27 way creating a coal and/or smoke.  
28 B) ‘Smokeless tobacco’ shall be defined as: Chewing tobacco and/or water vapor  
29 cigarettes.  
30 C) ‘Public areas’ shall be defined as: Any area that is not privately owned.  
31 D) ‘Unwilling exposure’ shall be defined as: A threat to the health and well-being  
32 of our state citizens and infringes on their federal right to life, liberty and the  
33 pursuit of happiness, by the way of limiting the quality of life both in health  
34 and environment and most definitely exposing them to the threat of premature  
35 death or disease.  
36

37 **Section III:** This legislation shall overrule any prior legislation granting rights to public  
38 smoking in the state of South Carolina.  
39

40 **Section IV:** State and local law enforcement officials shall enforce this law in the form of  
41 ticketing. This legislation does not award the power to arrest a person smoking  
42 publicly unless they are unwilling to cooperate with an officer of the law by not  
43 extinguishing their tobacco product or relocating to a legal “private” location for  
44 smoking.  
45

46 **Section V:** This legislation does not prohibit the use of water vapor electronic cigarettes or  
47 smokeless tobacco.

48

49 **Section VI:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
50 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Jay Hartley**  
**Charleston Southern University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

**Purpose:** To promote and ensure safer South Carolina highways through proper execution of safety testing.

**Whereas,** Many South Carolina residents are not required to take the extensive Drivers License Test once they reach a certain age; and,

**Whereas,** Traffic Rules frequently change and some elderly South Carolina residents remain unaware of the changes simply because they have not been tested for a long span of time; and,

**Whereas,** Some elderly drivers have become careless of the dangers of operating a motor vehicle or are simply incapable of operating a motor vehicle due to various health issues including, but not limited to, sight, hearing, and reflexes.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** All South Carolina drivers ages 70 and above shall be required to take the extensive Drivers License Test in order to obtain a renewed license.

**Section II:** The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles shall uphold this policy by properly executing the tests and informing all South Carolina drivers of the changes and their stipulations.

**Section III:** South Carolina drivers currently over the age of 70 shall be grandfathered in to the stipulations of the law.

**Section IV:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Stephen Lovegrove and Sarah Massey**  
**Charleston Southern University**

**Purpose:** To provide a secure and all-inclusive work environment for every employee in the state of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** Race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, familial status, disability status, veteran status, and genetic information are all current protected classes which may not be discriminated against according to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and succeeding legislation; and,

**Whereas,** Sexual orientation aligns with this list as a deeply personal characteristic which cannot or should not be altered; and,

**Whereas,** Employees statewide can be forced to live in shame and hiding for fear of losing their jobs.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** The legislature here assembled shall establish the South Carolina Human Rights Act, which will treat sexual orientation as a protected class in the state of South Carolina.

**Section II:** The South Carolina Human Rights Act shall include the same stipulations as the other protected classes, stating that no decision of employment may be made based upon an individual's status within a protected class. Although this bill does not affect the federal law, sexual orientation will be regarded as a protected class in the same legal manner as the other classifications by law.

**Section III:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Michelle Priester**  
**Charleston Southern University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend Section 56-5-3660 of South Carolina law in order to promote  
6 and attempt to ensure the safety of all South Carolina residents operating a  
7 two-wheeled motorized vehicle.  
8

9 **Whereas,** Section 56-5-3660 currently states the following: “Helmets shall be worn  
10 by operators and passengers under age twenty-one; helmet design; list of  
11 approved helmets. It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of  
12 twenty-one to operate or ride upon a two-wheeled motorized vehicle  
13 unless he wears a protective helmet of a type approved by the  
14 department;” and,  
15

16 **Whereas,** The leading cause of death in motorcycle accidents is head injuries; and,  
17

18 **Whereas,** Motorcycle helmets significantly decrease the chance of head injuries and  
19 even fatalities occurring during and after motorcycle accidents.  
20

21 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
22 assembled the following:  
23

24 **Section I:** Amend Section 56-5-3660 to read:  
25

26 “Helmets shall be worn by all operators and passengers ~~under age twenty-~~  
27 ~~one~~; helmet design; list of approved helmets. It shall be unlawful for any  
28 person ~~under the age of twenty one~~ to operate or ride upon a two-wheeled  
29 motorized vehicle unless he wears a protective helmet of a type approved  
30 by the department.”  
31

32 **Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
33 signature of the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Pete Klimek**  
**The Citadel**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

- Purpose:** To limit South Carolina Government Spending growth to reflect the growth in wealth of the taxpayers.
- Whereas,** The purpose of government is to work for the people; and,
- Whereas,** South Carolina government expenditure has increased from around 18 million US dollars in 2000 to just under 30 million US dollars in 2010; and,
- Whereas,** South Carolina has had a per capita GDP growth of \$27,965 to \$28,364 from 2000 to 2008; and,
- Whereas,** The real GDP of South Carolina is nowhere near the previous high, being about 4 billion US dollars off from 148 billion US dollars in 2007, showing a current 144 billion US dollars; and,
- Whereas,** The South Carolina State Government total expenditures have risen 67%, and the State Per Capita GDP has risen by 1.4%.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** The South Carolina State Budget will never grow beyond the growth of that of the state real GDP, based on percentage.
- Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:
- A) 'Real GDP' shall be defined as: The measure of all goods and services produced in a given year, fixed for inflation.
  - B) 'Recession' shall be defined as: A condition where in a given fiscal year real GDP shrinks, indicating a decline in actual production of goods and services.
- Section III:** The South Carolina State Budget will shrink to reflect that of the total state real GDP in times of state economic recession, in terms of percentage.
- Section IV:** The South Carolina State Budget is not fixed to be at this cap. The budget can be less than the cap determines. The budget cannot grow above the rate at which the state real GDP grows or shrink in a smaller amount than the state real GDP shrinks.
- Section V:** The measure of real GDP will be done by the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- Section VI:** This act shall go into effect on October 1, 2013, after passage by the General



**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Tyler Paul Smith**  
**The Citadel**

**Purpose:** To protect the due process of law guaranteed to every citizen of South Carolina and the United States under the United States Constitution by prohibiting the use of drones to patrol or take out targets in the sovereign state of South Carolina and call for the Governor of South Carolina to refuse such action under their authority as being pertinent to the interests of the citizens of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution specifies that , “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized;” and,

**Whereas,** The Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution specifies that, “No person shall be held to answer of a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation;” and,

**Whereas,** The Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution specifies, “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense;” and,

**Whereas,** Neither the President of the United States nor the United States Justice Department has the authority to prevent citizens of South Carolina or any state of this sovereign Union from enjoying the right of due process under the law guaranteed them under the United States Constitution by passing judgment of their own accord on the citizen in question and using drones to execute their judgment of the citizen; and,

**Whereas,** This power is reserved to military operations in foreign conflicts and does not meet the standard established by the Constitution of our legal process in this country affording citizens their sacred rights protected extensively under the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments; and,

47 **Whereas,** A jury of one’s peers shall be necessary to convict a citizen to a sentence of death  
48 by which the process of execution is left to the sovereign state where the  
49 adjudication has occurred for that citizen as noted by the Tenth Amendment of the  
50 United States Constitution specifying, “The powers not delegated to the United  
51 States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the  
52 States respectively, or to the people.”  
53

54 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
55 assembled the following:  
56

57 **Section I:** The Governor of South Carolina will not carry out any order by the President of  
58 the United States or Justice Department for the use of drones to patrol or take out  
59 targets within the sovereign state of South Carolina by an act of the South  
60 Carolina Air National Guard.  
61

62 **Section II:** This concurrent resolution shall take effect upon passage by the General  
63 Assembly.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Thomas V. Sullivan**  
**The Citadel**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend the code of laws of South Carolina, 1976; And to amend section  
6 16-23-420, by adding section 59-1-490 so as to allow a public school  
7 employees who has a concealed weapons permit to carry on the premises  
8 of the school, but is subject to certain requirements and approval by the  
9 local school board.

10  
11 **Whereas,** In 1992 to 2001, 77 percent of violent crimes in schools were shootings;  
12 and,

13  
14 **Whereas,** 17 percent of students had carried a weapon to school 30 days before a  
15 survey given in 2001; and,

16  
17 **Whereas,** There has been a total of 297 victims shot in schools since 1980 to 2012;  
18 and,

19  
20 **Whereas,** Less casualties would have been had if teachers would have been able to  
21 defend themselves and their students; and,

22  
23 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
24 here assembled the following:

25  
26 **Section I:** Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

27  
28 A) Subject to approval by the appropriate local school board, a public  
29 school employee who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon  
30 pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 may possess a firearm on the  
31 premises of a school campus where he is employed, provided the  
32 employee:

33 (1) Conceals weapon at all times except when in us;

34 (2) Keeps firearm on his person at all times;

35 (3) Notifies the principal of his intent to carry the firearm once  
36 approved by the school board;

37 (4) Has no history of violence or uncontrolled anger documented by  
38 his employer;

39  
40 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

41 A) 'Weapons' shall be defined as: A gun, knife, or a club.

42 B) 'School employee' shall be defined as: A person employed by a school  
43 district, as defined in section 59-1-160.

44  
45 **Section III:** A school board may only deny an employee of his ability to carry a  
46 firearm on school property upon a finding of just cause.

47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68

**Section IV:** Section 16-23-420 (A) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 32 of 2009, is further amended to read:

“(A) It is unlawful for a person to possess a firearm of any kind on any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution, or in any publicly owned building, without the express permission of the authorities in charge of the premises or property except as provided in Section 59-1-490 for public school employees or as otherwise provided in this section. The provisions of this subsection related to any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution, do not apply to a person who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 when the weapon remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle.”

**Section V:** This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Bria Burke-Koskela**  
**Clemson University**

**Purpose:** To raise the legal age of sexual consent in South Carolina to the age of 18.

**Whereas,** Although the current law requires the age of consent to be 16, the “Romeo and Juliet” law allows for 14 year olds to engage in sexual activity with individuals under the age of 18; and,

**Whereas,** Young people who are not fully matured are engaging in sexual activity with individuals that are considered to be legally “adults” in age; and,

**Whereas,** This accelerated maturity causes young people to handle adult decisions earlier in life, such as abortions and pregnancy; and,

**Whereas,** Parents have to monitor their children’s sexual actions in grades as young as middle school because of the possibility of their children engaging in sexual behavior; and,

**Whereas,** Nineteen teenagers give birth every day in the state of South Carolina.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** The “Romeo and Juliet” law allowing individuals under the age of 18 to have sexual intercourse with individuals as young as 14 years old will be repealed.

**Section II:** The act of sexual intercourse with anybody under the age of 18, regardless of the age difference between the two individuals, shall be illegal.

**Section III:** The only exception to this law being that if a parent of both adolescents wishing to engage in sexual activity were to give their consent and accept full responsibility of their child participating in this behavior, would it be acceptable for a child under the age of 18 to be sexually active.

**Section IV:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Brenna Dickson**  
**Clemson University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To require public schools (K-12) to have a School Resource Officer  
6 (SRO) on campus during school hours.  
7  
8 **Whereas,** Currently, public grade schools are not required by law to have an SRO on  
9 campus during school hours; and,  
10  
11 **Whereas,** Having an SRO on campus can minimize the chance of something  
12 unplanned happening on school grounds; and,  
13  
14 **Whereas,** Having an SRO present will make students and faculty feel safer while at  
15 school; and,  
16  
17 **Whereas,** Charter schools have the option of paying-in for an SRO; and,  
18  
19 **Whereas,** Career and technology schools will share an SRO with a neighboring  
20 school.  
21  
22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24  
25 **Section I:** The following shall be added to the South Carolina Code of Laws Title 59,  
26 Chapter 23:  
27  
28 “School Resource Officers  
29 All public grade schools, excluding charter schools, technology schools,  
30 and career schools, are required to have a School Resource Officer on  
31 campus during all school hours.”  
32  
33 **Section II:** SROs will be paid their normal salary from their respective police  
34 departments (city or county); and,  
35 A) The school districts will pay a small portion of the salaries; and,  
36 B) The SROs are not employees of the school districts.  
37  
38 **Section III:** This act shall take effect at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year,  
39 after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Ryan Gillespie**  
**Clemson University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To remove the straight party ticket voting option from South Carolina  
6 ballots.  
7
- 8 **Whereas,** Individual candidates for each political office deserve the consideration of  
9 voters independent of their political affiliation or candidates for other  
10 offices; and,  
11
- 12 **Whereas,** Large political, ideological, and personal differences can exist among  
13 candidates of the same political party; and,  
14
- 15 **Whereas,** Straight party ticket voting options could cause candidates who are  
16 affiliated with a certain party but are running as independents to lose votes  
17 from voter confusion, or could cause their opposition to gain votes through  
18 the same confusion; and,  
19
- 20 **Whereas,** Straight party ticket voting options do not require voters to seriously  
21 consider each candidate for each elected position; and,  
22
- 23 **Whereas,** Only 16 of 50 states offer straight party ticket voting options.  
24
- 25 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
26 assembled the following:  
27
- 28 **Section I:** South Carolina ballots will no longer offer a straight party ticket voting  
29 options. In order to cast a vote for a specific position, voters must select a  
30 candidate for that position.  
31
- 32 **Section II:** SECTION 7-13-330 shall be amended to read:  
33  
34 ~~“INSTRUCTIONS--To vote a straight party ticket, make a cross (X) in the~~  
35 ~~circle (O) under the name of your party. Nothing further need or should~~  
36 ~~be done. To vote a mixed ticket, or in other words for candidates of~~  
37 ~~different parties or petition candidates, omit making a cross (X) mark in~~  
38 ~~the party circle at the top and make a cross (X) in the voting square [ ]~~  
39 ~~opposite the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom you wish to~~  
40 ~~vote. To vote for a candidate make a cross (X) in the voting square [ ]~~  
41 ~~opposite the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom you wish to~~  
42 ~~vote. If you wish to vote for a candidate not on any ticket, write or place~~  
43 ~~the name of such candidate on your ticket opposite the name of the office.~~  
44 ~~Before leaving the booth, fold the ballot so that the initials of the manager~~  
45 ~~may be seen on the outside of the ballot.”~~  
46

47 **Section III:** SECTION 7-13-1340 (b) shall be struck from the record.

48

49 **Section IV:** SECTION 7-13-1640 (A) (1) shall be amended to read:

50

51 “provide facilities for voting for all candidates of as many political parties  
52 or organizations as may make nominations of candidates at any election,  
53 for or against as many questions as may be submitted at any election, ~~and~~  
54 ~~at all general or special elections, permit the voter to vote for all of the~~  
55 ~~candidates of one party or in part for the candidates of one or more~~  
56 ~~parties;”~~

57

58 **Section V:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
59 signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Jevonta Henderson**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To create a Department of Cyber Security in the great state of South  
6 Carolina.

7  
8 **Whereas,** Each state department and/or agency is currently responsible for managing  
9 and maintaining their own cyber security systems; and,

10  
11 **Whereas,** Recently, the website for the state’s Department of Employment and  
12 Workforce was defaced; and,

13  
14 **Whereas,** Several thousands of the citizens of this great state had their financial  
15 world thrown into turmoil when the state’s Department of Revenue was  
16 hacked and their identities were stolen; and,

17  
18 **Whereas,** The state is currently spending upwards of 10 million dollars providing  
19 credit reporting services to citizens whose personal information was put at  
20 risk in last year’s cyber-attack; and,

21  
22 **Whereas,** Due to the recent events regarding the cyber security breach, the SC  
23 Department of Revenue is now expected to go over their budget for the  
24 current fiscal year.

25  
26 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
27 assembled the following:

28  
29 **Section I:** Section 1-1-110 of the SC Annotated Code shall be amended in the  
30 following way:

31  
32 “The executive department of this State is hereby declared to consist of the  
33 following officers, that is to say: The Governor and Lieutenant Governor,  
34 the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General and the  
35 solicitors, the Adjutant General, the Comptroller General, the State  
36 Superintendent of Education, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the  
37 Director of the Department of Insurance, **and the Director of the**  
38 **Department of Cyber Security.**”

39  
40 **Section II:** In order to keep this from upsetting the flow of business within the current  
41 administration and their cyber security, the General Assembly will appoint  
42 a task force consisting of the heads of the Executive departments and  
43 agencies along with the newly appointed Director of the Department of  
44 Cyber Security in order to determine the best practice for consolidating the  
45 current cyber security protocols.  
46

- 47 **Section III:** Initially, staff that is currently working to provide cyber security will  
48 temporarily be reassigned to the Department of Cyber Security until all of  
49 the processes are streamlined and the new director has time to determine  
50 the exact level of personnel that will be necessary in order to maintain this  
51 office.  
52
- 53 **Section IV:** Funding for this act shall be provided by reallocating the portion of each  
54 individual agency's budget that is allocated to the funding of their cyber  
55 security divisions.  
56
- 57 **Section V:** The appointed task force will have approximately three years in order to  
58 set up this new department and their protocols before the department must  
59 be operational.  
60
- 61 **Section VI:** The appointed task force will present semi-annual reports of their progress  
62 to the Governor and the General Assembly until their three year set up  
63 period is over.  
64
- 65 **Section VII:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
66 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Izzi Hernandez-Cruz**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**Purpose:** To eliminate the death penalty in the state of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** The state of South Carolina has already cut back on the use of the death penalty, citing high costs to the taxpayer and the uncertainty of capital punishment; and,

**Whereas,** Only one person has been executed in the past three years, and the size of death row has declined 30% since 2005; and,

**Whereas,** Countless stories exist, such as Joseph Ard and Edward Lee Elmore, where people have spent years on death row before being released after more evidence became available; and,

**Whereas,** South Carolina adopted the alternate penalty of life without parole in 1995.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Section 16-3-20 will be struck from the South Carolina Code of Laws.

**Section II:** This act shall go into effect following passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Resolution  
Presented by Ashton Lee  
Clemson University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To require every public middle and high school in the state of  
6 South Carolina to give an Anti-Bullying Seminar at the beginning of each  
7 school year.  
8
- 9 **Whereas,** Nationally, it is estimated that 160,000 children miss school every day due  
10 to fear of attack or intimidation by other students; and,  
11
- 12 **Whereas,** One in seven students in Grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of  
13 bullying; and,  
14
- 15 **Whereas,** Seventy-one percent of students report incidents of bullying as a problem at  
16 their school.  
17
- 18 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
19 assembled the following:  
20
- 21 **Section I:** The seminar will be given to the entire student body, or by grade, in an all-  
22 school meeting.  
23
- 24 **Section II:** Neglecting to have an Anti-Bullying Seminar in any public South Carolina  
25 high school or middle school shall be illegal.  
26
- 27 **Section III:** Every employee of these South Carolina public high schools and middle  
28 schools shall be notified of the requirement of an Anti-Bullying-Seminar.  
29
- 30 **Section IV:** Principals and teachers shall be required to notify their respective School  
31 Boards if seminars are not held.  
32
- 33 **Section V:** The seminar will be given by a keynote speaker employed by an Anti-  
34 Bullying Organization.  
35
- 36 **Section VI:** Funding for this act shall be provided by the South Carolina Department  
37 of Education.  
38
- 39 **Section VII:** This joint resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by  
40 the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Sid J. Nimmons**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To repeal the restriction of the sale of alcoholic liquors on statewide  
6 election days.  
7

8 **Whereas,** South Carolina is one of only two states, the other being Kentucky, that  
9 bans the sale of alcoholic liquors on election days; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** Nationwide prohibition was repealed by the Twenty-First amendment to  
12 the Constitution in 1933, 80 years ago; and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** The original intent of provisions of Section 61-6-4160 of Chapter 6 of  
15 Title 61 prohibiting election day sales, is no longer a substantial threat to  
16 the peaceful existence of the people of the State of South Carolina; and,  
17

18 **Whereas,** It shall still remain a violation of state law to provide unlawful benefit for  
19 the purpose of securing a vote.  
20

21 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
22 assembled the following:  
23

24 **Section I:** SECTION 61-6-4160 of Chapter 6 of Title 61 of the South Carolina Code  
25 of Laws shall be amended to read:  
26

27 “It is unlawful to sell alcoholic liquors on Sunday except as authorized by  
28 law, ~~on statewide election days~~, or during periods proclaimed by the  
29 Governor in the interest of law and order or public morals and decorum.  
30 Full authority to proclaim these periods is conferred upon the Governor in  
31 addition to all his other powers. A person who violates this section is  
32 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished as  
33 follows:  
34

35 (a) for a first offense, by a fine of two hundred dollars or imprisonment for  
36 sixty days;  
37

38 (b) for a second offense, by a fine of one thousand dollars or imprisonment  
39 for one year; and  
40

41 (c) for a third or subsequent offense, by a fine of two thousand dollars or  
42 imprisonment for two years.”  
43

44 **Section II:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
45 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Jonathan Patton**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend the current South Carolina Code of Law Section 59-63-260 to  
6 ban the use of corporal punishment within any South Carolina schools.  
7

8 **Whereas,** It is the teachers sole purpose to educate the student; and,  
9

10 **Whereas,** The allowing of educators and school officials to physically discipline the  
11 students will negatively affect the learning environment within schools;  
12 and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** The act of physically disciplining the students should be retained by the  
15 parents, who maintain legal authority over the child; and,  
16

17 **Whereas,** The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that corporal punishment  
18 may “affect adversely a student's self-image and school achievement and  
19 that it may contribute to disruptive and violent student behavior;” and,  
20

21 **Whereas,** There are numerous alternatives to corporal punishment in schools that  
22 can be utilized to discipline the student in an effective manner.  
23

24 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
25 assembled the following:  
26

27 **Section I:** Section 59-63-260 shall be amended to read as follows:  
28

29 “No faculty or staff member in any South Carolina school may utilize  
30 corporal punishment as a form of discipline on any student.”  
31

32 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

33 A) ‘Corporal punishment’ shall be defined as: Any punishment in which  
34 physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or  
35 discomfort, however light.  
36

37 **Section III:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
38 signature of the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Kailey Pickitt**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To alter the current South Carolina school calendar by basing instruction  
6 time on number of hours instead of number of days.  
7

8 **Whereas,** Students in South Carolina are currently required to go to school 180 days  
9 out of the calendar year; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** Basing the school calendar on number of instructional hours would allow  
12 school districts the flexibility of creating four-day school weeks, year-round  
13 school, etc. for budgeting purposes.  
14

15 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
16 assembled the following:  
17

18 **Section I:** School districts throughout South Carolina will abide by a 1,260-hour  
19 school year.  
20

21 **Section II:** The individual school district will use their discretion when developing the  
22 school calendar.  
23

24 **Section III:** Students participating in service/internship or other educationally  
25 beneficial programs during the school day shall be able to apply these  
26 hours to their total.  
27

28 **Section IV:** High school students who have completed their graduation requirements  
29 shall be exempt from these hourly requirements. These exemptions shall  
30 be based upon the decision of individual school districts.  
31

32 **Section V:** This act shall take effect on August 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
33 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Chelsea Ponds**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

- Purpose:** To revoke the common marriage law in South Carolina.
- Whereas,** There are only nine states that recognize the common marriage law; and,
- Whereas,** In South Carolina you can establish a common law marriage simply by the intent of each party to be married to the other and a mutual understanding between the parties of their intent to be married; and,
- Whereas,** You can find yourself married in South Carolina even when you had no intention of being married; and,
- Whereas,** There is no set list of factors for a court to use when determining whether a common law marriage existed; and,
- Whereas,** Instead, the court looks at all the circumstances surrounding the relationship to determine the common law marital status.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** The Common Marriage Law is revoked in the state of South Carolina.
- Section II:** The only way that a couple can be considered married is by obtaining a marriage license.
- Section III:** This act shall be take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Parker Rhoden**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

- Purpose:** To allow South Carolina public institutions to implement their own rules and regulations regarding having firearms on their premises.
- Whereas,** The state should allow each public institution to create their own laws regarding firearms; and,
- Whereas,** South Carolina state funded properties would follow all rules, regulation, and laws regarding firearms in accordance to the state; and,
- Whereas,** If a state funded institution or property is receiving tax dollars they are required to be knowledgeable and inform employees of state law in regards to firearms through general education courses.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** If a state government funded institution is receiving funds, they will be required to follow state law.
- Section II:** All employees of institutions must know the rules and take general education courses on gun safety, funded by the state.
- Section III:** Any institution that does not want to create their own rules regarding fire safety must follow state law regarding this matter.
- Section IV:** This act shall take effect six months after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Dustin Roberts**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To increase the sales tax on the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products in  
6 the state of South Carolina.

7  
8 **Whereas,** Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in America; and,

9  
10 **Whereas,** Second-hand smoke has been shown to be incredibly harmful; and,

11  
12 **Whereas,** South Carolina has very low cigarette/tobacco taxes compared to other  
13 states; and,

14  
15 **Whereas,** A decline in smoking would benefit the health of the state's citizens; and,

16  
17 **Whereas,** Any cigarettes or tobacco products bought would provide state revenue.

18  
19 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
20 assembled the following:

21  
22 **Section I:** The State of South Carolina will increase the current tax rate of cigarettes  
23 from \$0.57 to \$0.80. The State of South Carolina will increase the current  
24 tobacco tax rate of 5% of the manufacturer's price to 7% of the  
25 manufacturer's price.

26  
27 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

28 A) 'Cigarettes' shall be defined as: Any roll for smoking containing  
29 tobacco or any substitute for tobacco wrapped in paper or in any  
30 substance other than a tobacco leaf.

31 B) 'Tobacco products' shall be defined as: Cigars, cheroots, stogies,  
32 periques, granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other  
33 smoking tobacco, snuff, snuff flour, Cavendish, plug and twist  
34 tobacco, fine-cut, and other chewing tobacco, shorts, refuse scraps,  
35 clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and  
36 forms of tobacco, prepared in a manner to be suitable for chewing or  
37 smoking in a pipe or otherwise, or both for chewing or smoking, but  
38 does not include cigarettes.

39  
40 **Section III:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
41 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Amit Rughani**  
**Clemson University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4
- 5 **Purpose:** To make fines for traffic violations committed in the state of South  
6 Carolina proportional to the income of the offender.  
7
- 8 **Whereas,** Currently, all offenders of traffic laws in South Carolina are subject to the  
9 same penalty in terms of the monetary amount of a fine received; and,  
10
- 11 **Whereas,** The state of South Carolina, as well as the federal government, already  
12 examines the income of citizens when administering taxes as well as bail  
13 payments; and,  
14
- 15 **Whereas,** Studies done in the jurisdictions of U.S. counties where fines based off of  
16 income are already collected show that this serves as a beneficial concept  
17 towards deterring repeat offenses and increasing revenue; and,  
18
- 19 **Whereas,** A system in which fines for traffic violations were administered in  
20 proportion to income would promote equity and fairness for all motorists  
21 in South Carolina.  
22
- 23 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
24 assembled the following:  
25
- 26 **Section I:** All violators of traffic laws in the state of South Carolina that earn a yearly  
27 income greater than \$60,000 but less than or equal to \$75,000 shall receive  
28 a surcharge equal to 10% of the base fine given for the violation. This fine  
29 shall be administered by the SC Department of Public Safety, as is  
30 currently the case for traffic fines.  
31
- 32 **Section II:** Violators of traffic laws that earn a yearly income greater than \$75,000 but  
33 less than or equal to \$100,000 shall receive a surcharge equal to 15% of  
34 the base fine given for the violation.  
35
- 36 **Section III:** Violators of traffic laws that earn a yearly income greater than \$100,000  
37 but less than or equal to \$150,000 shall receive a surcharge equal to 25%  
38 of the base fine given for the violation.  
39
- 40 **Section IV:** Violators of traffic laws that earn a yearly income greater than \$150,000  
41 but less than or equal to \$200,000 shall receive a surcharge equal to 40%  
42 of the base fine given for the violation.  
43
- 44 **Section V:** Violators of traffic laws that earn a yearly income greater than \$200,000  
45 but less than or equal to \$250,000 shall receive a surcharge equal to 60%  
46 of the base fine given for the violation.

47 **Section VI:** Violators of traffic laws that earn a yearly income greater than \$250,000  
48 shall receive a surcharge equal to 75% of the base fine given for the  
49 violation.

50  
51 **Section VII:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
52 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Cody Sargent**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

**Purpose:** To allow service industry employees under the age of 18 to serve alcohol.

**Whereas,** Currently, employees must be 18 years old to serve alcohol in restaurants and clubs; and,

**Whereas,** Said employees have no reason to ever consume the alcohol; and,

**Whereas,** The age of 18 holds no significance as a time when employees should be deemed able to serve alcohol; and,

**Whereas,** Millions of competent employees are not eligible to compete for jobs in service industry locations that serve alcohol; and,

**Whereas,** Said locations are generally places where employees have the ability to make a higher income; and,

**Whereas,** The current age requirement to wait tables or work in service industry locations that do not serve alcohol is 15 years old.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** The South Carolina Code of Laws Title 61, Chapter 6, Article 1, Sub-article 7 § Section 61-6-2200 shall read:

“Age of Server  
A person may not serve or deliver to a purchaser alcoholic liquors by the drink in a business where these sales are authorized unless the person is *fifteen* years of age or older; nothing contained in this section may be construed as allowing bartenders under the age of twenty-one.”

**Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Benjamin Winter**  
**Clemson University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To adjust the jurisdiction of university disciplinary offices as it relates to  
6 off campus offenses.  
7

8 **Whereas,** Public institutions in South Carolina are entitled to their own judicial  
9 system and to determine their own jurisdiction; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** Students attending South Carolina public institutions are consistently tried  
12 and often punished twice by state and university authorities; and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** The vast majority of off campus offenses offer no correlation to a  
15 student’s ability to succeed safely in the classroom; and,  
16

17 **Whereas,** Punishments deemed worthy by state law enforcement agencies are  
18 sufficient enough to deliver a lesson for a student, regardless of a student’s  
19 location in the United States; and,  
20

21 **Whereas,** University judicial policies that punish students for off campus offenses  
22 only when they are characterized by serious misconduct that could  
23 potentially result in a threat to the safety or security of campus are in  
24 effect for other schools around the nation.  
25

26 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
27 assembled the following:  
28

29 **Section I:** The State of South Carolina will no longer allow higher education  
30 institutions to enforce disciplinary proceedings for off campus offenses  
31 where law enforcement has already made a ruling or issued a citation,  
32 except where the act of misconduct is considered “serious” or would  
33 potentially result in a threat to the safety or security of campus.  
34

35 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

36 A) ‘Serious Misconduct’ shall be defined as: Including matters involving  
37 (but not limited to):

- 38 1) Rape, sexual or other physical assault; threats of violence; or  
39 conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person;
- 40 2) Stalking or sexual harassment;
- 41 3) Manufacture, possession or use of weapons, explosives, or  
42 destructive devices;
- 43 4) Manufacture, sale, consumption or distribution of controlled  
44 substances;
- 45 5) Hate crimes;
- 46 6) Hazing (as defined by the state of South Carolina); and



47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

- 7) Other serious misconduct jeopardizing the safety or security of the campus (e.g., conduct which would constitute burglary, robbery, theft, including identity theft, or credit card fraud).
- B) 'On Campus' shall be defined as: Any university owned property or presence at any university sponsored event.

**Section III:** This act shall take effect on August 1, 2013, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Kyle A. Cox**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

**Purpose:** To allow employees of South Carolina public schools with Concealed Weapons Permits to carry concealed firearms on school property.

**Whereas,** Law-abiding citizens of South Carolina are allowed to carry a concealed weapon, with a permit, in public places to protect themselves and others; and,

**Whereas,** Schools are amongst the most dangerous public facilities with a nation-wide average of 9.3 school shootings per year; and,

**Whereas,** The average South Carolina secondary school has one school resource officer on duty; and,

**Whereas,** The average South Carolina elementary school has no school resource officer and no other armed person on the premises.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Amend Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding:

*“Section 59-1-485*

*(A) Elementary and Secondary School employees authorized to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 may possess a firearm inside of their place of employment, provided the employee:*

*(1) Completes a Marksmanship Training Course approved by S.L.E.D. and renews certification every four years.*

*(2) Uses only frangible bullets designed to minimize collateral damage.*

*(3) Has no history of mental illness or anger management issues documented by the school.*

*(4) Keeps the weapon concealed on his or her person at all times when not in use.*

*(5) Informs supervisor or school principal of intent to carry.”*

**Section II:** Amend Section 16-23-430 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to read as follows:

*“(B) This section does not apply to a person who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 when the weapon remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle.*

47                    *This section does not apply to employees of elementary or secondary schools*  
48                    *authorized by S.L.E.D. to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Section 59-1-*  
49                    *485.”*

50  
51    **Section III:**    This act shall go into effect 90 days after passage by the General Assembly and  
52                    signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Ian Detweiler**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To strengthen the economy of South Carolina by legalizing industrial hemp.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** Hemp is the strongest natural fiber in the world; and,  
8  
9 **Whereas,** Hemp can be used to make paper, clothing, fuel oil, food, and plastics; and,  
10  
11 **Whereas,** Hemp can be processed using less energy than wood or cotton, reducing energy  
12 consumption and pollution; and,  
13  
14 **Whereas,** Hemp can yield 4 times more dry tons of fiber per acre than wood or cotton; and,  
15  
16 **Whereas,** Hemp, as it grows, enriches the soil; and,  
17  
18 **Whereas,** Hemp is resistant to pests and kills off weeds, thus removing the need for  
19 pesticides and herbicides and eliminating damaging toxic runoff.  
20  
21 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
22 assembled the following:  
23  
24 **Section I:** Add Section 46-34-10:  
25  
26 “Permit the growth, production, and sale of industrial hemp and associated  
27 products in the State of South Carolina.”  
28  
29 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:  
30 A) ‘Hemp’ shall be defined as: A strain of *Canabis sativa L.* that is grown to  
31 maximize fiber and or seeds with a Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of  
32 less than .3%.  
33  
34 **Section III:** Amend Section 44-53-110 to read as follows:  
35  
36 “... “Marijuana” means:  
37 (1) All species or variety of ~~the marijuana~~ *Canabis sativa L.* plant with a  
38 *Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of .3% or higher* ~~plant~~ and all parts  
39 thereof whether growing or not...”  
40  
41 **Section IV:** This act shall go into effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
42 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Dylan Fender**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To legalize civil unions as an alternative to traditional marriage.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** Civil unions guarantee the same state level benefits of marriage, including filing  
8 joint taxes and visitation rights while not affecting the religious sanctity of  
9 marriage; and,  
10  
11 **Whereas,** Civil unions are generally considered legally distinct from marriage; and,  
12  
13 **Whereas,** Civil unions also allow for same sex participation; and,  
14  
15 **Whereas,** Civil unions will have equal status under the law and will guarantee their  
16 participants the same legal rights as marriage; and,  
17  
18 **Whereas,** Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Delaware,  
19 Rhode Island, California, Oregon, and Nevada allow for civil unions guaranteeing  
20 state level spousal rights.  
21  
22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24  
25 **Section I:** The creation of Chapter 8 under Title 20 for civil unions as an institution separate  
26 from marriage.  
27  
28 “Civil unions between two legal partners are recognized by the law to guarantee  
29 all state level benefits of marriage as defined by Title 20.”  
30  
31 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:  
32 A) ‘Civil union’ shall be defined as: A legal contract between two individuals  
33 that is recognized by a state or government as conferring all of the rights  
34 conferred by marriage, but without the implicit historical and religious  
35 meaning associated with the word "marriage."  
36  
37 **Section III:** Civil unions cannot be issued to:  
38 A) Persons under the legal age of 18  
39 B) Persons who are already participants in a civil union or marriage  
40  
41 **Section IV:** Ceremony and Divorce:  
42 A) Only officers authorized to administer oaths in this state may perform the civil  
43 union ceremony.  
44 B) Divorce proceedings shall mirror the divorce proceedings for traditional  
45 marriage as defined by Title 20, Chapter 3.  
46

47 **Section V:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature  
48 of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Tamara Fogner**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

**Purpose:** To permit a divorce without a one-year separation in the state of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** South Carolina does not grant divorces without a one year separation unless adultery, physical cruelty, or habitual drunkenness are involved; and,

**Whereas,** divorces should be permitted to be finalized before one year when both parties mutually agree to a divorce; and,

**Whereas,** time and money of the court and parties are wasted when the divorce process lasts a minimum of one year; and,

**Whereas,** New Hampshire, Missouri, Nevada, and Alaska permit divorces to be finalized in less than 60 days.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** SECTION 20-3-10. Grounds for divorce -

“No divorce from the bonds of matrimony shall be granted except upon one or more of the following grounds, to wit:

(1) Adultery;

(2) Desertion for a period of one year;

(3) Physical cruelty;

(4) Habitual drunkenness; provided, that this ground shall be construed to include habitual drunkenness caused by the use of any narcotic drug; ~~or~~

(5) On the application of either party if and when the husband and wife have lived separate and apart without cohabitation for a period of one year. A plea of res judicata or of recrimination with respect to any other provision of this section shall not be a bar to either party obtaining a divorce on this ground; *or*

(6) *Mutual agreement between parties without desertion for a period of one year.*”

**Section II:** SECTION 20-3-80. Required delays before reference and final decree; exceptions.

47 “No reference shall be had before two months after the filing of the complaint in  
48 the office of the Clerk of Court, nor shall a final decree be granted before three  
49 months after such filing.

50  
51 Provided, however, that when the plaintiff seeks a divorce on the grounds of  
52 desertion or separation for one year, the hearing may be held and the decree  
53 issued after the responsive pleadings have been filed or after the respondent has  
54 been adjudged to be in default whichever occurs sooner.

55  
56 *A final divorce decree may be granted within 60 days of filing when there is a*  
57 *mutual agreement between parties (Section 20-3-10-6).”*

58  
59 **Section III:** This act shall go into effect 90 days after passage by the General Assembly and  
60 signature of the Governor.



**An Amendment  
Presented by Josh Kochan  
Coastal Carolina University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**Purpose:** To add a Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals to Article V, Section 1 of the South Carolina Constitution.

**Whereas,** The judicial power of the State of South Carolina will be vested in one Supreme Court to handle appeals in civil cases and a separate Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals to handle appeals in criminal cases; and,

**Whereas,** Texas and Oklahoma currently have two State Supreme Courts; and,

**Whereas,** The case load volume in the Supreme Court will be reduced; and,

**Whereas,** Additional writs of certiorari will be granted for cases submitted for review; and,

**Whereas,** Supreme Court judges will be capable of developing specialties in their specific field (i.e. civil, criminal).

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Article V, Section 1 of the South Carolina Constitution will be amended to include power vested in a Supreme Criminal Court of Appeals. The section will be amended to read as follows:

“The judicial power shall be vested in a unified judicial system, which shall include a Supreme Court, a Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals, a Court of Appeals, a Circuit Court, and such other courts of uniform jurisdiction as may be provided for by general law.”

**Section II:** Article V, Section 2 of the South Carolina Constitution will be amended to include:

“The Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals shall consist of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices” ...and... “In all cases decided by the Supreme Court and the Criminal Court of Appeals, the concurrence of three of the Justices shall be necessary for a reversal of the judgment below.”

**Section III:** Article V, Section V of the South Carolina Constitution will be amended to include:

“The Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Criminal Appeals shall have power to issue writs or orders of injunction, mandamus, quo warranto, prohibition, certiorari, habeas corpus, and other original and remedial writs. The Courts shall

47 have appellate jurisdiction only in cases of equity, and in such appeals they shall  
48 review the findings of fact as well as the law, except in cases where the facts are  
49 settled by a jury and the verdict not set aside.”

50  
51 **Section IV:** Other jurisdictions granted to the Court of Criminal Appeals will be defined by  
52 the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina.

53  
54 **Section V:** This amendment shall be submitted to the electorate for approval in the next  
55 general election, after passage by two-thirds of the General Assembly.

**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Julietta Marks**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

**Purpose:** To adapt the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2011 for the state of South Carolina, observing the progression of children with mental disabilities using benchmarks in the child’s progress.

**Whereas,** The placement of special needs children in schools under IDEA is subject to state discretion; and,

**Whereas,** Benchmarks are currently used only to assess physically handicapped students aligned with a non-standard curriculum and only note the progression of these children; and,

**Whereas,** Students with disabilities are often misdiagnosed and placed into the wrong programs as a result; and,

**Whereas,** The State Board of Education already has in place a system to test the needs and placement of disabled children; and,

**Whereas,** Universal benchmarks placed upon mentally disabled students will allow for accurate forecasts of pupil success.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Amend Title 59, Chapter 33 of the code to add benchmarks for handicapped children. The expansion would include the examination of progress of all children ages four through twelve considered to be mentally disabled. These benchmarks would follow The State Board of Education’s standards while also examining:

- A) The child’s ability to communicate.
- B) The child’s ability to identify “self” and consequences of their actions
- C) The child’s problem solving ability
- D) The child’s ability to remain on par with their peers academically.

Sessions noting the child’s progress shall be held at least five times while the child is between the ages of four and twelve and participating in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). A group consisting of the child’s parents or legal guardians, persons knowledgeable about the meaning of the evaluation data, and the child’s teacher will examine the benchmarks for improvement.

**Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

- A) ‘Handicapped children’ shall be defined as: Children who possess either psychological or physiological impairments to such an extreme that special classes and services are necessary for their development.

47 B) 'Non-Standard Curriculum' shall be defined as: Specialized learning created  
48 to suit pupils judged to be handicap in accordance with the South Carolina  
49 State Department of Education.

50  
51 **Section III:** This joint resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2015, after passage by the General  
52 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Danielle McCrackin**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

**Purpose:** To abolish the death penalty in the state of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** 17 states have abolished the death penalty; and,

**Whereas,** 43 people have been killed on death row in South Carolina since 1976 and 2 innocent people have been freed from South Carolina’s death row; and,

**Whereas,** It is more expensive for taxpayers when an inmate is on death row, compared to a sentence of life in prison; and,

**Whereas,** Repealing the death penalty would save taxpayers approximately \$11 million dollars a year; and,

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Remove Section 16-3-25, regarding the death penalty, from the South Carolina Code of Laws.

**Section II:** Remove Section 16-3-26, regarding the death penalty, from the South Carolina Code of Laws.

**Section III:** Remove the term “death penalty” from the remaining codes in Title 16, Chapter 3, Article 1.

**Section IV:** Add: *Section 16-3-2091:*

*“The death penalty will not be permitted as a punishment for murder in the state of South Carolina.”*

**Section V:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Kevin McCray**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To increase the effectiveness of South Carolina's prescription monitoring program  
6 known as SCRIPTS in order to aid in the fight to stop prescription drug abuse.  
7

8 **Whereas,** Prescription opioid abuse is now the second leading cause of accidental death in  
9 the United States, killing more people than heroin and cocaine combined; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** The abuse of prescription medicine has become the nation's fastest-growing drug  
12 problem according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** PMPs can help to inform public health initiatives through outlining use and abuse  
15 trends and identifying or preventing drug diversion; and,  
16

17 **Whereas,** The current required reporting period of dispensed prescriptions every 30 days is  
18 insufficient.  
19

20 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
21 assembled the following:  
22

23 **Section I:** Section 44-53-1640 (2) shall now read as follows:  
24

25 “(2) A dispenser shall submit the information required pursuant to subsection  
26 (B)(1) in accordance with transmission methods and protocols provided in the  
27 ‘ASAP Telecommunications Format for Controlled Substances, May 1995  
28 Version’, developed by the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy, and  
29 frequency established by drug control, but shall report at least every seven days”  
30

31 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:  
32 A) ‘PMP’ shall be defined as: Prescription Monitoring Program.  
33

34 **Section III:** This act shall go into effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
35 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Casey McKee**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To require energy companies in South Carolina to draw a certain percentage of  
6 their total annual energy output from renewable resources.  
7
- 8 **Whereas,** The State of South Carolina does not currently have state mandates for renewable  
9 electricity generation; and,  
10
- 11 **Whereas,** Unlike North Carolina and 28 other states, South Carolina does not currently  
12 require their energy companies to draw a certain percentage of their energy from  
13 renewable sources, including solar, wind and biomass; and,  
14
- 15 **Whereas,** Using non-renewable resources such as coal, natural gas, and oil, is not friendly to  
16 the environment nor is it sustainable in the long term; and,  
17
- 18 **Whereas,** Renewable energy, which includes biomass, wind, solar, small hydropower,  
19 geothermal and hydrogen from renewable sources, can mitigate South Carolina's  
20 dependence on imported energy and reduce energy costs.  
21
- 22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24
- 25 **Section I:** By 2020, all energy companies in South Carolina will be required to draw at least  
26 5% of their total annual energy output from non-nuclear renewable resources. The  
27 renewable resources that can be used are biomass, wind, solar, hydropower,  
28 geothermal, and hydrogen from renewable sources.  
29
- 30 **Section II:** In 2020, energy companies will be audited by the State to ensure that they have  
31 met their obligations. Should an energy company fail to meet their 5% standard,  
32 they will be required to pay the difference in the form of fines to the State. The  
33 State holds the right to determine the standards for the audit, what people or  
34 agency performs the audits, and the amount of the fines to be paid if energy  
35 companies do not meet their obligations. Any fines collected will be used for  
36 renewable energy research and projects.  
37
- 38 **Section III:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature  
39 of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Lucero Mejia**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

**Purpose:** To extend the SC Palmetto Fellows and SC Life Scholarship from 8 semesters to 10 semesters for qualifying students who are declared as double majors.

**Whereas,** Currently, there are limited Financial Aid options on the state level for students declared as a double major; and,

**Whereas,** Most double major programs require more than eight semesters for completion; and,

**Whereas,** Completing a double major will increase a student’s job prospects; and,

**Whereas,** This will encourage students to become a double major and help them have more job opportunities.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Amend the Regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 59-149-60) to read as follows:

“A student may receive a LIFE Scholarship *for not more than ten semesters for a five-year degree program, eight semesters for a four-year degree program, four semesters for a two-year program, or two semesters for a one-year certificate or diploma program. Unless the student is a double major then they are eligible to receive ten semesters of this scholarship. The student must still meet the initial requirements that are needed to maintain the SC Palmetto Fellows and SC Life Scholarship.*”

**Section II:** Amend the Regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 59-104-20) of SC Code of laws to read as follows:

“Regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 59-104-20) state that the award “may be renewed annually for no more than a total of eight terms (based on the date of initial college enrollment) toward the first bachelor’s degree or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor’s degree and leads to a graduate degree *or for no more than a total of ten terms (based on the date of initial college enrollment) toward the first approved five-year bachelor’s degree. Unless the student is a double major then they are eligible to receive ten semesters of this scholarship. The student must still meet the initial requirements that are needed to maintain the SC Palmetto Fellows and SC Life Scholarship.*”



47 **Section III:** This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, after passage by the General Assembly  
48 and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Kaitlin Page**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34

- Purpose:** To change the process of how surname changes are made after marriage to be equal.
- Whereas,** For men to legally change their name after taking their spouses name, they must file for a name change at the court house and pay a filing fee of \$400 and women only pay \$20 at the DMV; and,
- Whereas,** The legal system can take up to a year to complete the process while it only takes women one day at the DMV; and,
- Whereas,** California, New York, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, Iowa, Georgia, and North Dakota have already made the switch to gender neutral name changing policies; and,
- Whereas,** While it is not often that a man takes his wife’s last name, the law must be written to treat all surname changes equally after marriage; and,
- Whereas,** A South Florida man's driving license was suspended after being accused of fraud for adopting his wife's last name. When he explained to the DMV that he was changing his name due to marriage, he was told, "That only works for women."
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Amend Title 56, Chapter 1, Section 56-1-230 to include that a man taking the last name of his wife will be allowed the same privileges as a woman who is taking the last name of her husband.
- Section II:** This act shall go into effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Dillon Ramsey**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

- Purpose:** To establish a minimum caliber for concealed handguns.
- Whereas,** In a situation where a handgun may be used, the handgun should possess enough stopping power. In a high adrenaline attack, a small caliber may not suffice; and,
- Whereas,** The use of a larger caliber round will decrease the need to fire multiple shot, effectively decreasing the chance of a stray round striking a bystander; and,
- Whereas,** Texas has implemented a minimum caliber requirement for certification as a means to demonstrate that the candidate can handle high impact firearms.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Add Section 210-31-241 to the South Carolina State Laws to read:
- “All recipients of a Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) in the state of South Carolina are required to qualify and carry a weapon whose caliber must be at least 9mm.”
- Section II:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Desmond Wallace**  
**Coastal Carolina University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend Section 59-103-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws,  
6 restructuring the criteria used for allocating state monies to public  
7 institutions of higher learning.  
8
- 9 **Whereas,** The Commission on Higher Education currently bases its budgetary  
10 recommendations for the public colleges and universities in the state based  
11 on nine “Critical Success Factors,” as established in Section 59-103-30(A)  
12 of the South Carolina Code of Laws; and,  
13
- 14 **Whereas,** These requirements include: Mission Focus, Quality of Faculty,  
15 Classroom Quality, Institutional Cooperation and Collaboration,  
16 Administrative Efficiency, Entrance Requirements, Graduates’  
17 Achievements, User-friendliness of the Institution, and Research Funding;  
18 and,  
19
- 20 **Whereas,** Section 59-103-30 ranks these nine critical success factors in order, as  
21 listed; and,  
22
- 23 **Whereas,** Since these factors were adopted 16 years ago, state funding of our public  
24 institutions has dramatically decreased; and,  
25
- 26 **Whereas,** The amount of monies allocated to public higher education institutions for  
27 FY2009 and FY2010 suffered an 18.9% decrease; and,  
28
- 29 **Whereas,** The current funding formula dilutes the variables that truly measure a  
30 college or university’s performance; and,  
31
- 32 **Whereas,** If the public institutions in the state of South Carolina are going to  
33 succeed, then not only will these institutions need more adequate funding,  
34 but these monies have to be allocated in a way that is truly based on the  
35 performance of the college or university.  
36
- 37 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
38 assembled be the following:  
39
- 40 **Section I:** Amend Section 59-103-30 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to read as  
41 follows:  
42
- 43 “(A)“The General Assembly has determined that the primary critical  
44 success factors for academic quality in the several institutions of higher  
45 learning in this State are as follows:”  
46 1. Graduation Success

- 47 a. Graduation Rate
- 48 b. Percentage of students completing program in four years
- 49 c. Job placement/Further education of graduates within two years
- 50 after completion of undergraduate program
- 51 2. Student Profile
- 52 a. High school GPA and involvement
- 53 b. Enrolled students' involvement in co-curricular activities
- 54 c. Retention of students from academic year to academic year
- 55 3. Faculty Success
- 56 a. Student and peer performance review system
- 57 b. Salary compensation compatible with market level
- 58 c. Faculty scholarship
- 59

60 (B)“The General Assembly has determined that the secondary critical  
 61 success factors for academic quality in the several institutions of higher  
 62 learning in this State are as follows:”

- 63 1. Campus Needs
- 64 a. Instructional quality that is beneficial to both students and faculty
- 65 b. Completion of any campus projects to compensate an increase in
- 66 population
- 67 c. Completion of any campus projects to create or reinforce ties with
- 68 the general community
- 69 2. Internal and External Institutional Cooperation
- 70 a. Sharing of institutional resources within the institution
- 71 b. Collaboration with other higher education institutions, both public
- 72 and private
- 73 c. Collaboration with sectors in the surrounding community
- 74 3. Fulfilling Institutional Mission
- 75 a. New curricula programs to meet student interest and demand
- 76 b. Fulfilling goals as established in institution's strategic master plan
- 77 c. Develops strong pool of donors for endowments, including
- 78 alumni”
- 79

80 **Section II:**

- 81 For the purposes of this bill:
- 82 A) ‘Primary Critical Success Factors’ shall be defined as: Those factors
  - 83 that determine a public institution of higher learning’s baseline
  - 84 funding from the state.
  - 85 B) ‘Secondary Critical Success Factors’ shall be defined as: Those factors
  - 86 that determine any additional funding from the state.

87 **Section III:**

88 Amend Subsection (C) of Section 59-103-30 to read as follows:

89 “The Commission on Higher Education shall be tasked with developing

90 objective, measurable criteria, when using the primary and secondary

91 critical success factors for the purposes of funding recommendations for

92 institutions of higher learning. The Commission on Higher Education is

93 also tasked with appropriate weighting of primary and secondary factors,  
94 for the purposes of funding recommendations for institutions of higher  
95 learning.”

96

97 **Section IV:** This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017, after passage by the General  
98 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Stevie Galicia**  
**College of Charleston**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

**Purpose:** To add soda of any type to the list of controlled substances in the state of South Carolina.

**Whereas,** The high sugar content in soda adds to obesity in children; and,

**Whereas,** Obesity cost taxpayer \$1.2 billion in 2010, with an estimated increase to 5.3 billion in 2018 for health related issues; and,

**Whereas,** South Carolina spent \$899 million dollars for alcohol related health issues; and,

**Whereas,** Unhealthy dietary habits at a young age are more likely to affect habits in adulthood.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** South Carolina will add soda of any type (meaning flavor, brand, sugar content, and price) to the list of Controlled Substances in the state.

- A) The purchase of soda will not be allowed to persons under the age of 17.
- B) Persons under the age of 17, caught purchasing soda, will be issued a Minor in Possession and a small fine.
- C) Vending machines with soda will be removed from all schools, but will be allowed in areas where students do not have access to (such as faculty/staff rooms).
- D) Any person over the age of 17 caught purchasing sodas for a minor who is not blood related to them will get a small fine.

**Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Resolution  
Presented by Daniel Klaeren  
College of Charleston**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38

- Purpose:** To eliminate all legal dealings and rescind all legal recognition of marriages by the state of South Carolina.
- Whereas,** The purpose of government is to protect individual rights; not to sanction personal relationships, the institution of marriage should be outside the province of government; and,
- Whereas,** The state should not be involved in social or familial engineering in any way; and,
- Whereas,** The country is in a divisive battle over what the legal definition of marriage should be; and,
- Whereas,** Removing the state from the institution of marriage will give each individual the freedom to enter into the type of marriage he or she wishes- whether it be religious, secular, same-sex, or otherwise; as well as uphold the separation of church and state; and,
- Whereas,** The elimination of divorce courts and marriage licenses will save the state thousands of tax dollars.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** The state of South Carolina shall discontinue the issuance of marriage licenses.
- Section II:** The state of South Carolina shall not recognize any marriages, from any state, at any time, for any reason.
- Section III:** In the matter of custodial disputes, the well-being of the child or children shall be the only factor of consideration. No individual shall derive any benefit or detriment because of his or her marital status.
- Section IV:** This joint resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2014, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.



1 **A Bill**

2 **Presented by Emily LaCroix and Anne Lafond**  
3 **College of Charleston**

4  
5 **Purpose:** To mandate one day a year where residents of Charleston, Greenville, and  
6 Columbia use modes of transportation other than personal motor vehicles.  
7

8 **Whereas,** Motor vehicle emissions contribute to air pollution, and smog in large cities; and,  
9

10 **Whereas,** Charleston, Greenville, and Columbia are large cities with thousands of people  
11 driving their cars every day; and,  
12

13 **Whereas,** These are large cities, there are various modes of public transportation for people  
14 to use (CARTA, CMRTA, Greenlink) instead of their cars; and,  
15

16 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
17 assembled the following:  
18

19 **Section I:** South Carolina will mandate one day out of the year where citizens of the three  
20 (3) aforementioned cities cannot use their personal motor vehicles.

21 A) This day will be April 22, which is Earth Day

22 B) Public transportation is available in these cities and will be encouraged  
23

24 **Section II:** Vehicles that are exceptions:

25 A) Police cars, fire engines, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles

26 B) School busses

27 C) Public busses

28 D) Trains or Light rails  
29

30 **Section III:** Exemption Process

31 A) Vehicles named under Section II do not need to apply to be exempted.

32 B) Persons who have physical handicaps, over the age of 65, and who work past  
33 the time that public transport runs will be able to use their personal vehicles. It  
34 is encouraged that these persons carpool.

35 C) If one must be exempted, they must complete an application six months prior  
36 to no car day.

37 D) The applications will be submitted to the cities individual Transportation  
38 Committees.

39 E) Individuals must reapply every year.

40 F) If an emergency situation pops up, this will be taken to the review committee.  
41

42 **Section IV:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
43 the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Sydney May and Rebecca Stanley**  
**College of Charleston**

**Purpose:** To rewrite Section 59-32-10, resulting in a comprehensive reproductive health education.

**Whereas,** Studies report that teens have a decreased likelihood of pregnancy when given comprehensive sex education, as the excerpt below demonstrates:

“Teaching about contraception was not associated with increased risk of adolescent sexual activity or STD. Adolescents who received comprehensive sex education had a lower risk of pregnancy than adolescents who received abstinence-only or no sex education.” -- Abstinence-only and comprehensive sex education and the initiation of sexual activity and teen pregnancy. Kohler PK, Manhart LE, Lafferty WE. Department of Health Services, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-7660, USA; and,

**Whereas,** Reproductive health education focused on ‘abstinence until marriage’ excludes all individuals that do not identify as ‘straight,’ or heterosexual, and those cannot get married in the state of South Carolina; and,

**Whereas,** Reproductive health education that is given only in the context of family planning, ignoring the sexual needs of children and teenagers, demonstrated by fetuses masturbating inside the womb.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Strike these sections from SECTION 59-32-10 which state:

“(2) "Reproductive health education" means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. Abstinence and the risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage must be strongly emphasized.

(3) "Family life education" means instruction intended to:

(a) develop an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of close personal relationships and an understanding of the physiological, psychological, and cultural foundations of human development;

(b) Provide instruction that will support the development of responsible

47 personal values and behavior and aid in establishing a strong family life  
48 for themselves in the future and emphasize the responsibilities of  
49 marriage.  
50

51 (c) Provide instruction as to the laws of this State relating to the sexual  
52 conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct.  
53

54 (4) "Pregnancy prevention education" means instruction intended to:  
55

56 (a) Stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage;  
57

58 (b) Help students develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and  
59 abstain from sexual activity;  
60

61 (c) Explain methods of contraception and the risks and benefits of each  
62 method. Abortion must not be included as a method of birth control.  
63 Instruction explaining the methods of contraception must not be included  
64 in any education program for grades kindergarten through fifth.  
65 Contraceptive information must be given in the context of future family  
66 planning.”  
67  
68

69 **Section II:** Rewrite Section 59-32-10:  
70

71 “(2) “Reproductive health education” means instruction in human physiology,  
72 conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, postnatal care, sexual  
73 identity, sexual practices, contraceptives, and risks of disease relating to sexual  
74 practices. Abstinence and the risks associated with unsafe sexual activity must be  
75 strongly emphasized.  
76

77 (3) “Family life education” means instruction intended to:  
78

79 (a) Develop an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social,  
80 economic, and psychological aspects of close personal relationships and  
81 an understanding of the physiological, psychological, and cultural  
82 foundations of human development;

83 (b) Provide instruction that will support the development of responsible  
84 personal values and behavior and aid in establishing a strong family life  
85 for themselves in the future and emphasize the responsibilities of domestic  
86 partnerships.

87 (c) Provide instruction as to the laws of this State relating to the sexual  
88 conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct, and develop a  
89 thorough understanding of the limits and expressions of sexual consent.  
90

91 (4) “Pregnancy prevention education” means instruction intended to:

- 92 (a) Stress the importance of practicing safe sexual activity before and within  
93 partnerships and place special emphasis on masturbation as a safe and  
94 healthy sexual practice for all genders.  
95 (b) Help students develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and  
96 adhere to their personal beliefs about sexual activity.  
97 (c) Explain methods of contraception and the risks and benefits of each  
98 method. Abortion must be included as a safe method of terminating a  
99 pregnancy. Instruction explaining the methods of contraception must not  
100 be included in any education program for grades kindergarten through  
101 fifth. Comprehensive contraception information must be statistically  
102 accurate and must specify the difference between the ‘user’ failure rate  
103 and the ‘method’ failure rate.”  
104

105 **Section III:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
106 the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Max Nielson**  
**College of Charleston**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** An act to enact the “freedom of conscience in public schools act”: to  
6 amend the Code of Laws in South Carolina to prevent the governing  
7 bodies of a school, school board, or school district from adopting or  
8 exercising policies, which serve the purpose of facilitating prayer,  
9 religious worship, or proselytizing to the student body at any school,  
10 sponsored event.  
11
- 12 **Whereas,** Public prayer at school functions presents the appearance of government  
13 sponsorship of religion to students, violating their freedom of conscience;  
14 and,  
15
- 16 **Whereas,** Practice of public prayer in school-sponsored events inevitably alienates  
17 students who do not belong to the majority religion. School sanctioned  
18 alienation of students based on religion is morally repugnant.  
19 Additionally, this practice is in violation of the free exercise clause of the  
20 first amendment of the United States Constitution; and,  
21
- 22 **Whereas,** The State of South Carolina recognizes that “government may not coerce  
23 anyone to support or participate in religion or its exercise, or otherwise act  
24 in any way which ‘establishes a [state] religion,’” *see Lee v. Weisman*, 505  
25 U.S. 577, 587 (1992) The practice of school sponsored prayer violates the  
26 establishment clause of the first amendment of the United States  
27 Constitution; and,  
28
- 29 **Whereas,** In the event that a school district holds a majoritarian election to determine  
30 any aspect of a prayer to be held at a school event “the majoritarian  
31 process implemented by the District guarantees, by definition, that  
32 minority candidates [or opinions] will never prevail and that their views  
33 will be effectively silenced,” *see Santa Fe Independent School Dist. v*  
34 *Doe*, 530 U.S., 290 (2000). It is not the will of the South Carolina General  
35 Assembly to silence minority views; and,  
36
- 37 **Whereas,** Under this act the State of South Carolina continues to protect the freedom  
38 of individual students to practice private prayer, or not, and the freedom of  
39 any student appointed to an otherwise secular position in a sporting or  
40 graduation ceremony (team captain, valedictorian, salutatorian, etc.) to  
41 invite his audience to join in prayer, or similarly, the freedom to speak  
42 against religion under such an appointment, as guaranteed by the South  
43 Carolina Student-Led Messages Act (2002); and,  
44
- 45 **Whereas,** South Carolina school districts, already overburdened and underfunded,  
46 should not incur costly legal disputes concerning prayer-policies. Such

47 disputes have been instigated by the implementation of school district  
48 policies supporting public prayer at graduation and sporting events.  
49

50 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
51 assembled the following:  
52

53 **Section I:** Policy stating what school boards may not permit.  
54

55 School boards may not permit the selection of any speaker at a school  
56 event whose purpose is religious in nature – this includes speakers who are  
57 appointed to deliver any non-secular benediction, convocation, service, or  
58 prayer. The State recognizes no such thing as a secular prayer.  
59

60 **Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:  
61 A) ‘Freedom of Conscience’ shall be defined as: An individual’s right to  
62 the cultivation of opinions on religion free from the influence of the  
63 government.  
64 B) ‘Secular’ shall be defined as: Having nothing to do with religion. Non-  
65 secular, as it is used in this bill, is defined as pertaining to religious  
66 practice.  
67

68 **Section III:** Policy on polling student bodies on the matter of religious school events  
69

70 The General Assembly of the State of South Carolina does not recognize a  
71 poll of student preference on the matter of holding public prayer as valid  
72 criteria for determining whether an initiative is student led. Schools may  
73 not conduct polls of any portion of their student body on the matter of  
74 preference for or against non-secular practices.  
75

76 **Section IV:** Citation of act:  
77

78 This act shall be cited as the “Freedom of Conscience in Public Schools  
79 Act.”  
80

81 **Section V:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
82 signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Alex Porter**  
**College of Charleston**

**Purpose:** To minimize the use of inefficient street lighting in favor of hooded fixtures that are safer, more efficient, and environmentally sound.

**Whereas,** Inefficient street lighting represents the main cause light pollution; and,

**Whereas,** Light pollution is known to cause safety and health issues in humans, among them difficulty seeing due to glare and elevated blood pressure; and,

**Whereas,** Light pollution is known to cause harm to many types of plants and wildlife, including but not limited to trees, birds, bats, sea turtles, and insects; and,

**Whereas,** Light pollution is known to make it difficult to observe a starry sky; and,

**Whereas,** Inefficient street lighting costs our state millions of dollars in energy lost each year; and,

**Whereas,** Other states and municipalities, including San Diego, Anchorage, and Connecticut, have already begun to see returns on investment in similar projects; and,

**Whereas,** More efficient hooded fixtures ensure the safety of South Carolina's citizens and wildlife, provide a starry sky for astronomical observers, and reduce the state's energy consumption by allowing for lower wattage bulbs, cutting energy costs.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** All government owned properties would be required to purchase hooded light fixtures to replace any un-hooded, freestanding electric light fixtures on their premises.

**Section II:** The South Carolina Department of Transportation will be required to purchase hooded fixtures to replace any un-hooded, freestanding electric light fixtures along state-maintained roads.

**Section III:** All fixtures to be retrofitted will be updated as their existing bulbs burn out.

**Section IV:** Exceptions to Sections I and II will be made in the case of fixtures that have a necessary or historical nature, as determined by a committee appointed by the South Carolina Energy Office under the South Carolina Budget and Control Board.

47 **Section V:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
48 the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Rebecca Stanley**  
**College of Charleston**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To provide a tax deduction for model businesses.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** Over 50% of adult Americans enjoy at least one cup of coffee every day;  
8 and,  
9  
10 **Whereas,** Coffee has been shown to have numerous health benefits; caffeine, as  
11 found in coffee, in moderation can increase productivity in employees;  
12 and,  
13  
14 **Whereas,** More productive employees lead to a company producing a higher profit,  
15 which can lead to increased salaries, and more income taxes for State  
16 funds; and,  
17  
18 **Whereas,** A basic coffee machine can be acquired for \$20, and many wholesale  
19 retailers sell coffee; and,  
20  
21 **Whereas,** Many businesses already provide coffee for their employees.  
22  
23 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
24 assembled the following:  
25  
26 **Section I:** All private South Carolina businesses, which provide coffee for their  
27 employees, will receive a tax credit of \$100.  
28  
29 **Section II:** This refund will be subject to the same processes as other tax refunds and  
30 will be claimed in the same manner.  
31  
32 **Section III:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
33 signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Katie Busbee and Meghan Matthews**  
**Erskine College**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To add section 17-15-280 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to deny bond to  
6 repeat felony offenders who are currently out on bond.  
7

8 **Whereas,** According to Richland County Sherriff’s Department 5% of criminals are  
9 committing 95% of the crimes in South Carolina; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** Other states such as Washington and Georgia currently have bills in committee  
12 addressing denying bond to repeat offenders and Texas and Virginia have already  
13 passed a law similar to this; and,  
14

15 **Whereas,** 56% of violent felons are repeat offenders and 61% of all felons are repeat  
16 offenders.  
17

18 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
19 assembled the following:  
20

21 **Section I:** Add § 17-15-280 to read as follows:  
22

23 “§ 17-15-280. Bond shall be denied to repeat felon offenders currently out on  
24 bond.  
25

26 If any person is released on bond and commits a felony while on bond they will  
27 be denied bond if the court finds probable cause that they committed the offense  
28 and former bonds will be revoked.  
29

30 If a person is found guilty of this repeat offense committed while on bond they  
31 will be required to serve three consecutive years in prison in addition to the jail  
32 time they receive for the particular crime, without the chance of parole.”  
33

34 **Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
35 the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Chris Kennelly and Alex Oakes**  
**Erskine College**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend § 16-23-420 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to allow the  
6 possession of a firearm in public educational post-secondary institutions.  
7
- 8 **Whereas,** It is the right of every American citizen to bear arms based on the Second  
9 Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and,  
10
- 11 **Whereas,** Responsible armed faculty and students can make campuses safer and prevent  
12 mass shootings; and,  
13
- 14 **Whereas,** Knowledge of firearms on campuses by faculty or students can deter criminal acts  
15 of homicide; and,  
16
- 17 **Whereas,** Police and public safety officers cannot always be present to protect the interests  
18 of the citizens of the state.  
19
- 20 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina State Legislature in regular session assembled  
21 the following:  
22
- 23 **Section I:** Section 16-23-420 (B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws shall be repealed and  
24 amended as follows:  
25
- 26 “(B) It is unlawful for a person to enter the premises or property described in  
27 subsection (A) and to display, brandish, or threaten others with a firearm. A  
28 *person, authorized to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter*  
29 *31, Title 23, who is a registered student, employee, or faculty member of a public*  
30 *college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution may*  
31 *possess a firearm on any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by*  
32 *the institution. A public college, university, technical college or other post-*  
33 *secondary institution may post a sign stating ‘No Concealable Weapons Allowed’*  
34 *which shall constitute notice to a person holding a permit issued pursuant to*  
35 *Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 that concealable weapons not be brought upon the*  
36 *premises.’”*  
37
- 38 **Section II:** This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013, after passage of the General Assembly  
39 and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Melanie Locke and Cate Cardinale**  
**Erskine College**

**Purpose:** To add § 59-63-95 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to reduce significant long-term injuries that result from concussions and to provide awareness to players, parents, and coaches on identifying concussions in the earliest stage and getting the right treatment.

**Whereas,** According to South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council concussions are becoming a huge problem; and,

**Whereas,** Every year in America an estimated 3.8 million sports and recreation related concussions occur; and,

**Whereas,** During an average high school football season 20% of high school players sustain a concussion; and,

**Whereas,** The Center for Disease and Control Prevention has stated that traumatic brain injuries resulting from sports and recreation related injuries has increased by 60% in the past ten years; and,

**Whereas,** Currently the South Carolina High School League requires all coaches to take training course on concussions but does not give specifics about identifying a concussion and more specific guidelines are needed.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Add § 59-63-95 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to read as follows:

“Section 59-63-95. Recognizing and preventing concussions in school athletic programs.

(A) The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control along with the Department of Education will post guidelines and procedures online of how to identify and manage suspected concussions among student athletes. The policies should incorporate specific guidelines for identification, management, and return to play decisions for each student.

(B) Each local school district shall develop guidelines and procedures based on the guidelines set forth in section (A).

(C) Annually, before student participation in athletics each school district must provide to coaches, student athletes, and parents or legal guardians an information session on concussions including the short term and long-term

47 risks. Each local school district can decide how to set up the information  
48 session.

49  
50 (D) Procedure for athlete care on the field:

- 51
- 52 (1) If the coach or medical profession on site recognizes student athlete has  
53 signs of concussion student must be removed from play.
- 54
- 55 (2) A student athlete removed from play can only return during game if the  
56 medical professional on site determines the student athlete does not have  
57 any signs or symptoms of concussion.
- 58
- 59 (3) A student athlete removed from play who after evaluation is suspected of  
60 having concussion may not return to play until student athlete has been  
61 cleared by a doctor of medicine pursuant to Chapter 47, Title 40.
- 62
- 63 (4) The medical professional on the field who evaluates student athlete and  
64 allows them to return to play is not liable for civil damages resulting from  
65 this act unless gross negligence or willful misconduct is present.”
- 66

67 **Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
68 the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Fernando Perez and Jeron Crawford**  
**Erskine College**

**Purpose:** To amend § 56-5-6520 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to give individuals over 18 or over 185 pounds riding in the back of an automobile the choice to use a safety belt.

**Whereas,** Whereas approximately 225 million Americans have the ability to drive; and,

**Whereas,** The United States of America is one of the most industrialized countries in the world where its citizens depend on automotive transportation as the primary means of transportation; and,

**Whereas,** Over 75% of Americans are adults.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Amend § 56-5-6520 to read as follows:

“§ 56-5-6520. Mandatory use of seat belt.

The driver and every occupant *riding in the front seat* of a motor vehicle *or occupants not over the age of 18 or above 185 pounds*, when it is being operated on the public streets and highways of this State, must wear a fastened safety belt which complies with all provisions of federal law for its use. The driver is charged with the responsibility of requiring each occupant seventeen years of age or younger to wear a safety belt or be secured in a child restraint system as provided in Article 47 of this chapter. However, a driver is not responsible for an occupant seventeen years of age or younger who has a driver's license, special restricted license, or beginner's permit and who is not wearing a seat belt; such occupant is in violation of this article and must be fined in accordance with Section 56-5-6540.

*(1) Adults riding in the back seat of a car may be allowed to travel without the use of a seatbelt if they are over the age of 18 or weigh more than 185 pounds.”*

**Section II:** This act shall take effect 90 days after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Daniel Prohaska**  
**Erskine College**

**Purpose:** To add § 8-13-1000 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to require ethical accountability of financial, business, and campaign behavior of South Carolina state officials.

**Whereas,** The State Integrity Investigation ranked South Carolina 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation in state ethics with an overall “F” rating; and,

**Whereas,** Current ethics laws in South Carolina provide insufficient protection against corruption; and,

**Whereas,** Elected officials are expected to be held to a higher standard as public representatives of the people; and,

**Whereas,** The government has a compelling interest in maintaining an ethically sound and visibly transparent government.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Add § 8-13-1000 to the South Carolina Code of Laws to read as follows:

“§ 8-13-1000. Ethical requirements for all elected and appointed officials in South Carolina government shall include:

(A) All officials must disclose all legal positions, business clients, assets, gifts and amounts of income greater than \$1,000 held by the official and their immediate family.

(B) State officials are prohibited from engaging in any business contract, agreement, or relationship with a state government entity outside of their explicitly defined government obligations and duties of their office during their time as a state official and for up to five years after leaving their position.

(C) All officials must make readily available to the public all documents, reports, records, emails or other materials, excluding private materials or personal records, generated by or relating to state business.

(D) State officials are prohibited from accepting campaign or personal contributions from PACs, SuperPACs, Lobbyists, or their affiliates while they hold state office.

46 (E) All legislators are prohibited from accepting campaign contributions and from  
47 raising campaign funds while the Legislature is in session or within thirty days  
48 before or after the legislative session begins and ends.

49  
50 (F) All elected officials must disclose online all receipts and expenditures made  
51 relating to campaign funds within 72 hours of the transaction.”

52  
53 **Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of  
54 the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Kevin Ussery and Graham Martin**  
**Erskine College**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To amend § 59-32-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to mandate  
6 medically accurate information and contraceptive education in  
7 Reproductive Education.  
8

9 **Whereas,** In a 2011 study completed by the Department of Health and  
10 Environmental Control there were 7,557 pregnancies from teens aged 10-  
11 19; and,  
12

13 **Whereas,** South Carolina ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in education of all the states in the United  
14 States; and,  
15

16 **Whereas,** In 2011 there were 15,144 reported cases of living HIV/AIDS; 28,581  
17 reported cases of Chlamydia; 8,265 reported cases of Gonorrhea; and 639  
18 reported cases of Syphilis; and,  
19

20 **Whereas,** Parents can opt-out of Reproductive Heath Education.  
21

22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24

25 **Section I:** Amend § 59-31-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to read:  
26

27 “(2)“Reproductive health education” means *medically accurate* instruction  
28 in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development,  
29 childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning  
30 sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction  
31 except within the context of the risk of disease. *While* abstinence and the  
32 risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage ~~must~~ *should* be  
33 strongly emphasized, *students should be made aware of contraceptives*  
34 *and their effectiveness, not limited to future family planning.*”  
35

36 **Section II:** This act shall take effect 90 days after passage by the General Assembly  
37 and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Allison Rhodes and Brian Poteat**  
**Francis Marion University and The Citadel**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To allow for the sale of alcoholic liquors on Election Day.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** Currently 48 other states do allow for the sale of alcoholic liquors on Election  
8 Day; and,  
9  
10 **Whereas,** Prohibition of alcoholic liquor sales directly impacts small businesses who depend  
11 on liquor sales for revenue; and,  
12  
13 **Whereas,** Many South Carolina residents travel across state lines to North Carolina or  
14 Georgia, who do not have this law, to purchase alcoholic liquors on Election Day;  
15 and,  
16  
17 **Whereas,** South Carolina loses tax revenue from citizens traveling across its borders to  
18 purchase alcoholic liquors; and,  
19  
20 **Whereas,** Repealing this ban could help to alleviate a burden put on SLED and other law  
21 enforcement agencies on Election Day; and,  
22  
23 **Whereas,** Allowing for the purchase of alcoholic liquors would provide consumers with  
24 much-needed convenience.  
25  
26 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
27 assembled the following:  
28  
29 **Section I:** To amend Section 61-6-4160 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to read as  
30 the following:  
31  
32 “(1) Sunday Sales; ~~Election Day~~  
33 It is unlawful to sell alcoholic liquors on Sunday except as authorized by law, ~~on~~  
34 ~~statewide election days~~, or during periods proclaimed by the Governor in the  
35 interest of law and order or public morals and decorum. Full authority to proclaim  
36 these periods is conferred upon the Governor in addition to all his other powers. A  
37 person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,  
38 must be punished as follows:  
39 (a) for a first offense, by a fine of two hundred dollars or imprisonment for sixty  
40 days;  
41 (b) for a second offense, by a fine of one thousand dollars or imprisonment for  
42 one year; and  
43 (c) for a third or subsequent offense, by a fine of two thousand dollars or  
44 imprisonment for two years.”  
45

46 **Section II:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature  
47 of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Breanna Robertson**  
**Francis Marion University**

**Purpose:** To amend the code of laws of South Carolina, 1976, by amending section 56-1-220, to require any licensee sixty-five years of age or older to submit by mail to the department a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state or appear in person at a department office to complete a vision screening biennially.

**Whereas,** Requiring drivers over the age of 65 to participate in an annual vision screening we can protect South Carolina’s highways; and,

**Whereas,** South Carolina traffic accidents are increasing in drivers ages 65 and older, it has been proven South Carolina highways, are becoming more and more dangerous every year; and,

**Whereas,** The number of elderly people have increased 10-fold in the past century compared to the threefold increase for those less than 65 years old; and,

**Whereas,** A senior citizen with severe vision loss may have none or numerous prior side effects; and,

**Whereas,** The average Senior Citizen produces \$49,000/yr from wide range incomes; and,

**Whereas,** Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the number one cause of blindness among senior citizens; and,

**Whereas,** Nearly 60% of the elderly suffer from craniocerebral and chest injuries while involved in an accident; and,

**Whereas,** The main cause of accidents recorded included problems in vision. Studies show a significant increase in persons age 65 and older becoming visually impaired without knowledge.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Section 56-1-220 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“A vision screening will not be required before October 1, 2008 if a licensee is less than sixty-five years of age, his license expires on his birth date on the second calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, and his license is renewed for an additional two years by mail or electronically. If a licensee is sixty-five years of age or older and his license expires on his birth date on the second calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, then he may

47 renew his license by mail for an additional two years upon submission of a  
48 certificate of vision examination from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed  
49 in any state.”

50

51 **Section II:** This act shall go into effect on August 1, 2014, after passage by the General  
52 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Resolution**  
**Presented by Libby Sims**  
**Francis Marion University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**Purpose:** To offer a memorial for Sonya Burgess, who left this life on February 18, 2013.

**Whereas,** Burgess was murdered in a violent hit and run car accident.

**Whereas,** She was the Kingstree Senior High School girls' basketball and volleyball head coach, Biology teacher, Science Department Chairwoman, mentor, and much more.

**Whereas,** Sonya Burgess was awarded North/South Coach of the Year, Regional Coach of the Year, recognized as a Sallie Mae Teacher of the Year finalist, voted Teacher of the Year (2003 and 2006), District Teacher of the Year finalist (2006), Who's Who Among High School Teachers, was featured in the Community Times as one of the 30 Leaders under 40 as Young Educators, and received an Inspirational/Motivational Teacher Award in 2010.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** That this body recognizes the unexpected passing of Sonya Burgess, a proud South Carolina daughter, whose glory was to perform graciously and honorably in and out of Kingstree Senior High School.

**Section II:** This joint resolution shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Morgan Yarborough**  
**Francis Marion University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To require South Carolina to accept all students into pre-kindergarten (4K)  
6 programs who apply for admission.

7  
8 **Whereas,** Student who are enrolled in high quality pre-school programs are more  
9 likely to graduate from high school and attend college; and,

10  
11 **Whereas,** Students enrolled in South Carolina public pre-school programs showed  
12 vocabulary gains at 42% higher than children who were not enrolled; and,

13  
14 **Whereas,** Students enrolled in South Carolina public pre-school programs showed  
15 gains in understanding print concepts (letters, sounds that represent letters)  
16 at 102% higher than students who were not enrolled; and,

17  
18 **Whereas,** High quality preschool programs returns to the individual and public \$17  
19 for every \$1 that is invested.

20  
21 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
22 assembled the following:

23  
24 **Section I:** Every child applying for a South Carolina school will be accepted into  
25 high quality public pre-school programs.

26  
27 **Section II:** High-quality pre-school curriculums that will be offered in South Carolina  
28 public pre-school programs will be either Head Start or the Perry Pre-  
29 School project.

30  
31 **Section III:** Each school will be allowed to decide which curriculum(s) they will be  
32 using.

33  
34 **Section IV:** This bill will apply to students who apply for public pre-school programs  
35 in 2015.

36  
37 **Section V:** This act shall take effect on January 1, 2015, after passage by the General  
38 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Stephanie Eckert**  
**Furman University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To require schools to provide a routine screening for mental health  
6 problems, with parental consent.  
7

8 **Whereas,** An estimated 15 million of our nation's young people can currently be  
9 diagnosed with a mental health disorder; and,  
10

11 **Whereas,** 50 percent of students with a mental illness drop out of school – the  
12 highest rate of any disability group; and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people between 10  
15 and 24. Of those who commit suicide, 90 percent have a diagnosable and  
16 treatable mental illness at the time of their death; and,  
17

18 **Whereas,** Nationally, approximately 70 percent of youth in juvenile justice systems  
19 experience mental health disorders. In 2006, 1,320 children were  
20 incarcerated in South Carolina’s juvenile justice system.  
21

22 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
23 assembled the following:  
24

25 **Section I** Public schools will distribute a mental health screening test once per year,  
26 on a designated day of the school’s choice, to students in grades 4, 6, 8,  
27 and 10. Parents will have the option to opt their child out of the screening.  
28 The results of the screening will be mailed to the child’s address for  
29 review by the child’s parents.  
30

31 **Section II** For the purpose of this bill:  
32 A) ‘Screening’ shall be defined as: A paper test, consisting of questions  
33 that pertain to mental health.  
34 B) ‘Mental health problems’ shall be defined as: Any problem perceived  
35 to affect the mental well being of the child, including depression,  
36 anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc.  
37

38 **Section III** The funding for the screening shall come from a 1% deduction in the  
39 budget of the Department of Corrections.  
40

41 **Section IV:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
42 signature of the Governor.



**A Bill**  
**Presented by Courtney Thomas**  
**Furman University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To include Camp Burnt Gin as a line item in the budget of the state of South  
6 Carolina.  
7  
8 **Whereas,** One in four Americans from the age of five to sixty-four have some documented  
9 disability; and,  
10  
11 **Whereas,** Those eligible for Camp Burnt Gin are unable to participate in other summer  
12 programs because of their physical limitations and special needs; and,  
13  
14 **Whereas,** Many institutions provide summer care for disabled children, but at a cost to the  
15 family; and,  
16  
17 **Whereas,** Of the private institutions that require payment very few accept children with  
18 severe disabilities; and,  
19  
20 **Whereas,** Camp Burnt Gin accepts persons with disabilities from the age of seven to  
21 twenty-five and provides twenty-four hour care; and,  
22  
23 **Whereas,** Programs such as instructional swimming, arts and crafts, sports, and nature  
24 activities are provided to campers during the session. Recreation is beneficial to  
25 the social development of persons with physical and mental illnesses; and,  
26  
27 **Whereas,** Camp Burnt Gin operates solely on donations and funding from the South  
28 Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.  
29  
30 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
31 assembled the following:  
32  
33 **Section I** Camp Burnt Gin in Wedgefield, South Carolina will receive annual funds from  
34 the state of South Carolina.  
35  
36 **Section II** The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall recommend the  
37 appropriate amount of funds to award.  
38  
39 **Section III** These funds will be allocated for the purpose of, but not limited to providing  
40 campers with necessary care, including the hiring of staff, purchase of equipment  
41 and upkeep of the facility.  
42  
43 **Section IV** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature  
44 of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by Eli Washington**  
**Furman University**

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** To raise literacy levels in South Carolina.  
6  
7 **Whereas,** South Carolina has the thirteenth highest functional illiteracy rate in the  
8 United States; and,  
9  
10 **Whereas,** One-third of South Carolina students are reading below state standards in  
11 eighth grade; and,  
12  
13 **Whereas,** South Carolina has the third highest adult illiteracy rate in the United  
14 States; and,  
15  
16 **Whereas,** Illiteracy rates in South Carolina are higher than 40 percent in five  
17 counties — Allendale, McCormick, Williamsburg, Clarendon and Lee;  
18 and,  
19  
20 **Whereas,** Studies show that having third grade students reading at their grade level  
21 improves their chances of graduating from high school.  
22  
23 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
24 assembled the following:  
25  
26 **Section I:** Students who in the third or eight grade score below basic on the state  
27 reading test and fail to improve after a summer reading camp will be  
28 withheld from moving on to the next grade and repeat their current grade.  
29  
30 **Section II:** Schools will begin tracking reading levels starting in kindergarten in order  
31 to fix the problems early on.  
32  
33 **Section III:** All teachers seek advanced training in identifying and aiding lagging  
34 readers.  
35  
36 **Section IV:** Some students qualify for exemption, including non-native speakers,  
37 disabled students, those who complete a reading portfolio demonstrating  
38 their reading level and those whose parents sign paperwork.  
39  
40 **Section V:** This act shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and  
41 signature of the Governor.

**A Bill**  
**Presented by John McKenzie**  
**Lander University**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **Purpose:** No law shall be pasted, nor fine or tax inflicted upon any person who’s  
6 vehicle is left over-night in a location up to 200 yards from a vender who  
7 is licensed in the state of South Carolina to vend or distribute alcoholic  
8 beverages.  
9

10 **Whereas,** In the state of South Carolina it is currently legal to fine multiple time in a  
11 night a responsible adult who has chosen to leave their vehicle after  
12 drinking rather than attempt operate it illegally; and,  
13

14 **Whereas,** Threatening to penalize some one for both driving and not driving is a  
15 form of entrapment and already illegal in the state of South Carolina; and,  
16

17 **Whereas,** Leaving a vehicle has no lethal consequence; and,  
18

19 **Whereas,** Attempting to drive while impaired may have lethal consequences; and,  
20

21 **Whereas,** The state is encouraging citizens to break the law and potentially take a  
22 life.  
23

24 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session  
25 assembled the following.  
26

27 **Section I:** A vender who is licensed in the State of South Carolina to vend alcohol  
28 shall therefore be defined as any merchant or business who carries  
29 beverages containing anything at or above a 2% alcohol level.  
30

31 **Section II:** Under the Remedies and Penalties Chapter 5 part 4 sections 1 of the South  
32 Carolina Legislator therefore:  
33

34 “No State, County or City body shall put into effect any law that  
35 encourages its citizens to remove a vehicle from and property for the  
36 purpose of avoiding monetary fine.”  
37

38 **Section III:** All citations and fines issued prior to this bill become law shall continue to  
39 stand.  
40

41 **Section IV:** Any fine placed on a vehicle after this bill has taken affect shall be  
42 disregarded and considered void; in the event that any local government  
43 continues to fine its citizens for three months after being informed of this  
44 new law; that city shall be required to pay in total the equal amount of its  
45 fines to the state’s education fund.  
46

47 **Section V:** This act shall go into effect on July 1, 2013, after passage by the General  
48 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

1  
2 **The Constitution of the**  
3 *South Carolina Student Legislature*

4  
5  
6 **Article I**  
7 **Name**

8  
9 **Section 1.** This organization shall be called the South Carolina Student Legislature.

10  
11 **Article II**  
12 **Purpose**

13  
14 **Section 1.** This organization shall be formed to provide a forum in which students  
15 may experience the full range of legislative activity, to promote student  
16 input into public policy-making in South Carolina, and to educate students  
17 about the functions of democratic government.

18  
19 **Section 2.** The motto of this organization shall be “Our Freedom, Our Future, Our  
20 Responsibility.”

21  
22 **Article III**  
23 **Membership**

24  
25 **Section 1.** The membership of the South Carolina Student Legislature shall be  
26 composed of delegates from South Carolina’s universities and colleges.

27  
28 **Section 2.** Each delegation shall select its members from the student body of the  
29 institution that it represents.

30  
31 **Section 3.** For the purpose of this document, “students” shall be interpreted to  
32 include all those with the privileges of an undergraduate student at the  
33 member institution. No student shall serve as a delegate for more than five  
34 (5) years.

35  
36 **Section 4.** Delegations may reserve the right to dismiss a delegate during session  
37 solely on the basis that the delegate has violated the delegation and/or  
38 school conduct rules, has been arrested for a crime while at session,  
39 became ill or injured and must return home, or in case of emergency.

40  
41 **Section 5.** A delegation shall obtain membership at such time as it pays its  
42 registration fees, registers with the Governor, and the state officers  
43 approve the registration.  
44

- 45 **Section 6.** A new member delegation shall be defined as a school not having  
46 participated previously or for a period of three (3) consecutive years.  
47
- 48 **Section 7.** Upon approval of the registration and the receipt of the dues, the Governor  
49 shall issue to the delegation an official letter recognizing it as a member  
50 delegation.  
51
- 52 **Section 8.** All memberships are for the calendar year and shall expire upon the thirty-  
53 first day of December.  
54

55 **Article IV**  
56 **Officers**  
57

- 58 **Section 1.** The elected officers of the organization shall be the Governor, the  
59 Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President *Pro*  
60 *Tempore* of the Senate, and the Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the House. These  
61 officers shall be members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the  
62 Comptroller General and Fundraising Chair shall be elected officers, but  
63 shall not be members of the Executive Committee.  
64
- 65 **Section 2.** In addition to the above officers, the Governor shall appoint, with the  
66 consent of the Executive Committee, a Secretary of State, an Attorney  
67 General, a Treasurer, and a Chief Justice of the Court. For the purpose of  
68 this document, “consent of the Executive Committee” shall mean a  
69 majority of the members of the committee.  
70
- 71 **Section 3.** The Governor shall have full power, with the consent of the Executive  
72 Committee, to create and fill any other office that the Governor deems  
73 necessary to the South Carolina Student Legislature.  
74
- 75 **Section 4.** No person shall hold more than one office at a time.  
76
- 77 **Section 5.** The officer terms shall coincide with the calendar year.  
78
- 79 **Section 6.** Each candidate for office shall be a student in good standing with the  
80 institution he attends.  
81
- 82 **Section 7.** A candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, or  
83 Comptroller General shall have attended one previous Fall Session and  
84 one previous Spring Session before the session in which he seeks office.  
85 The Speaker of the House shall be a member of the House during the  
86 session in which he seeks office. The Lieutenant Governor must be a  
87 member of the Senate during the session in which he seeks office.  
88
- 89 **Section 8.** A candidate for President *Pro Tempore*, Speaker *Pro Tempore*, or  
90 Fundraising Chair must have been registered members for at least two (2)

91 previous sessions before the session in which he seeks office. The  
92 President *Pro Tempore* shall be a member of the Senate during the session  
93 in which he seeks office. The Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall be a member of  
94 the House during the session in which he seeks office.  
95

96 **Section 9.** In the event that the office of President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro*  
97 *Tempore* shall become vacant at any time other than that immediately  
98 preceding Fall Session, the Governor, with the consent of the Executive  
99 Committee, shall appoint a qualified replacement. Any appointment of a  
100 new President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall be confirmed  
101 by the respective chamber at the next Fall Session. In the event that the  
102 office of President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall become  
103 vacant at a time immediately preceding Fall Session, the chamber  
104 concerned, as its first order of business, shall hold nominations and  
105 elections to fill the vacancy. For the purpose of this document,  
106 “immediately preceding” shall mean a period of two (2) months prior to  
107 the first day of the upcoming event.  
108

109 **Article V**  
110 **Powers and Duties of Officers**

111  
112 **Section 1.** The Governor shall:  
113 A. With the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, appoint a  
114 Secretary of State, an Attorney General, a Chief Justice of the Court,  
115 and a Treasurer;  
116 B. Have full power, with the consent of the Executive Committee, to  
117 create and fill any other office which the Governor deems necessary to  
118 the South Carolina Student Legislature;  
119 C. Preside over the Executive Committee;  
120 D. Represent South Carolina Student Legislature throughout the State of  
121 South Carolina and the United States;  
122 E. Present the “Journal of Acts and Resolutions” to the Governor and the  
123 General  
124 F. Assembly of South Carolina;  
125 G. Report to the South Carolina Student Legislature at the Fall Session on  
126 the state of the organization;  
127 H. Preside over all Interim Meetings;  
128 I. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee;  
129 J. Sign or veto all legislation that has passed the House and the Senate  
130 during Session.  
131

132 **Section 2.** The Lieutenant Governor shall:  
133 A. Assume the duties of the Governor in the event the Governor vacates  
134 the office of Governor or is incapable of fulfilling the duties of the  
135 office; B. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee;

- 136 B. Preside over the Senate, but shall have no vote except in the event of a  
137 tie;  
138 C. With the consent of the Senate, appoint three (3) members of that  
139 body, no two (2) of whom shall be from the same school, to serve on  
140 the Conference Committee;  
141 D. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee;  
142 E. Be responsible for the publication of the “Journal of Acts and  
143 Resolutions;”  
144 F. Be responsible for the compilation and publication of the Bill Book;  
145 G. Be responsible, with the Speaker of the House, for the organization  
146 and distribution of a legislation calendar for Fall Session.  
147

148 **Section 3.**

The Speaker of the House shall:

- 149 A. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee;  
150 B. Preside over the House as a member of the House;  
151 C. With the consent of the House, appoint four (4) members or that body,  
152 no two (2) of whom shall be from the same school, to serve on the  
153 Conference Committee;  
154 D. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee;  
155 E. Be responsible, with the Lieutenant Governor, for the organization and  
156 distribution of a legislation calendar for Fall Session.  
157

158 **Section 4.**

The President *Pro Tempore* shall:

- 159 A. Assume the duties of the Lieutenant Governor in the event that the  
160 Lieutenant Governor vacates the office of Lieutenant Governor or is  
161 incapable of fulfilling the duties of the office;  
162 B. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee;  
163 C. Preside over the Senate in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor;  
164

165 **Section 5.**

The Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall:

- 166 A. Assume the duties of the Speaker of the House in the event the  
167 Speaker of the House vacates the office of Speaker of the House or is  
168 incapable of fulfilling the duties of the office;  
169 B. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee;  
170 C. Preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker of the House;  
171

172 **Section 6.**

The Secretary of State shall:

- 173 A. Assist and advise the Governor in all matters in which the Governor  
174 shall need aid;  
175 B. Prepare the minutes and records of interim meetings and Spring  
176 Session;  
177 C. Be responsible, with the Attorney General, for the reapportionment of  
178 each Delegation prior to Fall Session;  
179 D. Assist the Election and Awards Committee in the execution of their  
180 duties as that committee may deem appropriate;



- 181 E. Receive the certified results from the Election Chair of the Election  
 182 and Awards Committee.  
 183
- 184 **Section 7.** The Attorney General shall:  
 185 A. Serve as Prosecutor before the Trial Committee; B. Be replaced as  
 186 Prosecutor if impeached;  
 187 B. Serve as a member of the Constitutional Committee;  
 188 C. Be responsible, with the Secretary of State, for the reapportionment of  
 189 each Delegation prior to Fall Session.  
 190 D. Shall determine the constitutionality of legislation, under the  
 191 Constitution the State of South Carolina, whose constitutionality has  
 192 been called into question on the floor. The legislation shall be tabled  
 193 for review by the Attorney General. Upon a decision The Attorney  
 194 General shall recommend to the body a course of action based on his  
 195 decision within one hour from when he receives it. In the absence of  
 196 the Attorney General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
 197 perform these duties.  
 198
- 199 **Section 8.** Chief Justice of the Court shall:  
 200 A. Rule on the constitutionality of legislation under the Constitution of  
 201 the State of South Carolina in the absence of the Attorney General.  
 202 B. Preside over special sessions of the Supreme Court as outlined in  
 203 Article VII.  
 204 C. Serve as Chairman of the Trial Committee;  
 205 D. Serve as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee;  
 206 E. Obtain and distribute the trial case to be used in the Supreme Court  
 207 hearings at session no later than 30 days prior to session.  
 208
- 209 **Section 9.** The Treasurer shall:  
 210 A. Keep a current account of all funds of the South Carolina Student  
 211 Legislature;  
 212 B. Serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee;  
 213 C. Prepare and present the annual operating budget;  
 214 D. Abide by the Policies and Procedures set forth in the Treasurer  
 215 Manual;  
 216
- 217 **Section 10.** The Fall Session Committee Chairmen shall:  
 218 A. Chair their respective committees at Fall Session;  
 219 B. Serve on the Trial Committee.  
 220 C. Serve as members of the Election and Awards Committee.  
 221
- 222 **Section 11.** The Comptroller General shall:  
 223 A. Perform an annual internal audit of the organization and prepare an  
 224 audit report to be presented to the SCSL General Assembly in Joint  
 225 Session.

- 226 B. Present the audit report to the General Assembly as the first order of
- 227 business at the first joint session of the first full day of the Fall
- 228 Session.
- 229 C. Coordinate with external auditors through the course of any external
- 230 audit of SCSL.
- 231 D. Documented approval from the Comptroller General shall be required
- 232 for disbursements of more than \$150. A documented unanimous vote
- 233 of the Finance Committee may override disapproval from the
- 234 Comptroller General. Email or written notation is sufficient to
- 235 constitute documentation.

**Article VI**  
**Meetings**

- 240 **Section 1.** Notice of all meetings shall be given no less than two (2) weeks prior to
- 241 the meeting.
- 242
- 243 **Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall call all meetings.
- 244
- 245 **Section 3.** The Executive Committee shall propose the order of business and business
- 246 to be conducted.
- 247
- 248 **Section 4.** The meetings shall be:
- 249 A. Spring Session;
- 250 B. Fall Session;
- 251 C. Interim Meetings.
- 252
- 253 **Section 5.** Spring Session:
- 254 A. Spring Session shall be presided over by all presiding officers of the
- 255 Executive Committee;
- 256 B. Each Delegation in attendance is entitled to one vote for the following
- 257 purposes:
- 258 1. Amendments or revisions of the Constitution;
- 259 2. Election of Fall Session Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen
- 260 in accordance with Article IX;
- 261 3. Any other business deemed by the Executive Committee to be
- 262 pertinent to the South Carolina Student Legislature.
- 263 C. Legislation:
- 264 1. Legislation shall be turned in no later than the date appointed by
- 265 order of the Executive Committee;
- 266 2. Any legislation not found in the Bill Book must:
- 267 a. Be approved by the Executive Committee before the last day of
- 268 session.
- 269 b. Approved legislation will only take place upon completion of
- 270 all legislation found in bill book.

- 271 3. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House shall, with  
 272 the aid of the President *Pro Tempore* and the Speaker *Pro*  
 273 *Tempore*, form calendars of legislation for the chambers;  
 274 4. A bill or resolution passing the joint session shall be presented to  
 275 the Governor for approval;  
 276 5. All legislation signed by the Governor or passed over the  
 277 Governor's veto shall be included in the "Journal of Acts and  
 278 Resolutions;"  
 279 6. All legislation presented to the Governor will be signed or vetoed  
 280 and returned to the chamber prior to the time scheduled for  
 281 adjournment of the joint session. The legislative body, by a two-  
 282 thirds vote, may extend its session and consider only those pieces  
 283 of legislation vetoed and returned by the Governor.  
 284 7. Any legislation passed and not signed or vetoed by the Governor  
 285 after the final adjournment, including any extended session, shall  
 286 be considered approved by the Governor and ordered printed in the  
 287 "Journal of Acts and Resolutions."  
 288 D. Registration Fees  
 289 1. Member dues will be collected at the beginning of session at the  
 290 discretion of the Finance Committee.  
 291

292 **Section 6.**

- 293 Fall Session:  
 294 A. Fall Session shall be an annual student legislature, modeled after the  
 295 General Assembly of South Carolina and shall be comprised of a  
 296 Senate, a House of Representatives, and a Supreme Court;  
 297 B. Elections for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of  
 298 the House, President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, and Speaker *Pro*  
 299 *Tempore* of the House shall be held as the first order of business at the  
 300 first joint session on the last day.  
 301 C. Each member school shall be represented by a delegation consisting  
 302 of:  
 303 1. A chairman, and;  
 304 2. Two (2) delegates per school, and;  
 305 3. One delegate for each 200 full time undergraduate students for the  
 306 first 1,000 students (5 possible), and;  
 307 4. One delegate for each 1,000 full time undergraduate students from  
 308 1,000 to 10,000 (9 possible), and;  
 309 5. One delegate for each 3,000 full time undergraduate students from  
 310 10,000 up;  
 311 6. All numbers shall be rounded up if the numbers exceed by more  
 312 than 50 percent (50 percent plus 1) the previous population  
 313 bracket.  
 314 D. No more than two (2) of these delegates shall serve in the Senate and  
 315 the remainder shall compose the House Delegation. Each serving  
 delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

- 316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361
- E. Delegates must be present in order to cast a vote. A student from the delegate’s institution may step in to vote for a missing delegate provided that the student pays his registration fees prior to voting.
  - F. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall obtain from each member delegation a statement signed by the registrar of that institution listing the number of full-time undergraduate students.
    - 1. The enrollment statement must be received before Fall Session ends on the final day in order for the delegation to receive its full quota of members.
    - 2. The Secretary of State and Attorney General shall calculate the membership allowed for each delegation and inform the delegation chairmen of their findings regarding the populations and votes allotted to each school. Reapportionment and notification of the chairmen shall occur at every Fall Session.
    - 3. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall make the number of voting members as well as the total number of full-time undergraduate students available to all of the delegations having membership in the South Carolina Student Legislature.
    - 4. Any delegation tardy in the provision of its enrollment statement or found falsifying its enrollment statement shall be punished by the suspension of member votes. The Executive Committee shall determine the specific number.
  - G. Legislation:
    - 1. Legislation shall be turned in no later than the date appointed by order of the Executive Committee;
    - 2. Any legislation not found in the Bill Book must:
      - a. Be approved by the Executive Committee before the last day of session.
      - b. Approved legislation will only take place upon completion of all legislation found in bill book.
    - 3. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House shall assign each bill or resolution to a committee.
    - 4. Legislation which passes committee shall be assigned to its chamber by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House;
    - 5. The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House shall, with the aid of the President *Pro Tempore* and the Speaker *Pro Tempore*, form calendars of legislation for their respective chambers;
    - 6. Once a bill or resolution passes one chamber, it shall be transferred to the calendar of the opposite chamber;
    - 7. A bill or resolution passing both chambers shall be presented to the Governor for approval;
    - 8. All legislation signed by the Governor or passed over the Governor’s veto shall be included in the “Journal of Acts and Resolutions;”

- 362 9. All legislation passed in differing forms in the chambers shall be  
 363 reviewed and revised by the Conference Committee.  
 364 10. All legislation presented to the Governor will be signed or vetoed  
 365 and returned to the chamber in which it originated prior to the time  
 366 scheduled for adjournment of the Senate and House. Each  
 367 chamber may, by a two-thirds vote, extend its session and consider  
 368 only those pieces of legislation vetoed and returned by the  
 369 Governor.  
 370 11. Any legislation passed by the Senate and House and vetoed by the  
 371 Governor, subsequent to the adjournment of the regular session of  
 372 the Senate and House, may be sent to the chamber in which it  
 373 originated during an extended session held in accordance with  
 374 Article VI, Section 6, G, 10 of this document.  
 375 12. Any legislation passed by the Senate and House and not signed or  
 376 vetoed by the Governor after the final adjournment of the Senate  
 377 and House, including any extended session, shall be considered  
 378 approved by the Governor and ordered printed in the "Journal of  
 379 Acts and Resolutions."  
 380 H. Both chambers shall abide by their respective rules, which shall be  
 381 amended or revised as the first order of business when the chambers  
 382 convene.  
 383 I. Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives may not  
 384 serve in the opposite chamber unless under extenuating circumstances  
 385 as approved by the Executive Committee. However, the replacement  
 386 may not vote or participate in debate on bills he has already debated  
 387 and voted on. The replacement may also not run for any awards from  
 388 the House once he has joined the Senate.  
 389 J. Only voting members of the Senate and House may be present on their  
 390 respective floors unless presenting legislation or appearing by the  
 391 body.  
 392 K. Registration fees  
 393 1. Registration fees will be collected at the beginning of session at the  
 394 discretion of the Finance Committee.  
 395

396 **Section 7.**

- 397 Interim Meetings:  
 398 A. Interim Meetings shall be called by the Executive Committee between  
 399 Sessions in order to carry on the business of the organization;  
 400 B. The Executive Committee shall call at least two (2) Interim Meetings a  
 401 year;  
 402 C. On all items of business conducted at an Interim Meeting, each  
 403 Delegation in attendance shall be allowed one vote;

404 **Article VII**  
 405 **The Supreme Court**  
 406

407 **Section 1.** Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and  
408 four Associate Justices, any three of whom shall constitute a quorum for  
409 the transaction of business. The Chief Justice shall preside, and in his  
410 absence the senior Associate Justice. In all cases decided by the Supreme  
411 Court, the concurrence of three of the Justices shall be necessary for a  
412 reversal of the judgment below  
413

414 **Section 2.** Election of members of Supreme Court. The members of the Supreme  
415 Court shall be appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall  
416 receive resumes and choose the Associate Justices prior to the spring  
417 session. No more than two (2) justices shall be chosen from the same  
418 delegation.  
419

420 **Section 3.** Jurisdiction of Supreme Court.  
421 A. The Supreme Court shall have power to review the trial case presented  
422 by the Chief Justice. The ruling of the Supreme Court will determine  
423 brief awards which are outlined in Article XII of the Constitution of  
424 Student Legislature.  
425 B. The Supreme Court shall constitute a court for the correction of errors  
426 at law under such regulations as the General Assembly may prescribe.  
427 C. If legislation is passed and signed into law but its constitutionality  
428 under the Constitution of the State of South Carolina is contested, The  
429 Chief Justice shall call a special session of the Supreme Court to  
430 review the law. The special session may be called no sooner than six  
431 (6) hours following the question of the law's constitutionality with  
432 exception to the last day of session. Where it will be reviewed at the  
433 earliest possible time. The review process will allow the delegate who  
434 has questioned the constitutionality of legislation to present his  
435 argument before the Supreme Court and the legislation author to refute  
436 those arguments. The legislation author may receive help from his  
437 delegation for his defense. The Supreme Court shall publish a decision  
438 no later than one (1) hour following the hearing.  
439

## 440 **Article VIII** 441 **Committees** 442

443 **Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall:  
444 A. Consist of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the  
445 House, the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, and the Speaker *Pro*  
446 *Tempore* of the House, and shall be chaired by the Governor;  
447 B. Approve all officers appointed by the Governor;  
448 C. Call all meetings of the South Carolina Student Legislature;  
449 D. Be responsible to plan all meetings of the South Carolina Student  
450 Legislature;  
451 E. Review and approve an annual budget;  
452 F. Appoint three (3) members-at-large to the Constitutional Committee;

453

454 **Section 2.** The Finance Committee shall:

- 455 A. Consist of the Treasurer, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and  
456 the Speaker of the House, and be chaired by the Treasurer;  
457 B. Prepare the annual budget no later than the last Interim meeting before  
458 Fall Session;  
459 C. Set and levy registration fees;  
460 D. Solicit funds for South Carolina Student Legislature;  
461 E. Approve all disbursements and reimbursements;  
462 F. Review and revise the Treasurer Manual before Spring Session  
463 annually.  
464

465 **Section 3.** The Trial Committee shall:

- 466 A. Consist of the Chief Justice of the Court and all Delegation Chairmen  
467 of the member the schools, and shall be chaired by the Chief Justice of  
468 the Court;  
469 B. Hear all parties involved in an impeachment and shall convict or  
470 acquit the accused;  
471 C. In the event that the Chief Justice of the Court is unable to serve under  
472 this provision, the remaining committee members shall replace him  
473 with an Associate Justice to be confirmed by the Executive  
474 Committee.  
475 D. In the event that a Delegation Chairman is unable to serve, the Vice-  
476 Chairman from his delegation shall replace him.  
477 E. Quorum for the Trial Committee will be three-fourths (3/4) of the  
478 member schools.  
479 F. The Chief Justice of the Court shall call all meetings of the Trial  
480 Committee and shall give notice as prescribed in Article VI, Section 1;  
481 G. The accused and the Attorney General shall submit a list of witnesses  
482 to the Chief Justice of the Court, who shall summon them to the trial.  
483

484 **Section 4.** The Constitutional Committee shall:

- 485 A. Consist of the Chief Justice of the Court, the Attorney General, and  
486 three (3) members-at-large to be appointed by the Executive  
487 Committee, and shall be chaired by the Chief Justice of the Court;  
488 B. Not allow any of the members-at-large to be from the same school as  
489 the Chief Justice of the Court or the Attorney General;  
490 C. Review, prepare, and circulate any needed amendments or revisions to  
491 the Constitution.  
492

493 **Section 5.** The Election and Awards Committee shall:

- 494 A. Consist of the Chairmen of the following committees:  
495 1. Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
496 2. Committee on Education  
497 3. Committee on Judiciary  
498 4. Committee on Labor Commerce and Industry

- 499 5. Committee on Medical, Municipal, Military, Transportation, and  
500 Public Administration  
501 6. Committee on Miscellaneous  
502 7. Committee on Ways and Means  
503 B. And shall be chaired by the Chair of the Committee on Judiciary.  
504 C. No member of the Committee who has been nominated for an award or  
505 is running for office shall continue to serve on the Committee. In this  
506 case the respective vice chair will take his place on the Committee. In  
507 the case that the vice chair is also running for office or nominated for  
508 an award, the replacement shall be appointed by the Governor with the  
509 consent of the Executive Committee.  
510 D. Secretary of State shall assist the committee in making such  
511 preparations as it deems necessary, and shall be tasked with submitting  
512 all results to the Governor.  
513 E. The Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and the Secretary of State  
514 shall count the ballots in all elections of the South Carolina Student  
515 Legislature.  
516 F. Oversee the determination of the award honorees and recipients in  
517 accordance with Article XI.  
518 G. The Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and the Secretary of State  
519 shall submit a teller's report as discussed in section 44 of *Robert's*  
520 *Rules of Order; Newly Revised*. This report shall be sent to the  
521 Executive Committee and be available to any delegation upon request.  
522

523 **Section 6.**

The Fall Session Committees shall:

- 524 A. Consist of:  
525 1. The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources;  
526 2. The Committee on Education;  
527 3. The Committee on Judiciary;  
528 4. The Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Industry;  
529 5. The Committee on Medical, Municipal, Military, Transportation,  
530 and Public Administration;  
531 6. The Committee on Miscellaneous;  
532 7. The Committee on Ways and Means.  
533 B. The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the seven (7) committees shall be  
534 elected at Spring Session in accordance with Article IX;  
535 C. The Fall Session Committees shall consider all legislation assigned to  
536 them by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House and  
537 shall report on the legislation to the respective officers of the House  
538 and Senate;  
539 D. The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of each committee shall rank all  
540 legislation passed through their committee for review by the officers of  
541 the chambers.  
542

543 **Section 7.**

The Conference Committee shall:



- 544 A. Consist of seven (7) members, three (3) Senators and four (4)  
545 Representatives, appointed by their respective presiding  
546 officers;  
547 B. Resolve all differences between legislation passed by both  
548 chambers.  
549

550 **Article IX**  
551 **Finances**  
552

553 **Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall, each year, through the office of  
554 the Treasurer, provide the South Carolina Student Legislature with  
555 an annual operating budget. The presentation of the annual  
556 operating budget shall be done by the Treasurer to the General  
557 Assembly during Fall Session.  
558

559 **Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall insure, through the operating  
560 budget presented, that the annual expenditure of the South Carolina  
561 Student Legislature does not exceed the annual South Carolina  
562 Student Legislature revenue. The budget shall include all annual  
563 expenditures that are greater than 25 dollars.  
564

565 **Section 3.** The treasurer shall make available for review an annual financial  
566 report upon request. The review shall be available by fall session.  
567

568 **Section 4.** The presentation of the operational budget shall be at the first joint  
569 session of the first full eight-hour day of Fall Session. The new  
570 operating budget must be passed by the South Carolina Student  
571 Legislature General Assembly prior to the conclusion of Fall  
572 Session.  
573

574 **Section 5:** In the event that any one of (1) the operating budget, (2) actual  
575 revenues or (3) actual expenditures exceeds Fifteen Thousand  
576 Dollars (\$15,000) the Comptroller General shall provide for and  
577 obtain an annual external audit of the finances of the South  
578 Carolina Student Legislature by a reputable external audit of the  
579 finances of the South Carolina Student Legislature by a reputable  
580 certified public accountant for so long as the budget continues to  
581 exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), or as long as the  
582 Executive Committee deems it necessary. The Auditor's Report  
583 shall be emailed to all chairs within two (2) days of its receipt and  
584 be presented and explained by the Comptroller General to the  
585 South Carolina Student Legislature General Assembly as the first  
586 order of business at the first joint session of the first full day of the  
587 next Fall or Spring Session. The audit report shall also be made  
588 available on the South Carolina Student Legislature website.  
589

**Article X  
Elections**

590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634

- Section 1.** Nominations for officers shall be taken in Joint Session by nomination from the floor. Nominations shall be taken until the close of the final Joint Session of the day prior to voting at Fall Session.
- Section 2.** The officers shall be elected by secret ballot and submitted to the Election and Awards Committee during the first joint session on the last day of session.
- Section 3.** The officers shall be elected by secret ballot, which shall be given to the chair of each delegation to be completed in accordance with such rules as may have been adopted by the delegation. The completed ballot shall be submitted to the Election and Awards Committee during the first joint session on the last day of the session as prescribed by the Election and Awards Committee.
- Section 4.** An officer shall be elected by a majority of the legal ballots cast.
- Section 5.** The Senate and the House of Representatives shall elect the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor.
- Section 6.** The Senate shall elect the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate.
- Section 7.** The House of Representatives shall elect the Speaker of the House and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House.
- Section 8.** The Chair of the Election and Awards Committee shall preside over the elections. In the event that the Chair of the Election and Awards Committee is running for office, he shall resign as Chair of the Election and Awards Committee, and the Governor shall appoint a replacement with the consent of the Executive Committee.
- Section 9.** The Elections shall be conducted as follows:
- A. All candidates shall be listed on an official election ballot(s) as deemed official by the Election and Awards Committee.
  - B. All Ballots shall be handed out to the respective delegation chairs following the last joint session of the session.
  - C. One ballot shall be given to each delegation chair for each member of that delegation, based on the number of votes assigned to that delegation in accordance with Article VI of this Constitution.

- 635 D. A delegate can only place his name on the ballot for a single  
636 office and cannot be listed more than once.  
637 E. The candidates will be listed on the Ballot in the order that  
638 their nominations are received by the assembly.  
639 F. Ballots which do not clearly identify the preference of the voter  
640 shall not be counted.

641  
642 **Article XI**  
643 **Discipline of Officers**  
644

- 645 **Section 1.** Any elected or appointed officer may be removed from office for  
646 the following:  
647 A. Failure to discharge the duties of his office;  
648 B. Behavior determined by the body to be demeaning to the  
649 integrity of the South Carolina Student Legislature.  
650
- 651 **Section 2.** Specific charges against the officer must be presented at any  
652 meeting of the Trial Committee. Upon a two-thirds vote of the  
653 present committee members, the officer in question shall be  
654 impeached.  
655
- 656 **Section 3.** The impeached officer shall remain in office and he shall have  
657 until the next meeting of the members to prepare a defense. The  
658 elected officers will determine the time between the two meetings  
659 thus stated. The officer in question will have a minimum of 72  
660 hours to prepare a defense.  
661
- 662 **Section 4.** Following impeachment charges, a hearing consisting of no less  
663 than 3/4 members, shall be held to consider all charges made  
664 against the impeached officer.  
665
- 666 **Section 5.** At the hearing all charges and evidence shall be brought forth in  
667 front of the Trial Committee. The impeached officer shall be  
668 afforded a maximum time allotted to deliver a defense, and shall  
669 have final remarks before a vote is taken.  
670
- 671 **Section 6.** Upon a 3/4 vote of the trial committee present, the impeached  
672 officer shall be removed from office.  
673
- 674 **Section 7.** Any vacancies created by the discipline of the Trial Committee  
675 shall be filled according to the method laid out in the Constitution  
676 of the South Carolina Student Legislature.  
677

678 **Article XII**  
679 **Awards**  
680

- 681 **Section 1.** The Carlisle Award is given annually at Fall Session in honor of  
682 the founder of the South Carolina Student Legislature, Dr. Douglas  
683 Carlisle. The Carlisle Award is awarded to the delegate or Officer  
684 who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, best represents the  
685 ideals of the South Carolina Student Legislature.  
686  
687
- 688 **Section 2.** The Best Senator Award is given annually at Fall Session to the  
689 Senator who shows himself to be an accomplished speaker and  
690 conscientious statesman. The Senators shall nominate candidates  
691 for the Best Senator Award and then each Senator shall cast one  
692 vote for one of the nominees. The Lieutenant Governor shall cast a  
693 vote in case of a tie. The Election and Awards Committee shall  
694 administer the ballots.  
695  
696
- 697 **Section 3.** The Best Representative Award is given annually at Fall Session to  
698 the Representative who shows himself to be an accomplished  
699 speaker and conscientious statesman. The Representatives shall  
700 nominate candidates for the Best Representative Award and then  
701 each Representative shall cast one vote for one of the nominees.  
702 The Speaker of the House shall cast a vote in case of a tie. The  
703 Election and Awards Committee shall administer the ballots.  
704
- 705 **Section 4.** The Best Legislation Award is given annually at Fall Session to the  
706 Author whose legislation, in the opinion of Election and Awards  
707 Committee, best manifests thorough research, topicality, and  
708 excellent use of language. The committee is not limited to bills  
709 presented to the House or Senate.  
710  
711
- 712 **Section 5.** The Best Delegation Award is given annually at Fall Session to the  
713 small, medium, and large delegations that, in the opinion of the  
714 Election and Awards Committee, best exemplified cohesion and  
715 activity.  
716 A. A small delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose  
717 school has a current population of 2,000 students or less.  
718 B. A medium delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose  
719 school has a current population between 2,001 and 8,000  
720 students.  
721 C. A large delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose  
722 school has a current population over 8,001 students.  
723
- 724 **Section 6.** The Chad M. Beatty Award is given annually at Fall Session to the  
725 outstanding non- officer senior as decided by the Elections and  
726 Awards Committee.

727  
728 **Section 7.** The Blake Alexander Campbell Memorial Award is given annually  
729 at Fall Session to a freshman Representative or Senator who, in the  
730 opinion of the Election and Awards Committee and the Executive  
731 Council, shows himself to be a positive representative for the  
732 future of SCSL through statesmanship, honor, courage, and  
733 integrity.  
734

735 **Section 8.** The Best Written Brief award is given annually at Fall Session to  
736 the delegate(s) who, in the opinion of the Justices of the Supreme  
737 Court, shows exceptional legal writing skills.  
738

739 **Section 9.** The Best Oral Argument award is given annually at Fall Session to  
740 the delegate(s) who, in the opinion of the Justices of the Supreme  
741 Court, shows excellent use of language skills, communication  
742 skills, and the art of advocacy.  
743

744 **Article XIII**  
745 **Parliamentary Authority**  
746

747 **Section 1.** The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of*  
748 *Order; Newly Revised* shall govern the South Carolina Student  
749 Legislature in all cases to which they are applicable and in which  
750 they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special  
751 rules this organization may adopt.  
752

753 **Section 2.** The parliamentary authority prescribed in their respective rules  
754 shall govern the Senate and House.  
755

756 **Article XIV**  
757 **Equality**  
758

759 **Section 1.** Any occurrence of pronouns throughout this document shall not be  
760 deemed gender specific.  
761

762 **Section 2.** No delegate shall be discriminated against in any way on the basis  
763 of gender, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
764 or age.  
765

766 **Article XV**  
767 **Amendment of the Constitution**  
768

769 **Section 1.** Any member may present amendments to the constitution at any  
770 meeting at either Fall or Spring Sessions.  
771

772 **Section 2.** Approved amendments must be ratified by two-thirds of the  
773 member delegations of the South Carolina Student Legislature.  
774 Upon approval, the Secretary of State shall declare such  
775 amendments to be in effect.

776  
777 **Article XVI**

778 **Preemption of Constitution and Bylaws**

779  
780 **Section 1:** Members of South Carolina Student Legislature are bound by the  
781 Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution shall hold precedence over the  
782 Bylaws in all matters. The Bylaws shall not preempt or supersede the  
783 Constitution.