

South Carolina Student Legislature

Fall Session 2015



“Our Freedom, Our Future, Our Responsibility”



Dear Delegates,

When I joined South Carolina Student Legislature in my freshman year, I never imagined it would have had such an impact on my life. My goal for this year is to afford each and every one of you opportunities to learn, grow, and develop as leaders and productive students. Accomplishing this goal as an organization will not be possible without you, your dedication, and your hard work.

I invite you to try at least one new thing this session. Whether that's presenting a bill in the General Assembly, watching an oral argument in the Supreme Court, or getting involved in other aspects of SCSL in a workshop, there are ways for every delegate to do something they have not done before. It is time for SCSL to become a fixture in South Carolina politics and education, and we *will* be able to do this, with your help.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee, the Office of the Governor (led by Cameron Dominy), my cabinet, and all who have committed so much time and effort towards making this session a success. Their creativity knows no bounds, and SCSL benefits from their dedication every day.

I cannot wait to see the heights to which SCSL will soar in 2015, and I thank you all in advance for the year to come.

Respectfully,

James N. McManus
Governor

South Carolina Student Legislature

Executive Committee 2015

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South Carolina Student Legislature

Cabinet 2015

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Supreme Court Chief Justice

Elliot Kelley
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Treasurer

Alexandra Arnold Bob
Jones University

Historian

John Fenton
The Citadel

Parliamentarian

Vacated

Comptroller General

Will Peek
Bob Jones University

Fundraising Chair

Kaitlyn Rogers
Charleston Southern University

South Carolina Student Legislature

Office of the Governor 2015

Chief of Staff

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Charleston Southern University

Director of Internal Affairs

Thomas Gironda
Clemson University

Governmental Affairs Director

Nichole Martinson
Clemson University

Upstate Regional Director

Carrie Hill
Erskine University

SC Legislature Liaison

Kiara Alverenga
North Greenville University

Midlands Regional Director

Julietta Marks
Coastal Carolina University

Communications Director

Margaret Stegall
Bob Jones University

Lower State Regional Director

Anne Lafond
College of Charleston

Press Secretary

Ettele Toole
Lander University

State Chaplain

Pedro Mateo
North Greenville University

Marketing Director

Samantha Courage
Charleston Southern University

Alumni Relations

TBD

South Carolina Student Legislature

Delegation Chairs 2015

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Margaret Stegall

The Citadel
Cody Ford

Charleston Southern University
Cameron Dominy

Clemson University
Bria Burke-Koskela

Coastal Carolina University
Julietta Marks

College of Charleston
Anne Lafond
Tavaris Jones

Erskine College
Kristen Irby

Francis Marion University
Christian Burris-Durham

Lander University
Kimberly Modica

North Greenville University
John Partin

Former Governors of South Carolina Student Legislature

Year	Governor	School	Miscellaneous Organizational Meeting
1956			
1957	Robert McNair	University of South Carolina	
1958	Robert Fogarty	Wofford College	
1959	Jim Creel	Clemson University	
1960	Jim Creel	Clemson University	
1961	William Scharchte*	Clemson University	James Truesdale (University of South Carolina)
1962	James Truesdale	University of South Carolina	
1963	Mike Daniel	University of South Carolina	
1964	Pete Levintis, III	The Citadel	
1965	William Youngblood	University of South Carolina	
1966	William Yarborough	Furman University	
1967	John Ellenburg	Clemson University	
1968	William McDougall	University of South Carolina	
1969	Huck Nelson*	Greenville Technical College	Barney Blackwell (University of South Carolina)
1970	John Linton	Wofford College	
1971	Edward Woodward	The Citadel	
1972	Polly Spann	University of South Carolina	
1973	Gerry Hough*	Clemson University	Sharon Davis (Winthrop University)
1974	Lee Atwater	Newberry College	
1975	James Hitch	University of South Carolina	
1976	Eugenia Bettis	North Greenville College	
1977	Alvin Roof	Newberry College	
1978	Lemuel Gray*	Trident Technical College	Davis Watson (Francis Marion University)
1979	Steve Columbia*	The Citadel	Wan Hipp (University of South Carolina)
1980	Laura Harris	University of South Carolina	
1981	Joey Hudson	Winthrop University	
1982	Joey Hudson	Winthrop University	
1983	Ricky Wade	University of South Carolina	
1984	Tony Snell	University of South Carolina	
1985	Tony Snell	University of South Carolina	
1986	Steven Neeves	Coastal Carolina University	
1987	Jody Styron	Erskine College	
1988	Tracy Johnson	Columbia College	
1989	Hamilton Nelson*	The Citadel	Janie Randall (Columbia College)
1990	Gardner Jackson	Furman University	
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	James Duke (Coastal Carolina University)
1996	Jennifer Graziano	Bob Jones University	
1997	Stuart Cate	The Citadel	
1998	Bryan Menees	University of South Carolina	
1999	Adrian Scott Frederic	Clemson University	
2000	Frederic Marcinak	The Citadel	
2001	Ashley Walters	Columbia College	
2002	Luke Frans	Bob Jones University	
2003	Joseph Opperman	University of South Carolina	
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	
2014	Matthew Thomas	Bob Jones University	

Refugee Resettlement
Presented By Kacey Nanney
Bob Jones University

Purpose: To stop the immigration of criminals.

Whereas, In 2014 nearly 70,000 refugees were living in the United States; and,

Whereas, The top cities for sending refugees are Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq; and,

Whereas, The refugees are taking over our cities and using our tax dollars; and,

Therefore, Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Section I: All refugees to enter the United States must have their background checks made accessible and pass a physical exam.

Section II: The refugees must also have proof of persecution.

Section V: State and local governments may have the right to refuse refugees.

Section VI: This bill will go into effect upon the signature of the Governor.

A Closed Primary Bill
Presented by: Elliott Kelley
Bob Jones University

- Purpose:** A bill to increase the legitimacy of primary elections by establishing closed primaries.
- Whereas,** Sixteen (16) states have closed primaries (these include Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, *Oklahoma*, Oregon, Pennsylvania, *South Dakota*, *Utah*, and Wyoming); and,
- Whereas,** Ten (10) states have semi-closed primaries (these include Alaska, Arizona, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, *Oklahoma*, Rhode Island, *South Dakota*, *Utah*, and West Virginia); and,
- Whereas,** Primary elections are for political parties to determine their candidate; and,
- Whereas,** Allowing non-party members to openly vote in the primary skews party results; and,
- Whereas,** Closed primaries support all political parties choosing the strongest candidate; and,
- Whereas,** Closed primaries do not disenfranchise voters.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in Fall Session here assembled that:
- Section I:** In a primary election, an elector is allowed to vote only in the primary of the political party in which he/she is registered.
- Section II:** The South Carolina Elections Commission shall be responsible for denoting, on voter registration cards, the elector's political party.
- Section III:** An elector shall denote their political party when they register to vote. An elector can change their political party through submitting a request to the South Carolina Elections Commission sixty (60) days prior to a primary election.
- Section IV:** This bill shall take effect after passage and signature of the governor and shall apply to primary elections in 2018.

A Bill
Presented by Hannah Zakaria
Bob Jones University

Purpose: To provide school choice through education savings accounts to low income families in South Carolina.

Whereas, Currently, South Carolina has an Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs children in effect.

Whereas, Additionally instituting education savings accounts for children in foster care, children of military personnel, and children assigned to low-performing district schools, will lead to meeting the needs and radically improving the education for many children

Whereas, By granting parents an avenue to gain complete control of their children's education, South Carolina will benefit and empower all students by providing parents the option to choose the best education for their children.

Whereas, Similar legislation has been implemented in several other states such as Mississippi, Tennessee, Nevada and Arizona.

Whereas, In Arizona, over 1,200 families have participated in the Education Savings Account program and membership is expected to double in the next year.

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

Section I: For the purpose of this bill, terms should be defined as follows.

- (1) 'Education Savings Account' shall be defined as a bank account with an accompanying debit card that contains the funds allotted the state's portion of a child's per-student funding.
- (2) 'Funds' shall be defined as the previously allotted amount of monies by the state of South Carolina, to pay for a variety of educational services for their children, including private school tuition, distance learning programs, tutoring, curriculum, therapy, post-secondary educational institutions in South Carolina, and other defined educational services.
- (3) 'Independent school' shall be defined as a school, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met and that does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. The school must be a member in good standing of South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, South Carolina Independent Schools Association, or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For purposes of this article, 'independent school' does not include a home where a parent or legal guardian teaches one or

more children as authorized pursuant to Sections 59-65-40, 59-65-45, or 59-65-47.

Section II: The program is limited to the registration of eligible students between the years of the K5-12th grade.

There shall be no enrollment cap and the individual accounts will be capped at 100 percent of the statewide average basic support per pupil. Schools enrolling students whose parents use ESA's will implement nationally normed standardized testing of its student body.

ESAs permit parents to withdraw their child from a public district or charter school and receive payment into an authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple, uses.

The funds shall specifically be used for the tuition and fees at an independent school, an online learning program, educational therapies or services, tutoring services, curricula, testing fees, contributions to a Coverdell Education Savings Account, tuition and fees at an eligible postsecondary institution, and bank fees charged for the management of an ESA.

The parents of the pupil must agree to sign ensuring that the student will receive instruction in a South Carolina independent school, post-secondary educational institution, a distance learning program, a tutor or tutoring agency, etc.

For students with special needs or those that live in families with incomes up to 100 percent of the free and reduced-price lunch program (\$44,863 for a family of four in 2015–16), annual account payments may be worth 100 percent of the statewide average basic support per pupil (~\$5,700). For all other students, annual account payments shall have a value worth 90 percent of the statewide average basic support per pupil (~\$5,100).

Upon meeting qualifications, the state treasurer will deposit 90 percent of the funds allotted per pupil into an Education Savings Account with an accompanying debit card. Parents shall use online payment services such as PayPal to make those academic purchases.

Funds shall rollover from year to year and at the time of the pupil's high school graduation, remaining funds may be used to cover to their college or university education in the state of South Carolina.

Section III: The eligibility requirements for pupils stipulate:

(1) Legal resident of South Carolina;

(2) Enrolled in K5-12th grade;

- 91 (3) Must attend a public school for a minimum of 100 days
92 (4) The parents or legal guardians of the pupils must deem that academic
93 institution is inadequate to meet their student's needs

94
95 **Section IV:** This bill takes effect upon approval and passage by the General Assembly and
96 signature of the Governor.
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A Bill
Presented By Margaret Stegall
Bob Jones University

- Purpose:** To reform amend statutory law prohibiting families with 5 or more children from fostering.
- Whereas,** There are over 3,000 children in foster care in South Carolina;
- Whereas,** The foster care system already has a detailed screening process;
- Whereas,** Not all parents of five or more children still have all their children living at home;
- Whereas,** Parents of many children have experience raising children;
- Whereas,** Currently only 13.1% of foster kids are adopted out of foster care;
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session here assembled the following:
- Section I:** Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Title 43; Section 20-7-852) Subarticle 5-D-6 a.) Strike: ~~A foster home shall not be licensed for more than five (5) children, including the foster parents' own children and/or other children who are household members unless SCDSS or child placing agency is keeping siblings together or the placement has been court ordered.~~
- Section II:** Foster parent status will still be granted on a case-by-case basis and foster homes are still subject to review by the Department of Social Services before gaining approval.
- Section VI:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016 upon passage by the General Assembly the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented By Nate Hudson
Bob Jones University

- Purpose:** To provide a stable residence for homeless individuals.
- Whereas,** In 2014 there were 5,040 homeless people in SC; and,
- Whereas,** The average annual cost to SC for one homeless person is \$17,550; and,
- Whereas,** SC does not currently provide stable housing; and,
- Whereas,** Stable housing encourages an overall decline in homelessness; and,
- Whereas,** Housing would cost the homeless individual the greater of either 1) \$50 per month, or 2) 30% of the resident's monthly income; and,
- Whereas,** Possible total savings for federal and state governments combined are close to \$60 million; and,
- Whereas,** Utah has had significant success using this method; and,
- Therefore,** Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:
- Section I:** Stable, low-cost housing will be provided for homeless individuals in South Carolina with pre-existing yearly allotted federal and state funds.
- Section II:** This bill will go into effect upon the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Nikki Arnold
Bob Jones University

Purpose: To lower South Carolina's domestic violence rates.

Whereas, South Carolina ranked first in 2015 for domestic violence against women and has been one of the top ten states for domestic violence since 2000; and,

Whereas, this bill contributes to lowering the domestic violence rates through the establishment of a provision for lease termination due to domestic violence.

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

Section I: The following will be added as **Section 16-25-130** of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

A. A tenant may terminate a rental agreement pursuant to this section if the tenant provides to the landlord written notice pursuant to this section that the tenant is the victim of domestic violence as defined in South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-25-10. The tenant's rights and obligations under the rental agreement are terminated and the tenant shall vacate the dwelling and avoid liability for future rent and shall not incur early termination penalties or fees if the tenant provides to the landlord a written notice requesting release from the rental agreement with a mutually agreed on release date within the next thirty days, accompanied by any one of the following:

1. A copy of any protective order issued pursuant to 16-25-10 to a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence. A landlord may also request a receipt or signed statement that the order of protection has been submitted to an authorized officer of a court for service.

2. A copy of a written departmental report from a law enforcement agency that states that the tenant notified the law enforcement agency that the tenant was a victim of domestic violence.

B. A landlord may request from the victim the name and address of the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section, in writing, if known by the victim.

C. The tenant may terminate the rental agreement pursuant to this section only if the actions, events or circumstances that resulted in the tenant

being a victim of domestic violence as defined in South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-25-10 occurred within the thirty day period immediately preceding the written notice of termination to the landlord, unless waived by the landlord.

D. If the tenant terminates the rental agreement as prescribed by this section and if the tenant is solely or jointly liable on the rental agreement, the tenant is liable only for rent owed or paid through the date of the lease termination plus any previous obligations outstanding on that date. The amount due from the tenant shall be paid to the landlord on or before the date the tenant vacates the dwelling. If the tenant has prepaid rent that would apply for the month in which the lease is terminated, the landlord may retain the prepaid rent and no refund is due to the tenant. If the tenant has paid a security deposit pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-25-10, the security deposit shall not be withheld for the early termination of the lease if the tenant meets the requirements prescribed by subsection A of this section, but may be withheld for payment of damages which the landlord has suffered by reason of the tenant's noncompliance with.

E. A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence may require the landlord to install a new lock to the tenant's dwelling if the tenant pays for the cost of installing the new lock. A landlord may comply with this requirement by doing either of the following:

1. Rekeying the lock if the lock is in good working condition.
2. Replacing the entire locking mechanism with a locking mechanism of equal or better quality than the lock being replaced.

F. A landlord who installs a new lock at the tenant's request may retain a copy of the key that opens the new lock. Notwithstanding any provision in the rental agreement, the landlord may refuse to provide a key that opens the new lock to the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section.

G. A landlord shall refuse to provide access to the dwelling to reclaim property to any tenant if the tenant is the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section who has been served with an order of protection naming that tenant as the defendant and the landlord has received a copy of the order of protection, unless a law enforcement officer escorts the tenant into and out of the dwelling.

H. A tenant who terminates a lease pursuant to this section and who is convicted of falsely filing a departmental report or order or protection for

domestic violence is liable to the landlord for treble damages for premature termination of the lease.

I. A person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section who provokes an early lease termination under this section is deemed to have interfered with the residential rental agreement between the landlord and tenant regardless of whether the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section is a party to the rental agreement, and the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section may be civilly liable for all economic losses incurred by a landlord for the domestic violence early lease termination. This civil liability includes unpaid rent, early lease termination fees, costs to repair damage to the premises and any reductions or waivers of rent previously granted to the tenant who was the victim of domestic violence.

J. If there are multiple tenants who are parties to a rental agreement that has been terminated under this section, the tenancy for those tenants also terminates. The tenants who are not the victims of domestic violence, excluding the person named in an order of protection or a departmental report pursuant to subsection A of this section that caused the termination of the lease pursuant to this section, may be released from any financial obligations due under the previously existing rental agreement and the remaining tenants may be permitted to enter into a new lease with the landlord if the tenants meet all current application requirements.

K. An emergency order of protection or a protective order that is issued to a resident of a rental property automatically applies to the entire residential rental property in which the tenant has a rental agreement.

L. This section shall not be construed to limit a landlord's right to terminate a lease against the victim for actions unrelated to the act of domestic violence.

M. A landlord is not liable for any actions taken in good faith pursuant to this section.

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

A Bill
Presented By Samuel Martinez
Bob Jones University

- Purpose:** To make South Carolina roads safer by requiring motor vehicle inspections
- Whereas,** 17 states already have either an annual or biannual mandated vehicle safety inspections including other tests; and,
- Whereas,** Only 11 states including South Carolina do not have any type of automobile inspections; and,
- Whereas,** Drivers can drive assured and confident that their car is fit for the road; and,
- Whereas,** Inspections can save driver's money in the long run as small defects can be identified and rectified before they become major issues. Well maintained vehicles run more efficiently; and,
- Therefore,** Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:
- Section I:** Vehicle safety inspections shall be required before the sale and or transfer of all used vehicles,
- Section II:** Vehicle safety inspections shall also be required on all privately owned cars
- Section III:** Safety inspections shall be conducted biannually
- Section IV:** Brand new vehicles shall receive an inspection valid for two years,
- Section V:** Emergency vehicles, school vehicles, rental cars, and vehicles used in public transportation must be inspected every six months,
- Section VI:** Each safety inspection shall examine mechanical, safety, and appearance aspects, such as the vehicle's tires, frame, suspension, glass, lights, brakes, radiator, hoses, belts, fluids, battery, body condition, and exterior surface,
- Section VII:** The Department of Motor Vehicles shall appoint a committee in order to create a standardized application process for automobile shops to become state approved centers to conduct safety inspections on vehicles,
- Section VIII:** All costs of these safety inspections shall not exceed that of \$75.00
- Section IX:** This bill will take effect after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented By Seth Sanders
Bob Jones University

- Purpose:** To improve the overall quality of life for inmates serving sentences in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.
- Whereas** The health of inmates is jeopardized given the current circumstances of prisons in South Carolina; and,
- Whereas** The annual increase in spending on prisons (.37%) over the last thirty years is less than one-sixth of the annual inflation rate (2.75%) over that same period of time; and,
- Whereas** As pointedly revealed in the court case of *T.R., P.R., and K.P. v. The South Carolina Department of Corrections*, there are definitive flaws in the manner in which the South Carolina Department of Corrections handles its inmates (including, but not limited to, undernourishment); and,
- Whereas** The general nourishment of inmates serving sentences in the South Carolina Department of Corrections has been found to be unsatisfactory.
- Therefore,** be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:
- Section I:** funds for the South Carolina Department of Corrections shall be raised to the ratio that was current in 1992, which is \$34.06 per inmate per day, \$12,467 per year, adjusted for inflation. Factoring inflation, given the parameter proposed, the budget would be \$57.85 per inmate per day and \$21,115 per year in 2015. This would constitute a raise of \$3.80 per inmate per day and \$1,387 per inmate per year.
- Section II:** Beginning in the year in which this bill shall be passed, and in each subsequent year, inflation shall be evaluated and the budget for each inmate shall be adjusted accordingly.
- Section III:** The potential increase in spending on inmates shall be used to the improvement of said inmates. Specifically, the following improvements shall be enacted with the new plan:
- 1.) The primary goal shall be to improve the overall dietary plan of inmates, with the specific goal of increasing fiber, potassium, magnesium, and Vitamin E, and decreasing sodium intake.
- Section IV:** The potential increase in spending each year shall be managed by the South Carolina Department of Correction, and the funding shall be provided by an increase in annual appropriation for the department.
- Section V:** This bill will go into effect upon approval of the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented By William Peek
Bob Jones University

Purpose: To eliminate daily entrance fees at South Carolina state parks for state residents.

Whereas, daily entrance fees deter the usage of state parks.

Whereas, 18% of states do not charge a daily entrance fee.

Whereas, this idea has been adopted by states such as Kentucky, Iowa, Illinois, and Hawaii.

Whereas, eliminating daily entrance fees will give state residents incentive to visit state parks.

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

Section I: Definitions

- 1) Entrance Fee:** amount of money paid in order to be allowed into a state park
- 2) Resident:** Individual in possession of a South Carolina driver's license.
- 3) Daily:** Use of the park during daylight hours. This does not include camping overnight.

Section II: Provisions

Any resident of South Carolina will be allowed to enter all state parks without paying a fee for daily use. All non-residents will be required to pay daily entrance fees.

Section III: Requirements

- a)** Individuals must be in possession of a South Carolina Drivers License.

Section IV: These guidelines will be added to the South Carolina Code of Laws Title 51 Chapter 3 Section 51-3-65

Section V: This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016 upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Chad Williams
The Citadel

- Purpose:** To lower statewide obesity rates by instituting an excise tax on artificially sweetened beverages.
- Whereas,** Excessive sugar consumption has been shown to have a direct correlation with obesity rates; and,
- Whereas,** South Carolina is the 10th most obese state in the Nation with 32.2% of the population medically obese; and,
- Whereas,** Obesity is linked to a number of diseases including but not limited to:
- Heart Disease
 - Diabetes
 - Gallbladder Disease
 - Stroke
 - High Blood Pressure
- Whereas,** Up to a quarter of all deaths recorded in South Carolina are caused by diseases shown to have a direct correlation with obesity.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** This bill creates an excise tax on all commercially sold artificially sweetened beverages whereas each 16oz of beverage sold shall carry a tax of \$1.
- Section II:** Businesses based in the state of South Carolina that also produce and bottle their product within the state of South Carolina shall be exempt from said tax.
- Section III:** This act shall go into effect on June 1, 2016, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented by Cody Sims
The Citadel**

Purpose: To require all retail stores to create and advertise at-store recycling programs to recycle their customers' plastic bags and to offer reusable bags for sale as an alternative to plastic bags.

Whereas, California, Delaware, The District of Columbia, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, and neighboring North Carolina have all taken initiative by passing similar legislation; and,

Whereas, Litter has been causing a problem in this state and the country for years, and plastic bags from retail stores tremendously add to the problem; and,

Whereas, By requiring large retailers to create recycling programs and sell reusable bags, the South Carolinian government would make it easier for the citizens of its state to keep the environment clean.

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

Section I: All large retailers must establish an at-store recycling program and must maintain a record of returned and recycled plastic bags. The program must be advertised to all customers in some form or fashion.

Section II: Plastic bags must have a recycling logo clearly printed on them by the retailer, and all retailers must make reusable bags available to customers for purchase.

Section III: Reusable grocery bags sold to customers at the point of sale must be made by a certified producer and meet certain criteria with regard to the bag's durability, material, labeling and heavy metal content. These producers must be "certified" by a third party certification entity, as specified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and must give proof of this certification to the department.

Section IV: This act shall go into effect on January 1, 2016, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by John Putnam and Garrett Pinckney
The Citadel

Purpose: To allocate more intensive funding in the wake of the recent dam failures in The Midlands to intensify inspections throughout the state as to hopefully Prevent such widespread damage in the future.

Whereas, current inspection rules are very vague and without proper guidelines,

Whereas, as of writing this bill the cost of life from the flooding is estimated at fifteen and The loss of money and property is currently at 1 billion and rising,

Whereas, something of this nature could have been widely prevented had it been for proper inspections and update of old infrastructure,

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

Section II: Declaration of purpose. It is the purpose of this article to provide for the certification and inspection of certain dams in South Carolina in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare in order to reduce the risk of failure of the dams, prevent injuries to persons and damage to property, and confer upon the department the regulatory authority to accomplish the purposes.

Section IV: This act shall go into effect on January 1, 2015, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by: Montana L. Harvill and Briggs A. Smith
The Citadel

- Purpose:** To prohibit smoking inside all work areas and food service establishments.
- Whereas,** Smoking leads to health issues. For adults these include: stroke, heart disease, lung cancer as well as other issues,
- Whereas,** Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke for children, can have negative effects that are more severe than the effects on the adults,
- Whereas,** The average radius affected from smoking is up to 20 ft. Within this radius could be pregnant women, young children, or newborn infants,
- Whereas,** Second hand smoke causes about 3,400 lung cancer deaths and at least 35,000 deaths due to heart disease that was caused by secondhand smoke each year,
- Whereas,** The inhalation of smoke by a mother who is pregnant could cause the infant to be born underweight or with SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome).
- Therefore,** Be it enacted in the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:**
- (O) Smoking within the confines of any work area or food service establishment be prohibited. Punishments Include:
 - (1) First time offender: CI: 100 dollar fine.
 - (2) Repeat offender: Misdemeanor: 200 dollar fine.
 - (3) Noncompliance from food service establishment or workplace owner: 1000 dollar fine.
- Section II:** (P) Cigar bars and tobacco specialty retail stores are exempt from this law.
- Section III:** Compliance by food service operators and business owners with this law will be determined by the following:
- 1. Posting clear and conspicuous “no smoking” signs at each entrance where smoking is prohibited under this act.
 - 2. Informing individuals who are in violation of this act that they are in violation to state law and subject to penalties.
 - 3. Refusing service to any individual in violation of this act .
 - 4. Removing any smoking paraphernalia from areas subject to this act.
 - 5. Asking any individual in violation of this act to refrain from smoking and, if he or she continues to smoke in in violation, by asking the individual to leave.
- Section IV:** This act shall take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, after passage by the general assembly and the signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented by Seth Brock
The Citadel**

- Purpose:** To implement and uphold hate crime laws in the state of South Carolina;
- Whereas,** South Carolina is 1 of just 5 other states that do not have hate crime laws of some kind; and,
- Whereas,** The FBI reported that in 2013, 51 cases of hate crimes were committed within the state, with 33 of them being racially motivated; and,
- Whereas,** Most recently, the lack of a hate crime statute has restricted the charges that the state of South Carolina could have charged the suspect of the “Charleston Nine” shooting with.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section 1:** This bill will allow for “penalty enhancement” or use of “discretionary sentencing” by a judge in hate crime trial rulings.
- Section 2:** A hate crime will be defined as “criminal acts motivated by prejudice or intolerance and directed toward a member of gender, racial, religious or social group.”
- Section 3:** The prosecution must be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was motivated by race, color, gender, national origin or religion.
- Section 4:** This act shall go into effect on January 1st, 2016, after passage by the General Assembly and signature by the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Timothy Holt
The Citadel

Purpose: To give people the freedom to make their own decisions by not requiring seatbelts to be worn.

Whereas, It is a violation of a person's freedom. Seatbelts are there if a person chooses to wear one, and those who want to can wear their seatbelt, but those who don't want to shouldn't be forced to wear one; and,

Whereas, It is an oppressive money generator, not for the purpose of keeping the people safe but rather for the purpose of supplementing revenues; and,

Whereas, It is not reasonable, because there are some states that don't even require helmets to be worn when riding motorcycles.

Therefore, Be it enacted in the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following in 2015:

Section I: Drivers will be held responsible for the people in the car if they are injured in a wreck due to not wearing a seat belt and will be fined according to a sum deemed suitable by the state.

Section II: If the person is riding in a public transportation vehicle or a transportation service that requires one to wear the seat belt then the person has follow those requirements.

Section III: People will have to comply with other state laws about seat belts if driving or riding in another state, this bill only has power in South Carolina.

Section IV: If there aren't seat belts in the car then the person isn't required to get them installed, it is up to the person to decide.

Section V: If the person has a job that requires him or her to wear a seat belt then that person has too, this law doesn't exempt people from company's regulations or rules.

Section VI: This act shall take effect at the beginning of the next year, after passage by the general assembly and the signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented by W. Blake Duke
The Citadel**

- Purpose:** To make marriage no longer state regulated or affiliated.
- Whereas,** People who wish to be jointly seen under the law may do so under partnership laws; and,
- Whereas,** Marriage in a religion shall be based on the bylaws of that religion and no longer be licensed by the state; and,
- Whereas,** Those with existing marriage licenses may maintain the provisions given under current state law; and,
- Whereas,** A “divorce” or annulment shall be treated as the dissolving of a contract if they are united under the laws of this state. The issue of the divorce in the religious entity shall be handled by the entity and is not an issue of the state.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** This Bill removes Title 20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.
- Section II:** People in the State of South Carolina who wish to be joined under the law for any reason who are “married” under a religion may receive a partnership contract from a person authorized to conduct a ceremony as laid out in Section 20-1-20, which will include a name-change request.
- Section III:** Anyone who wishes to be joined under the law for any reason may join in a partnership just as those who are conducting business or owning property do.
- Section IV:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature 22 of the Governor.

A Resolution
Proposed by Bria Burke-Koskela
Clemson University

- Purpose:** To reexamine the unitary status of school districts in South Carolina to ensure integration in all schools.
- Whereas,** The desegregation effort started by the Supreme Court case *Brown v. The Board of Education* was meant to ensure desegregation in all schools in the United States; and,
- Whereas,** In the 1968 Supreme Court case *Board of Education of Oklahoma City v. Dowell*, the Court ruled that for a school district to have “Unitary Status,” or be released from desegregation orders, it must have eliminated the vestiges of desegregation “to the extent practicable;” and,
- Whereas,** This 1968 decision has significantly lowered the expectations of unitary status schools; and,
- Whereas,** One of the main reasons that schools are still so segregated in South Carolina is because of the ways district lines are drawn to foster “community schools,” with neighborhoods separated by color; and,
- Whereas,** It is very hard to prove that school districts are racially divided when they are divided by neighborhoods and not by de jure segregation laws; and,
- Whereas,** Currently, 15 school districts in South Carolina remain under a court order for desegregation, and have therefore not achieved unitary status; and,
- Whereas,** Of the 15 schools districts under court order for desegregation, only 6 have been showing efforts to desegregate their schools; and,
- Whereas,** The 19 school districts that do have unitary status are no longer under the impression that they must continue to strive for integrated classrooms; and,
- Whereas,** It has been proven that integrating children in the classroom substantially prepares them to work well with people that are different than them later in life; and,
- Whereas,** The desegregation issue is seen as a taboo topic for legislators, and as a result has become a topic that is never discussed or remedied.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

- 47 **Section I:** Form a committee to investigate ways to instill further integration in South
48 Carolina’s public schools. This can be done in a number of ways, such as
49 consolidating school districts, altering boundaries of school districts,
50 providing transportation, and creating financial or other incentives to
51 encourage more integration.
52
- 53 **Section II:** Have the committee created in Section I redefine the line “to the extent
54 practicable” from the *Dowell* Supreme Court case to have more explicit
55 and specific guidelines as to what makes a school district effectively
56 desegregated.
57
- 58 **Section III:** Have the committee created in Section I reexamine all school districts in
59 the state according to the new guidelines created in Section II.

**A Bill
Presented By Hanna Hiel
Clemson University**

- Purpose:** To outlaw “puppy mill” businesses in the state of South Carolina.
- Whereas,** Many puppy mills in South Carolina are unlicensed to breed; and
- Whereas,** Due to lax animal cruelty laws, breeders are traveling to South Carolina to profit from large-scale breeding, preferring quantity and profit over quality and care for the animals; and
- Whereas,** Licensed breeding facilities should be subject to inspection; and
- Whereas,** Stricter spaying and neutering policies for animal shelters have been a topic of discussion brought on by South Carolina Senator Greg Humbree; and
- Whereas,** Animal cruelty is occurring in puppy mills, which violates South Carolina cruelty statutes Code 1976 § 47-1-10-210 and Code 1976 § 16-15-120.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session:
- Section I:** Pet owners will be required to register as breeders, reporting the number of female dogs.
- Section II:** Registration is accompanied by a fee of \$100 to provide for enforcement of this bill.
- Section III:** Registration can be done at the DMV for purpose of ease.
- Section IV:** Inspections of accommodations take place to ensure animal cruelty is not occurring. Inspections include shelter standards, nutrition, and medical standards as well. Consequences may occur for failed inspections:
- (1) 1st warning: pet owner given one month to fix problems
 - (2) 2nd warning: animals are removed from owner’s care and placed in shelters, and pet owner is fined to pay for animals’ accommodations
 - (3) When an inspection of the facilities is passed, the pet owners can then re-apply for registration
- Section V:** Spaying and neutering policies will be enforced, as well as policies for euthanizing animals
- (1) Overpopulation of puppies comes with a fine, depending on the amount of puppies in the litter(s)
 - (2) Facilities with over 25 animals will face a fine

47 (3) Euthanizing an animal in an overpopulated puppy mill comes with both a fine
48 of \$200 and possible imprisonment of 2 years.
49

50 **Section III:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage in General Assembly and
51 signature of the Governor.

**A Resolution
Presented By Justin Smith
Clemson University**

Purpose: To encourage the use of renewable energy through providing tax subsidies for the installation and purchase of residential solar panels

Whereas, The renewable energy industry is growing and creating thousands of jobs; and,

Whereas, There is an unlimited amount of solar energy available; and,

Whereas, The average cost of a residential solar power system is \$10,000; and,

Whereas, The average residential savings is \$811 per year; and,

Whereas, The state of South Carolina currently offers no subsidy incentives for renewable; and,

Whereas, The state of South Carolina's current overall rating for solar energy is a "D".

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

Section I: That the state of South Carolina Department of Revenue issue subsidies for the purchase and installation of residential solar panels including those of rental properties for up to \$1,500 from the general fund.

Section II: This resolution will expire after 2 fiscal years.

Section III: This resolution shall go into effect immediately after passage by the General Assembly and signature by the Governor.

A Bill
Proposed by Kenna Gardner
Clemson University

- Purpose:** To set a law in South Carolina that requires disabled workers minimum pay rate to equal that of the federal minimum wage.
- Whereas,** The state of South Carolina currently recognizes and issues Fair Labor Standard Act Section 14 (c) certificates; and,
- Whereas,** Section 14 (c) of the Fair Labor Standard Act allows businesses and organizations to apply for a special wage certificate, which permits subminimum wages for disabled workers; and,
- Whereas,** This law was originally passed to help disabled workers excel; and,
- Whereas,** Was originally meant to give incentive to “for-profit” organizations to hire workers with disabilities; and,
- Whereas,** The National Federation of the Blind states that less than 5% of all certificate holders are “for-profit” organizations; and,
- Whereas,** Earlier this year, New Hampshire States Legislature passed State Bill 47 that allows a sheltered workshop to apply for a special authorization for subminimum wage under the labor commission; and,
- Whereas,** In 2012, the National Council on Disability Committee concluded that the 1930s law needs to be phased out; and,
- Whereas,** They also stated that discrimination was inevitable under the current system because the service systems were based on a charity model rather than empowerment and self-determination; and,
- Whereas,** According to a 2001 Government Accountability Office investigation, sheltered workshops are ineffective in transitioning disabled workers because only 5% of sheltered workshop employees left to take a job in the community; and,
- Whereas,** Paying subminimum wage breeds a sense of reliance on government assistance programs; and,
- Whereas,** By removing the allowance of these certificates, companies would be forced to stop using disabled workers to their benefit while not affording the workers the ability to grow.

47 **Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular
48 session assembled the following:
49
50 **Section I:** The State of South Carolina shall not longer accept nor issue Fair
51 Labor Standard Act Section 14(c) certificates.
52
53 **Section II:** In order to ensure the employment of disabled workers, 5% of all
54 employees will be disabled workers.
55
56 **Section III:** This bill shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and
57 signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Rachel Miga
Clemson University

- Purpose:** To place a ban on conversion therapy and all sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts by a therapist or mental health provider.
- Whereas,** The American Psychological Association has recognized that being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, or defect; and,
- Whereas,** The American Psychological Association removed homosexuality and Gender Identity Disorder from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders in the years 1973 and 2013, respectively; and,
- Whereas,** Such sexual orientation and gender identity conversion efforts pose major health risks to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people including anger, anxiety, confusion, depression, grief, guilt, hopelessness, deteriorated relationships with family, loss of social support, loss of faith, poor self-image, social isolation, intimacy difficulties, intrusive imagery, suicidal ideation, self-hatred, and sexual dysfunction, as stated in the American Psychological Association's Resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Definitions:
- 1) "Sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts," (also know as "aversion therapy" or "conversion therapy") is defined as any practices that seek to change any individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex by a mental health provider.
 - 2) "Sexual orientation change efforts" do not include psychotherapies that
 - a) provide social support, acceptance, the facilitation of a client's coping, and identity development and exploration; or
 - b) intervene to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; or,
 - c) do not seek to change sexual orientation.
- Section II:** Under no circumstances should a mental health provider provide any sexual orientation and gender identity efforts with a patient under 18 years old.
- Section III:** It is considered unprofessional conduct if a mental health provider attempts any sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts attempted on a patient under the age of 18 and shall result in the mental health provider being disciplined by the licensing entity.
- Section IV:** This bill shall go into effect upon passage of the General Assembly and the signature of the governor.

A Bill
Proposed by Rohith Chari
Clemson University

- Purpose:** To combat childhood obesity rates by making physical education a required subject in all grades for all students in public schools or state charter schools by licensed teachers, certified in physical education, in order to promote the physical well-being of the students.
- Whereas,** In South Carolina, 17.7% of children are considered overweight and 21.5% of children are classified as obese, ranking second in childhood obesity rates behind Mississippi (21.7%); and,
- Whereas,** In 2007, South Carolina had an obese index of 15.3%, representing an increase of 6.2% over eight years; and,
- Whereas,** The state of South Carolina currently ranks first in the number of strokes, third in heart disease, eighth in hypertension rates and tenth in diabetes rates; and,
- Whereas,** Obesity is one of the biggest drivers of preventable chronic diseases and healthcare costs in the United States, estimates currently range from \$147 billion to \$210 billion per year; and,
- Whereas,** Specific physical education requirements are only mandated to elementary school, allowing local school districts to determine requirements for middle and high school creating discrepancies across the state.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Students in elementary schools shall participate in physical education for at least 150 minutes during each school week.
- Section II:** Students in middle and high schools shall participate for at least 225 minutes per week.
- Section III:** The state will implement student assessment in physical education every year in grades 1-12, evaluating the performance of motor skills, physical fitness levels, knowledge of physical education content, participation in physical activity outside of class, personal and social responsibility in physical education. The results of the assessment should be integrated into the district or school's long-term strategic planning, School Improvement Plan, or school wellness policy.

50
51 **Section V:** This bill shall go in effect immediately upon passage by the General
52 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented By Thomas Gironda
Clemson University**

- Purpose:** To legalize casinos, gambling, and sports betting for persons over the age of 18 in the state of South Carolina, therefore striking the entirety of Chapter 19 from Section 1 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, relating to offenses dealing with gambling.
- Whereas,** Gambling had been largely restricted in the United States up until the early 21st century; and,
- Whereas,** In 2007, gambling activities generated gross revenues (the difference between the total amounts wagered minus the funds or "winnings" returned to the players) of \$92.27 billion in the United States; and,
- Whereas,** Commercial casinos provided 354,000 jobs, as well as state and local tax revenues of \$5.2 billion as of 2006; and,
- Whereas,** A lottery is still technically illegal in the state of South Carolina but the local, state, and federal governments all still allow it to occur in the form of the Education Lottery; and,
- Whereas,** Gambling is a highly profitable illegal activity that occurs regardless of the law, so the government should legalize and regulate it to be able to generate tax dollars; and,
- Whereas,** Cities in counties or states that legalize gambling become popular destinations for both tourists and investors.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session:
- Section I:** Chapter 19 of Section 16 of the South Carolina Code of Laws shall be stricken in its entirety, relating to all laws that dictate the illegality of lotteries, gambling, casinos, or sports betting.
- Section II:** The South Carolina state Parks, Recreation, and Tourism department will be in charge of overseeing all foundations of gambling sites.
- Section III:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage in General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented By Zach Talley
Clemson University**

- Purpose:** To give a tax break to businesses that provide 2-8 weeks of paid leave to their employees
- Whereas,** The cost of living continues to increase in the country while employers often cannot afford to increase wages and;
- Whereas,** Families are having to spend more time apart while both parents work, and;
- Whereas,** This can be detrimental to the family unit, specifically children, and;
- Whereas,** A voluntary tax program could provide incentive and financial security for businesses to give paid leave to their employees, and;
- Whereas,** Paid time away from work would provide an opportunity for extra spending by citizens creating additional economic lift in the state:
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** That an amendment be made to the “South Carolina Tax Code” so that any business that provides between two and eight weeks of paid leave to employees may take a deduction against their State of South Carolina taxable income of up to twenty five percent of the amount the employee will cost the company during paid leave.
- Section II:** This bill shall go into effect immediately after passage by the General Assembly and signature by the Governor.
- Section III:** This bill shall expire in two years without a continuing resolution provided by the South Carolina Legislature.

Unmanned Aviation Act
Presented By Brandon McGrew
Charleston Southern University

Purpose: To permit and provide stipulations for the use of unmanned aircraft (commonly known as drones) in the state of South Carolina.

Whereas, The Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights states, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, 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 person or things to be seized.

Whereas, This act would adhere here to Supreme Court rulings such as *Kyllo v. the United States* and *California v. Ciraolo*.

Whereas, The use of drones is a tool for law enforcement to gather information and evidence through picture and sound.

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

Section I: The use of drones shall be permitted by a local, state, or federal agency if they have received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Section II: The use of these drones shall adhere to the rulings of the Supreme Court.

Section III: Drones shall be permitted to operate for local, state, and federal law enforcement use once they have reasonable suspicion, for gathering evidence, and for training purposes.

Section IV: Drones shall be permitted to operate for educational purposes by educators and students that have been cleared by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Section V: This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by the Governor.

A Bill
Presented By Hunter Nieto and Corey Addy
Charleston Southern University

Purpose: To allow motor vehicle occupants a greater extent of individual liberty as it pertains to safety belts.

Whereas, Individual choice is a facet that is essential to the function of our democracy.

Whereas, The citizen is the one who best knows how to protect themselves, not the government.

Whereas, Communities shall benefit more from improved implementation of law enforcement.

Whereas, The revenue from safety belt violations is microscopic in regards to the states total revenue.

Whereas, The revenue lost from this proposed bill shall be made up from the enforcement of harsher crimes.

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

Section I: 56-5-6520 Reads: ~~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.~~

Section II: Any motor vehicle occupant 16 years or older posses the right to abstain from the wearing of a safety belt.

Section III: Any occupant aged 15 years or younger must wear a fastened safety belt or be secured in a child restraint system as provided in Article 47 of chapter 5.

Section IV: A driver is not responsible for any occupant 16 years of age or older in any respect, or 15 years of age or younger who has a driver's license, or beginner's permit and who is not wearing a safety belt.

- 48 **Section V:** Any motor vehicle, other than those noted in Section 56-5-6530, with three
49 or more occupants requires all occupants to wear a fastened safety belt.
50
- 51 **Section VI:** Any motor vehicle absent a hardtop roof requires all occupants to wear a
52 fastened safety belt.
53
- 54 **Section VII:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the
55 South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.
56

A Bill
Presented By Kasen Dai Wysong
Charleston Southern University

- Purpose:** To restructure and simplify the tax system.
- Whereas,** Individuals in the current top bracket are paying income taxes exceeding the rate at which their own wages increase; this change in the income tax rate will lessen the burden and stimulate economic growth.
- Whereas,** The amount of income at which the highest tax rates begin has only increased by about \$3,500 since 1959 (a 33.5% increase). Comparatively, the cumulative inflation rate has increased by a staggering 705.89%. By properly adjusting to CPI growth, the new top tax rate would come into effect with incomes ranging from \$15,000 and over for couples, and \$7,000 and over for singles.
- Whereas,** South Carolina possesses a high marginal income tax rate, which looks unattractive to entrepreneurs, potential residents, and current residents; ultimately, the tax rate is harmful to commerce, the economy, and businesses.
- Whereas,** There are six brackets in the South Carolina tax system; simplifying the bracket system so that there are only three brackets would be beneficial to residents and entrepreneurs alike.
- Whereas,** The tax revenue will actually increase because there will be less deadweight loss from business owners; labor costs will decrease and more laborers could potentially be hired due to the increase in profit; spending will increase because of the growth in profits and this will increase the level of economic activity.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** The amendment of Article V, SECTION 12-6-510, so that it properly adjusts the bracket system to CPI growth, so that instead of a top bracket tax rate of 7% starting at \$14,400, there is a 6% tax rate beginning at an income equal to or greater than \$15,00 for couples and \$7,000 for singles.
- Section II:** The amendment of Article V, SECTION 12-6-510 so that it adjusts the bracket system for a second highest tax bracket starting at a 5% rate and beginning at an income equal to or greater than \$10,000 for couples and \$5,000 for singles.
- Section III:** The amendment of Article V, SECTION 12-6-510 so that it adjusts the bracket system for a the lowest tax bracket starting at a 4% rate and beginning at an income equal to or greater than \$7,000 for couples and \$4,000 for singles.
- Section IV:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.

A Bill
Presented By Remington Duncan
Charleston Southern University

Purpose: To limit the time of South Carolina's criminal procedure process.

Whereas, The Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution states: "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.",

Whereas, South Carolina's criminal procedure process has no set standard of times in getting the accused to trial,

Whereas, People across the state, such as Arthur Chavis, are incarcerated in county jails for too long before they have trial. Chavis served a total of 961 days before trial. That equates to 2 years, 7 months, and 19 days in pretrial incarceration,

Whereas, There are numerous reasons why cases are taking so long to get to trial. One of the reasons is the prosecution not trying the case due to being scared of losing it. A time limitation on the criminal procedure process would prevent this from occurring.

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

Section I: There are seven steps in post arrest criminal procedure. The steps are: 1) Bond hearing, 2) Arraignment, 3) Preliminary Hearing, 4) Completion of Rule 5 Discovery, 5) Pre-Trial Hearing, 6) Trial, and 7) Post Trial. The aforementioned steps should be assigned within 24 hours following the arrest. Step #6, Trial, shall begin no later than one calendar year after the initial arrest to prevent unjust pretrial persecution.

Section II: The trial scheduling process shall be done by the clerk of court in their respective jurisdictions.

Section III: This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor

A Bill
Presented by Robert Banks
Charleston Southern University

Purpose: To reduce the infringement of personal Liberty dealing with the right to bear arms in our state of South Carolina.

Whereas, The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states, “the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”; and,

Whereas, The Second Amendment recognizes a fundamental right of the citizenry to be armed, necessary not only for self-defense but, also necessary for the security of a Free State and defense of the state and nation; and,

Whereas, A national study conducted by the Crime Prevention Research Center and published in July of 2014, discovered a correlation between the increase of concealed weapons permit holders and a decrease in both murder and violent crime rates. The study showed that a 130 percent increase in permit holders coincided with a 22 percent drop in both murders, as well as in violent crime, over the same time period; and,

Whereas, Reducing the age requirement for Concealed Carry Permits not only guarantees greater Liberty of the citizen but, also increases the safety of such citizens within the state and the promotion of Liberty within the same.

Therefore, Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature, put into law the following:

Section I: Any state citizen the age of 18 and above may apply for a South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit and upon passing; exercise their right to concealed carry within accordance of current state law.

Section II: After purchasing a firearm the citizen must pass a SLED background check; all activities regarding said background checks will be left to SLED and said governmental counterparts, being completed within a time constraint of 30 days.

Section III: The carrying out of all background checks shall be left to SLED and its governmental counterparts at their discretion.

Section IV: This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature 22 of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Alexis DiMarzo
Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To increase the age a person must be to legally ride in the back of a truck bed.

Whereas, As of 2010, motor vehicle crashes was the leading cause of death for male and females 13 to 19 years old, and, in 2012, 60% of deaths among passenger vehicle occupants were teenagers ages 16 to 19; and,

Whereas, Riding in the back of a cargo area increases the risk of death during a collision 10% more than in normal collisions, according to The Johns Hopkins Medical Center; and,

Whereas, Eight states currently prohibit people of all ages from riding in open cargo areas, and 31 states currently have some restriction against it; and,

Whereas, Other southern states such as Georgia, Florida, and Texas also increased the age to eighteen. Maine has increased the age to nineteen.

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

Section I: Amend Article 31, Section 56-5-3900, to read:

A) It is unlawful to transport a person under ~~fifteen~~*eighteen* 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.

Section III: This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016.

A Bill
Presented by Brad Davis
Coastal Carolina University

- Purpose:** To re-purpose existing short-rail lines for public transportation.
- Whereas,** The current rail corridors only see freight traffic and 4 Amtrak services for interstate travel; and,
- Whereas,** Currently, there is no intrastate commuter rail transportation in the state of South Carolina; and,
- Whereas,** The need for affordable public transportation between the major cities in South Carolina exists for citizens who desire out of town work in the state and for whom current transportation services such as Greyhound are too slow and inefficient due to speed limits, traffic, and multiple stops for the bus drivers; and,
- Whereas,** The cities throughout the state in which this bill will effect will experience a growth in tourism generated by the increased ease of intrastate travel.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** For the purposes of this bill:
A) 'Rail line' shall be defined as: a road consisting of railroad track and road bed that covers significant distance between multiple locations. B) 'Short-rail line' shall be defined as: a rail line between two locations such as cities and towns.
- Section II:** Add to Chapter 63 Article 63-10 a section reading:
- Section III:** An incentive program is be be created in the state is to be created that will be part of the existing transportation fund to help applicant cities to attract and accommodate public rail transportation companies in their towns. Any town that wishes to be a destination town for the rail line will also have to submit an application for approval.
- Section IV:** All applicant cites must meet several requirement in order to be approved for the incentive program:
1) Must contain a population already dependent on other public transportation services, such as a bus transit program, that is significant enough to warrant a commuter rail transportation company to relieve pressure.
2) An agreement with the final destination city must be forged prior to application of both cities.
3) Destination cities must provide a study that provides support that the investment in the commuter rail transportation through their city will be economically beneficial.
- Section V:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016.

A Bill
Presented by Brooke Morris
Coastal Carolina University

- Purpose:** Students attending an institution of higher learning in South Carolina on a full scholarship will not receive a financial aid refund with money from a state-rewarded scholarship.
- Whereas,** The original purpose of these state-rewarded scholarships was to recognize high-academic achieving high school seniors, increase access to higher education, provide incentives to attend in-state colleges, and encourage students to graduate college on time; and,
- Whereas,** State-rewarded scholarships are including, but not limited to; Palmetto Fellows, LIFE Scholarship, S.C. HOPE, Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, and S.C. Tuition Grant; and,
- Whereas,** This reform will allow more scholarship money to be rewarded to high-academic achieving South Carolina high school graduates who remain in South Carolina for college; and,
- Whereas,** This reform will cut the amount of student loan debt for in-state students graduating with honors; because they will not have to use as many student loans; and,
- Whereas,** The scholarship money will remain within South Carolina institutions of higher learning, and will prevent state-rewarded scholarship money from being used for personal expenses.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** To be inserted in Section 59-149-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws:
1. *A student with a full scholarship will not receive a financial aid refund check of state-rewarded scholarship money from an institution.*
 2. *A student will be able to use as much of the state-rewarded scholarship as they need to pay their balance with the institution, but the remaining scholarship money will not be given back to the student.*
 3. *The left over state-rewarded scholarship money will remain in a holding account at the institution. The institution will allot the scholarship money for the following semester to high-academic achieving students with a 3.5 GPA or higher who graduated from a South Carolina high school, and who need extra financial aid to cover tuition and/or room and board.*
- Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:

- 46 A) 'full scholarship' shall be defined as: receiving a scholarship from a desired
47 institution, whether it is academic or athletic, which covers the costs of
48 tuition, room and board, meal plan, and books.
- 49 B) 'personal expenses' shall be defined as: any expense during college not
50 related to school; for example: gas, groceries, and car expenses.
- 51 C) 'financial aid refund' shall be defined as: a settlement check from an
52 institution's financial aid office to the student giving them the remaining
53 balance after all tuition, room and board, meal plan, and books have been paid
54 for.

55

56 **Section V:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016

57

A Bill
Presented by Bryce Roberts
Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To allow disabled military veterans to purchase a deer hunting license at a reduced rate.

Whereas, Disabled military veterans have served our country overseas and become injured by protecting our society; and,

Whereas, Many states, including North Carolina, Georgia , and Tennessee , offer hunting licenses at a discounted rate; and,

Whereas, There are many therapy groups that use hunting as a way to help disabled veterans; and,

Whereas, With discounted licenses available it will allow for more disabled veterans to be able to hunt without having to pay full price.

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

Section I: Add **Section 50-9-46** to read:

License for South Carolina Disabled Military Veterans at a discounted rate.

Any disabled military veteran of any branch of the United States Military whose home of record is South Carolina , shall upon presentation of a letter from Veterans Administration papers, dated in the current year and clearly stating disability related to service, will be allowed to receive a deer hunting license for five dollars.

Section II: Definitions.

For the purposes of this title:

A) The deer hunting license would be annual license thus having to be renewed each year.

B) All veteran hunters would still be required to follow all safety regulations and regulations.

Section III: This bill will go into effect July 1, 2016

**A Bill
Presented by Chelsea DeChamplain
Coastal Carolina University**

- Purpose:** To shorten the time span a couple needs to be separated in order to receive a divorce.
- Whereas,** According to the Huffington Post, divorces are expensive costing on average between \$15,000-\$20,000 depending on the circumstances. Based on this logic, one can make the claim that a spouse should be allowed to receive a divorce on grounds of separation within six months,
- Whereas,** South Carolina is considered to be one of the highest divorce rate states in the US, with an average of 10.2 per 1,000 for men and 11.1 per 1,000 for women,
- Whereas,** Another southern state, Virginia, allows people to receive divorces within 6 months of separation; and, this has been proven to be an effective system in turn representing lower divorce rates,
- Whereas,** Speeding up the process will make it easier for people to move on with their lives, and not have to deal with the mental and physical agony that carries them in being with someone that makes them unhappy. Six months is a good time frame for people to be able to know whether or not they are able to work out the marriage, and create a better atmosphere for a spouse if the other partner is not willing to work out the marriage,
- Whereas,** If children are involved this time frame will be better for them, because if the process continues to drag on it makes it difficult for the children to cope in the environment they are in due to constant arguing.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I: Amend Title 20, Chapter 3, Section 20-3-10, to read:**
- 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~~ *six months*. 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.
- Section V:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016.

A Bill
Presented by Dylan Davis
Coastal Carolina University

- Purpose:** To protect dependent students of undocumented immigrants from financial discrimination by South Carolina colleges.
- Whereas,** Two South Carolina colleges have recently denied in-state tuition and financial aid to legal residents based on their parent/guardian residential status.
- Whereas,** The South Carolina Code of Law requires financially dependent students to prove parental “domicile” within the state; and,
- Whereas,** This requirement states that the parent/guardian of the dependent student must show permanent residency within the state; and,
- Whereas,** There is no federal or state statute that denies undocumented persons from owning property; and,
- Whereas,** Despite the ability of the parent/guardian to show permanent residency, their legal status can still bar their dependent student from receiving in-state tuition and financial aid; and,
- Whereas,** Approximately 140 incoming children of immigrants would be subjected to this arbitrary treatment by colleges every year.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** To amend the requirement of domicile in SC. Code 59-112-10(D)
- D. The word "domicile" shall mean a person's true, fixed, principal residence and place of habitation *regardless of legal status*.
- Section II:** For the purpose of this bill, *legal status* shall refer to the immigration and/or resident status of an individual.
- Section III:** This bill shall go into effect January 1, 2016.

**A Bill
Presented by James Ward
Coastal Carolina University**

- Purpose:** To raise the age when you can obtain a ~~regular~~ driver's license.
- Whereas,** From 2011 to 2012 deaths increased by 19%; and,
- Whereas,** Raising the driving age will make it more safe driving on the road and decrease the number of car crashes; and,
- Whereas,** 1 in 5 of 16-year-old drivers has an accident within their first year of driving; and,
- Whereas,** Raising the age provides teenagers more time to learn about driving with parental supervision, making them better prepared drivers when they get their full license.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** SECTION 56-1-180. Special restricted licenses for certain minors.
- (A) The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a special restricted driver's license to a person who is at least ~~sixteen years of age~~ seventeen years of age and eighteen years of age, who has:
- (1) Held a beginner's permit for at least one hundred eighty days;
 - (2) Passed a driver's education course as defined in subsection (F);
 - (3) completed at least forty hours of driving practice, including at least ten hours of driving practice during darkness, supervised by the person's licensed parent or guardian;
 - (4) Passed successfully the road test or other requirements the department may prescribe; and
 - (5) Satisfied the school attendance requirement contained in Section 56-1-176.
- Section II:** This bill will go into effect on January 1st 2016.

**An Amendment
Presented by Jeffery Dawson
Coastal Carolina University**

- Purpose:** To change the “license year” dates for hunting and fishing licenses.
- Whereas,** There has been confusion for when the license year starts and ends by many hunters and fishermen; and,
- Whereas,** With the dates being changed there would be less confusion because the new dates would be more distinct and would actually be the start and end of the actual year: and,
- Whereas,** Georgia and South Carolina have a Reciprocal License Agreement, so South Carolina changing the license year dates would in turn allow other states, like Georgia to follow in South Carolina’s change.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Amend Article 50-9-15 to read:
(1) "License sales vendor" means a business, not for profit entity, or unit of state or local government that has entered into an agreement with the department to offer for sale hunting and fishing licenses.
(2) "License year" means the period beginning ~~July~~ January first and ending ~~June~~ ~~thirtieth~~ December thirty-first.
- Section II:** For the purposes of this bill:
A) ‘License Year’ shall be defined as: The duration that the license is valid.
- Section III:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016.

A Bill
Presented By Julietta Marks
Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To amend **Section 27-40-610** to decrease the allowed time for a landlord to address concerns that threaten the health and/or safety of a tenant before the tenant may terminate the rental agreement.

Whereas, Current law dictates that a landlord may take up to fourteen days to address an issue concerning the health or safety of a tenant; and,

Whereas, Threats to the health and safety of the tenant that are outside their control may be exacerbated in less than fourteen days, leading to injury, illness or even death of a tenant; and,

Whereas, South Carolina law requires that landlords create and maintain a rental unit that is in fit and livable condition; and,

Whereas, Section 27-40-630 of the South Carolina Code of Laws prevents the tenant from making any repairs and deducting the repair costs from the rent, despite the added expense.

Therefore, Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina

Section I: Amend Section 27-40-610 to read:

(a) Except as provided in this chapter, if there is a material noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or a noncompliance with Section 27-40-440 materially affecting health and safety or the physical condition of the property, the tenant may deliver a written notice to the landlord specifying the acts and omissions constituting the breach and that the rental agreement will terminate upon a date not less than ~~fourteen~~ seven days after receipt of the notice if the breach is not remedied within ~~fourteen~~ seven days.

Section II: Stipulations

- A. The landlord shall be expected to address issues that the tenant perceives to be a threat to their personal health and/or safety under the condition(s) that;
- i. The tenant is proven to be of right mind and is the signatory on the current lease concerning the property.
 - ii. The tenant is capable of providing evidence of the issue brought forth, including but not limited to;
 - a. Symptoms of illness as diagnosed by a licensed medical practitioner.
 - b. Photographs of the issue.
 - c. Physical evidence of the issue.

- 47 B. For the purpose this bill, material noncompliance of the landlord with the
48 rental agreement, concerning issues that affect the health and/or safety of
49 the tenant shall be defined as;
50 i. Incomplete attempts to alleviate the issue.
51 ii. Damage to the property caused by natural deterioration or age that
52 remains unaddressed by the landlord in the allotted time.
53 iii. Infestation of the premises, including rodent and insect, that
54 remains unaddressed by the landlord in the allotted time.
55

56 **Section III: Definitions of terms**

- 57 A. "Safety" concerning the tenant shall be defined as
58 i. Freedom from the occurrence of or risk of injury, danger, or loss.
59 B. For the purpose of this bill, "Health" concerning the tenant shall be
60 defined as;
61 i. The general condition of the body or mind with reference to
62 soundness or vigor.
63

64 **Section IV:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016, upon passage by the General
65 Assembly and the signature of the Governor.
66

A Bill
Presented by Kyla Ewers
Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To amend SECTION 30-4-55 in order to specify a fifteen-day time limit that a public body has to disclose the fiscal impact on public bodies offering economic incentives to business where a cost-benefit analysis is required.

Whereas, The current law has no set time frame, allowing public bodies to withhold information for as long as they please; and,

Whereas, If citizens do not have access to information about funding public bodies there is a greater risk for corruption; and,

Whereas, Under the Freedom of Information Act, the General Assembly finds that it is vital in a democratic society that public business be performed in an open manner so that citizens can see the performance of public officials and how the decisions that are reached in public activity and in the formulation of public policy.

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

Section I: Insert into SECTION 30-4-55:

*A public body as defined by Section 30-4-20(a), or a person or entity employed by or authorized to act for or on behalf of a public body, that undertakes to attract business or industry to invest or locate in South Carolina by offering incentives that require the expenditure of public funds or the transfer of anything of value or that reduce the rate or alter the method of taxation of the business or industry or that otherwise impact the offer or fiscally, must disclose, upon request, the fiscal impact of the offer on the public body and a governmental entity affected by the offer **fifteen days** after:*

(a) the offered incentive or expenditure is accepted, and

(b) the project has been publicly announced or any incentive agreement has been finalized, whichever occurs later.

(c) The fiscal impact disclosure must include a cost-benefit analysis that compares the anticipated public cost of the commitments with the anticipated public benefits. Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, information that is otherwise exempt from disclosure under Section 30-4-40(a)(1), (a)(5)(c), and (a)(9) remains exempt from disclosure.

Section II: This bill will go into effect January 1st 2016.

A Bill
Presented By Samuel Gordon
Coastal Carolina University

Purpose: To require that a motor fuel retail outlet be able to operate using alternative power sources in the case of an emergency or post disaster-period.

Whereas, Natural disasters are a threat to the state of South Carolina, and can compromise the safety of thousands of citizens; and,

Whereas, South Carolina is threatened by hurricanes and heavy storms in which evacuation is often necessary, and it is sometimes the case that states and organizations alike are underprepared when it comes to natural disasters; and,

Whereas, Having access to motor fuel is important to ensure the safety of citizens that may need to travel in the case of an emergency, especially a natural disaster in which power has gone out; and,

Therefore, Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Section I: Definitions:

- a. **“Disaster”** means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States. Disasters shall be identified by the severity of resulting damage, as follows:
- b. **“Catastrophic disaster”** means a disaster that will require massive state and federal assistance, including immediate military involvement.
- c. **“Major disaster”** means a disaster that will likely exceed local capabilities and require a broad range of state and federal assistance.
- d. **“Minor disaster”** means a disaster that is likely to be within the response capabilities of local government and to result in only a minimal need for state or federal assistance.
- e. **“Natural emergency”** means an emergency caused by a natural event, including, but not limited to a hurricane, a storm, a flood, severe wave action, a drought, or an earthquake.
- f. **“Retail outlet”** means a facility, including land and improvements, where motor fuel is offered for sale, at retail, to the motoring public.
- g. **“Terminal facility”** means any inland, waterfront, or offshore appurtenance on land used for the purpose of storing, handling, or transferring motor fuel, but does not include bulk storage facilities owned or operated by a wholesaler

h. **“Wholesaler”** means any person, other than a refiner or dealer, who purchases motor fuel at a terminal facility and supplies motor fuel to retail outlets.

Section II: Each motor fuel terminal facility, and each wholesaler, which sells motor fuel in this state must be capable of operating its distribution loading racks (fuel pumps) using an alternate generated power source (generator) for a minimum of 48 hours. The facility must have an alternate generated power source available for operation no later than 36 hours after a disaster. Installation of appropriate wiring, including a transfer switch, shall be performed by a certified electrical contractor. Each business must keep a copy of the documentation of such installation on site. In addition, each business must keep a written statement attesting to the periodic testing and ensured operational capacity of the equipment. The required documents must be made available, upon request, to the Division of Emergency Management and the director of the county emergency management agency.

Section III: Installation of appropriate wiring, including a transfer switch, shall be performed by a certified electrical contractor. Each business must keep a copy of the documentation of such installation on site. In addition, each business must keep a written statement attesting to the periodic testing and ensured operational capacity of the equipment. The required documents must be made available, upon request, to the Division of Emergency Management and the director of the county emergency management agency.

Section IV: Any motor fuel retail outlet which is located within one-half mile proximate to an interstate highway or state or federally designated evacuation route and houses eight or more motor fuel outlets must be prewired with an appropriate transfer switch and be capable of operating all fuel pumps, dispensing equipment, life safety systems, and payment-acceptance equipment using an alternate generated power source

Section V: A motor fuel retail outlet that does not maintain proper documentation of an alternate power source and or inspection documentation is subject to a \$150 fine for each offence each month they do not comply with the law

Section VI: This bill will go into effect upon the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Shadda Corwin
Coastal Carolina University

- Purpose:** To set a five year limit on the payment of alimony to the ex-spouse by the payor spouse.
- Whereas,** The ex-spouse can change their circumstances, for example attend college and gain a higher paying job, within five years; and,
- Whereas,** Permanent alimony payments hinders the payor spouse in that even their retirement goes to ex-spouses; and,
- Whereas,** Current alimony laws were set during a time when gender roles were completely different, with the expectation that women stayed home to tend to the house; and,
- Whereas,** Permanent alimony payments could hinder a payor spouse from being able to support a new spouse because of the payments to the ex-spouse. South Carolina's neighboring state of Georgia has limited alimony payments to five years.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (A) In proceedings for divorce from the bonds of matrimony, and in actions for separate maintenance and support, the court may grant alimony or separate maintenance and support in such amounts and for such term, *no longer than 5 years*, as the court considers appropriate as from the circumstances of the parties and the nature of case may be just, pendente lite, and permanently.
- Section II:** Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) Alimony and separate maintenance and support awards may be granted pendente lite and permanently in such amounts and for periods of time, *no longer than five years*, and be subject to conditions as the court considers.
- Section III:** Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) (1) Periodic alimony to be paid, *no longer than five years*, but terminating on the remarriage or continued cohabitation of the supported spouse or upon the death of either spouse (except as secured in subsection (D)) and terminable and modifiable based upon changed circumstances occurring in the future.
- Section IV:** Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) (2) Lump-sum alimony in a finite total sum to be paid in one installment, or periodically over a period of time, *no longer than five years*, terminating only upon the death of the supported spouse, but not terminable or modifiable based upon remarriage or changed circumstances in the future.

Section V: Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) (3) Rehabilitative alimony in a finite sum to be paid in one installment or periodically, *no longer than five years*, terminable upon the remarriage or continued cohabitation of the supported spouse, the death of either spouse (except as secured in subsection (D)) or the occurrence of a specific event to occur in the future, or modifiable based upon unforeseen events frustrating the good faith efforts of the supported spouse to become self-supporting or the ability of the supporting spouse to pay the rehabilitative alimony.

Section VI: Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) (4) Reimbursement alimony to be paid in a finite sum, to be paid in one installment or periodically, *no longer than five years*, terminable on the remarriage or continued cohabitation of the supported spouse, or upon the death of either spouse (except as secured in subsection (D)) but not terminable or modifiable based upon changed circumstances in the future.

Section VII: Amend SECTION 20-3-130. To read: (B) (5) Separate maintenance and support to be paid periodically, *no longer than five years*, but terminating upon the continued cohabitation of the supported spouse, upon the divorce of the parties, or upon the death of either spouse (except as secured in subsection (D)) and terminable and modifiable based upon changed circumstances in the future.

Section VIII: For the purposes of this bill:

A) 'pendente lite' shall be defined as: The awaiting of litigation.

B) 'ex-spouse' shall be defined as: The spouse which will be receiving the alimony payments.

C) 'payor spouse' shall be defined as: The spouse paying the ex-spouse alimony.

Section IX: This bill will go into effect July 1, 2016.

**An Amendment
Presented by Shannon Condon
Coastal Carolina University**

- Purpose:** To prohibit the euthanasia of dogs and other domestic pets impounded or quarantined in animal shelters by any means other than lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital or sodium pentobarbital derivative, except in the event of an emergency.
- Whereas,** Currently, under SECTION 47-3-420 the allowable methods of euthanasia in non-emergency situations are injection or oral ingestion of barbituric acid derivatives and carbon monoxide gas; and,
- Whereas,** The American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA) states that euthanasia by injection is the safest way for humans to euthanize shelter animals because of the toxicity of carbon monoxide gas and the danger posed by gas chambers. The AMVA also states that euthanasia by injection is the most humane way to euthanize animals because of the distress caused by gassing agents; and,
- Whereas,** Oral ingestion of barbituric acid derivatives requires a dosage three times greater than the dose required for lethal injection and is often ineffective because the bitter taste prevents ingestion of a sufficient amount of the drug to achieve death.
- Whereas,** Arizona, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia have introduced bills to limit the allowable methods of euthanasia to those approved by the AMVA. These bills mandate the use injection of sodium pentobarbital as the method of euthanasia; and,
- Whereas,** Sodium pentobarbital is the most humane and time efficient euthanasia drug because it causes unconsciousness within seconds and, ceases cardiac and respiratory functions within forty seconds.
- Whereas,** A study conducted by the American Humane Association found that the cost to use carbon monoxide poisoning is \$4.98 per animal, while the cost to use injection of sodium pentobarbital is \$2.29 per animal. The injection of sodium pentobarbital is also more cost effective than the oral ingestion of barbituric acid derivatives because it requires a significantly lower dosage to be administered per animal.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I: Amends South Carolina Code of Law SECTION 47-3-420 to include:**
- (1) Barbituric acid derivatives:
- (a) intravenous ~~or intracardial~~ injection of a lethal solution;

(b) intraperitoneal injection of lethal solution when location of an injection into the vein is difficult or impossible;

~~(c) oral ingestion of powdered barbituric acid derivatives in capsules mixed with food or by manual administration of a solution;~~

(d) intravenous injection of these solutions must be specifically injected according to the directions of the manufacturers for intravenous injections;

(e) intracardial injection of these solutions must only be administered if the animal has been tranquilized with an approved, humane substance and the animal, at the time of the intracardial injection, is anesthetized ~~or~~ and comatose;

(f) the solutions may not be administered via intraperitoneal, intrathoracic, intrapulmonary, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrarenal, intrasplenic, or intrathecal routes or in any other nonvascular injection route except as provided above;

(g) administration of injections must be done only by a licensed veterinarian or by a euthanasia technician or Department of Natural Resources employee, trained and certified for this purpose in a euthanasia training class taught by a licensed South Carolina veterinarian, which must include training in tranquilizing animals. A person certified pursuant to this subitem must continue to maintain his proficiency by successfully completing a training course taught by a licensed South Carolina veterinarian every five years;

(h) all injections must be administered using an undamaged hypodermic needle of a size suitable for the size and species of animal;

(i) an animal shelter, governmental animal control agency, or the Department of Natural Resources (department) may obtain ~~a barbituric acid sodium pentobarbital or a sodium pentobarbital~~ derivative or tranquilizing agent by direct licensing. The animal shelter, governmental animal control agency, or department must apply for a Controlled Substance Registration Certificate from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and a State Controlled Substances Registration from the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). If an animal shelter, governmental animal control agency, or the department is issued a certificate by the DEA and a registration by DHEC pursuant to this subitem, the animal shelter, governmental animal control agency director or his designee, and the department's applicant are responsible, for maintaining their respective records regarding the inventory, storage, and administration of controlled substances. An animal shelter, governmental animal control agency and its certified euthanasia technician, and the department and its certified employees are subject to inspection and audit by DHEC and the DEA

regarding the recordkeeping, inventory, storage, and administration of controlled substances used under authority of this article.

~~(2) Carbon monoxide gas:~~

~~(a) dogs and cats, except animals under sixteen weeks of age, may be killed by bottled carbon monoxide gas administered in a tightly enclosed chamber. The chamber must be equipped with:~~

~~(i) internal lighting and a window providing direct visual surveillance of the collapse and death of any animal within the chamber;~~

~~(ii) the gas concentration process must be adequate to achieve a carbon monoxide gas concentration throughout the chamber of at least six percent within five minutes after any animal is placed in the chamber. The chamber must have a functioning gas concentration gauge attached to the chamber and a strong airtight seal must be maintained around the door;~~

~~(iii) the unit shall include an exhaust fan connected by a gas tight duct to the outdoors capable of completely evacuating the gas from the chamber before it is opened after each use, except that this provision does not apply to chambers located out of doors;~~

~~(iv) animals must be left in the chamber for a period of no less than fifteen minutes from the time the gas concentration throughout the chamber reaches six percent.~~

~~(b) no person may euthanize an animal by gas emitted from any engine exhaust system.~~

~~(c) in all instances where a carbon monoxide chamber is used:~~

~~(i) no incompatible or hostile animals, or animals of different species, may be placed in any chamber simultaneously;~~

~~(ii) every chamber must be thoroughly cleaned after the completion of each full cycle. No live animals may be placed in the chamber with dead animals;~~

~~(iii) all animals must be examined by a veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician to ensure they are dead upon removal from the chamber;~~

~~(iv) all chambers must be inspected quarterly by an independent, qualified technician who is thoroughly knowledgeable with the operation and maintenance of the particular euthanasia chamber being used;~~

~~(v) an operational guide and maintenance instructions must be displayed in the room with the euthanasia chamber.~~

(3) Shooting:

Shooting may be used as a means of euthanasia only in an emergency situation to prevent extreme suffering or in which the safety of people or other animal life is threatened or where it is considered necessary by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to eliminate or control the population of feral animals.

Section II: A person violating this section of law is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one hundred eighty days or by a fine of up to two thousand dollars, or both.

Section III: This bill will go into effect January 1, 2016, upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Tyler Wyeth
Coastal Carolina University

- Purpose:** To prohibit the drilling and storing of off-shore oil or gas in South Carolina
- Whereas,** Oil spills effect regional residence, marine wildlife, and commerce; and
- Whereas,** The required infrastructure would destroy important estuaries along the coast; and,
- Whereas,** The potential economic cons of off-shore drilling, such as destroying South Carolina's tourism industry, outweigh the benefits; and,
- Whereas,** The Seismic testing required to find off-shore oil pockets harms and kills marine life.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Amend Section 48-43-370 (C) to read:
- SECTION 48-43-370.** Permit required for drilling oil or gas well.
- (A) The department shall require that all persons who desire to drill oil or gas wells obtain a permit for each well proposed to be drilled prior to the commencement of any drilling operations. The drilling of any well is hereby prohibited until a permit is granted by the department.*
- (B) No permit to drill a gas or oil well shall be granted within the corporate limits of any municipality, unless the governing authority of the municipality shall have first duly approved the issuance of such permit by resolution.*
- (C) No permit to drill a gas or oil well on any beach, or within 3 miles of the South Carolina shore, shall be granted by the department.*
- Section II:** Amend section 48-43-390 (H) to read:
- SECTION 48-43-390.** Lease of state lands for drilling for and producing oil and gas; permits to construct deep water port facilities.
- (H)(a) Any person as defined herein who intends to construct a deep water port facility within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of South Carolina for the purpose of loading or unloading oil, gas or other products as defined by this chapter shall ~~apply for and obtain~~ be denied a permit to construct such facility from the department ~~prior to the commencement of construction.~~
- Section III:** This bill will go into effect as of January 1, 2016

A Bill

**Presented by Anne Lafond and Tavaris Jones
College of Charleston**

Purpose: To require businesses in South Carolina to include sales tax in ticketed prices of all retail items and consumer goods.

Whereas, South Carolina has seen a large increase in tourism,

Whereas, Many tourists are from overseas locations and are confused at checkout time when sales tax is added,

Whereas, Even residents of South Carolina do not understand the increase in price at checkout,

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

Section I: All retail and Food and Beverage establishments will start to include sales tax on ticketed prices of consumer goods,

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

A Bill
Presented by Caroline Clark
College of Charleston

Purpose: To require energy drink producers to add a warning and risk label to all energy drinks that contain an unhealthy amount of added caffeine.

Whereas, The health risks that come along with consuming energy drinks are detrimental,

Whereas, Energy drinks such as Redbull, Monster, Rock Star, etc, contain large doses of caffeine and other legal stimulants like guarana and ginseng,

Whereas, The consumption of these added stimulants lead to heart disease, which is a leading cause of death in the United States,

Whereas, Making consumers aware of the risk factors and health concerns, can decrease energy drink intake,

Whereas, Overall, these warning labels will make consumers think twice about the product and hopefully prevent over intake.

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

Section I: Energy drink producers will add warning labels and health risks to their products that contain unhealthy amounts of added caffeine and other legal stimulants.

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

A Bill
Presented by Joshua Mulvaney
College of Charleston

- Purpose:** To amend Section 16-15-90, Section 16-15-100 and Section 16-15-110 of South Carolina law and add a Section 16-15-105 in order to a) provide safety, security, and opportunity for sex workers—those who are in dire financial straits without the skills, education, or resources necessary to find alternative means of income—under threat of harm from employers, clients, and coworkers without the ability to seek legal protection without severe penalization by South Carolina state law, b) increase punitive disincentives against the violent and non-violent solicitation, recruitment, and exploitation of sex workers, c) fundamentally incapacitate the demand in the state of South Carolina for human sex trafficking by creating a competitive, government-regulated, and tax-lucrative alternative.
- Whereas,** The mortality rate of prostitutes is 10 to 40 times the average for professions,
- Whereas,** 60 to 80 % of sex workers experience regular physical and sexual abuse,
- Whereas,** More than 80 % of prostitutes are under the control of pimps—key sources of sex trafficking,
- Whereas,** Prostitution is highly discriminatory, pricing Caucasians well above their African-American and Hispanic coworkers,
- Whereas,** Outlawing prostitution has created a vast underworld of unregulated and unhindered financial, physical and sexual male dominance over women.
- Whereas,** Many women are coerced into prostitution through deception, coordinated schemes, threats, or violent acts.
- Whereas,** Section 16-15-90 currently states the following:
- It shall be unlawful to:
- (1) Engage in prostitution; (2) Aid or abet prostitution knowingly; (3) Procure or solicit for the purpose of prostitution; (4) Expose indecently the private person for the purpose of prostitution or other indecency; (5) Reside in, enter or remain in any place, structure, building, vehicle, trailer or conveyance for the purpose of lewdness, assignation or prostitution; (6) Keep or set up a house of ill fame, brothel or bawdyhouse; (7) Receive any person for purposes of lewdness, assignation or prostitution into any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building; (8) Permit any person to remain for the purpose of lewdness, assignation or prostitution in any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building; (9) Direct, take or transport, offer or agree to take or transport or aid or assist in transporting any person to any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building or to any other person with knowledge or having reasonable cause to

believe that the purpose of such directing, taking or transporting is prostitution, lewdness or assignation; (10) Lease or rent or contract to lease or rent any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building or part thereof believing or having reasonable cause to believe that it is intended to be used for any of the purposes herein prohibited; or (11) Aid, abet, or participate knowingly in the doing of any of the acts herein prohibited.

Whereas, Section 16-15-100 currently states the following:

It shall further be unlawful to:

- (1) Procure a female inmate for a house of prostitution; (2) Cause, induce, persuade or encourage by promise, threat, violence or by any scheme or device a female to become a prostitute or to remain an inmate of a house of prostitution;
- (3) Induce, persuade or encourage a female to come into or leave this State for the purpose of prostitution or to become an inmate in a house of prostitution;
- (4) Receive or give or agree to receive or give any money or thing of value for procuring or attempting to procure any female to become a prostitute or an inmate in a house of prostitution; (5) Accept or receive knowingly any money or other thing of value without consideration from a prostitute; or (6) Aid, abet or participate knowingly in the doing of any of the acts herein prohibited.

Whereas, Section 16-15-110 currently states the following:

Any person violating any provision of Sections 16-15-90 and 16-15-100 must, upon conviction, be punished as follows:

- (1) for the first offense, a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars or confinement in prison for a period of not more than thirty days;
- (2) for the second offense, a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not exceeding six months, or both;
- (3) for the third or any subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding three thousand dollars or imprisonment for not less than one year, or both.

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

Section I: Amend Section 16-15-90 to read:

It shall be unlawful to:

- (1) ~~Engage in prostitution~~ *Attempt to solicit or recruit anyone for employment in prostitution.* (2) Aid or abet ~~prostitution~~ *the solicitation or recruitment of any individual for employment in prostitution* knowingly; (3) ~~Procure or solicit for the purpose of prostitution~~ *Employ anyone in prostitution unless the individual directly, intentionally, and of their own accord, approached the employer for work;* (4) ~~Expose indecently the private person for the purpose of prostitution or other indecency~~ *Market prostitution services in the public sphere;* (5) ~~Reside in,~~

~~enter or remain in any place, structure, building, vehicle, trailer or conveyance for the purpose of lewdness, assignation or prostitution Engage in any act of prostitution or run any business of prostitution within 1,000 yards of any playground, learning center, hospital, day care center or school; (6) Keep or set up a house of ill fame, brothel or bawdyhouse; Discriminate, harass or hinder employment based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status or any other characteristic protected under state law; (7) Receive any person for purposes of lewdness, assignation or prostitution into any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building; Employ anyone for prostitution services without registering a business for such purposes with the State of South Carolina (8) Permit any person to remain for the purpose of lewdness, assignation or prostitution in any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building; Engage in the trafficking of individuals for the purposes of prostitution (9) Direct, take or transport, offer or agree to take or transport or aid or assist in transporting any person to any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building or to any other person with knowledge or having reasonable cause to believe that the purpose of such directing, taking or transporting is prostitution, lewdness or assignation solicitation, recruitment, exploitation, or trafficking by an employer of prostitutes; (10) Lease or rent or contract to lease or rent any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building or part thereof believing or having reasonable cause to believe that it is intended to be used for any of the purposes herein prohibited engage in any act of prostitution or seek or gain employment for prostitution or any kind of sex work unless one is 18 years of age or graduated from high school; or (11) Aid, abet, or participate knowingly in the doing of any of the acts herein prohibited.~~

Section II: Add Section 16-15-105 as follows:

The following will be required of any place of employment for prostitution in the State of South Carolina:

(1) Full health insurance coverage for each employee, part-time or full-time, regardless of the amount of services provided; (2) A contract with each employee that includes precise details of services each employee plans to provide, which will be submitted to the Committee for Betterment for approval. Any breach of contract wherein the company requests services beyond those in the contract or threatens dismissal for failure to engage in such services is punishable by a \$300,000 fine per violation and a \$15,000 payment to the employee if services were engaged upon company's request; (3) Allow employees to set their own prices for services; (4) Take no more than 40 % commission for any services provided by employees; (5) Provide the option of room and board for any employee and his or her immediate family; (6) Pay a 4.5 % income tax in addition to other state income taxes and federal taxes, 2.25 % of which will be expended towards state infrastructural development and 2.25 % of which will contribute to state welfare programs; (7) Submit all financial materials to the State of South Carolina for review and auditing (8) Undergo an annual investigation of employee practices by the State of South Carolina

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- Section III:** Amend Section 16-15-110 to read:
Any person violating any provision of Sections 16-15-90 ~~and~~ 16-15-100, *and 16-15-105* must, upon conviction, be punished as follows:
(1) For the first offense, a fine not exceeding ~~two hundred~~ *two thousand* dollars or confinement in prison for a period of not more than ~~thirty days~~ *three months*, or *both*;
(2) For the second offense, a fine not exceeding ~~one thousand~~ *fifteen thousand* dollars or imprisonment for not exceeding ~~six months~~ *five years*, or both;
(3) For the third or any subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding ~~three thousand~~ *eighty thousand* dollars or imprisonment for not less than ~~one year~~ *twenty years*, or both.
- Section IV:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Katherine Murchison
College of Charleston

- Purpose:** To encourage South Carolina Legislature to amend the Comprehensive Health Education Program.
- Whereas,** The quality of sexual education in South Carolina is among the lowest in the country; and,
- Whereas,** South Carolina is one of only six states, including Arizona, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Utah, that expressly forbids teachers from portraying gay relationships as acceptable or in a positive light; and,
- Whereas,** States where abstinence is strongly affiliated with their sexual education programs have the highest rates of teen pregnancies; and,
- Whereas,** Condom availability programs reduce the barriers—financial, logistical, and social—that deter sexually active teens from using condoms. They make condoms available at low or no cost; and provide condoms in ways that minimize teens' discomfort about obtaining condoms; and,
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** The program of instruction provided may include a discussion of alternate sexual lifestyles from heterosexual relationships including, but not limited to, homosexual relationships.
- Section II:** The "Pregnancy prevention education" will not intend to stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage, but rather stress the importance of practicing safe sexual relations.
- Section III:** Contraceptive devices or contraceptive medications may be distributed in or on the school grounds.

A Bill
Presented by Meredith Grant
College of Charleston

Purpose: To guarantee a six week partially paid maternity leave to all female employees in the State of South Carolina.

Whereas, The U.S. is the only industrialized nation (Lesotho, Swaziland, and Papua New Guinea being the only other countries) that does not guarantee a paid maternity leave to their female employees,

Whereas, The Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 only guarantees women their job after 12 weeks of parental leave but they are not necessarily paid during this time,

Whereas, Many families take on tremendous debt and turn to government financial assistance after the birth of a child, due of the lack of income,

Whereas, Three states (California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island) have already passed laws guaranteeing partially paid maternity leave,

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

Section I: South Carolina will mandate that all employers provide the option of up to six weeks of maternity leave to all female employees in which the mother will receive 2/3 of her weekly salary.

Section II: Female employees will not be required by law to take the six weeks of leave, but they will be given the option should they so choose.

Section III: The funding for these partially paid leaves will come from the female employees' additional payroll deductions.

Section IV: Starting on January 1, 2016, each female employee will have the option to begin contributing an additional 0.09% of their taxable wage base to their paid leave fund.

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

A Bill
By Noel Anderson
College of Charleston

- Purpose:** To strike the anti-sodomy clause from the South Carolina buggery law.
- Whereas,** Sodomy is listed under Chapter 15 of the South Carolina Code of Law, titled “Offenses against Morality and Decency”,
- Whereas,** It states that the guilty party can sentenced to five years of imprisonment or order to pay a fine of \$500,
- Whereas,** Anti-sodomy laws were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in Lawrence v. Texas (2003),
- Whereas,** Bans on gay marriage were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in Obergefell v. Hodges (2015),
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Section 16-15-120 shall be stricken from the South Carolina Code of Laws.
- Section II:** This act shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Heidi Hearne
College of Charleston

Purpose: To remove Section 20-1-15 of the South Carolina law that prohibits couples of same sex to be married.

Whereas, The Supreme Court of the United States of America has declared that same sex marriage is constitutional in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples both by the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause and,

Whereas, Section 20-1-15 of the South Carolina law is now in conflict with The Constitution of The United States of America and,

Whereas, There is no longer a need for the law in the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Therefore, Be it enacted that Section 20-1-15 of the South Carolina law shall be repealed.

Section I: Section 20-1-15 of the South Carolina law shall be repealed.

Section II: This shall be in effect immediately after the law is repealed.

A Bill
Presented By Halley Ham and Amanda Stevenson
Erskine College

Purpose: To improve the safety of South Carolina roadways by establishing stricter license requirements for teenage drivers.

Whereas, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles reads: “If you are 15 years old and have held a beginner's permit for at least 180 days, you are eligible for a conditional license.”; and,

Whereas, “Completed a driver's education course, are currently enrolled in school (not suspended or expelled) and have satisfactory school attendance, and practiced driving with your licensed parent or legally appointed guardian for 40 hours, including 10 hours of driving practice at night.”; and,

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

Section I: No person, 15 years old shall be eligible for a conditional license, unless they have held a beginner’s permit 240 days.

Section II: Not only should must the person be enrolled in school, but he or she must not be failing classes. Also there should be 20 hours of driving practice at night.

Section III: This bill shall take effect January 1st, 2016 upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Katelyn Reagin
Erskine College

- Purpose:** To provide uniform beer and wine laws for the state of South Carolina and in doing so, allowing beer and wine to be sold in every county in the state on Sundays.
- Whereas:** “Prohibition is over,” meaning consumers are inconvenienced by not having uniform beer and wine laws in the state of South Carolina; and,
- Whereas:** Currently, the counties in South Carolina vote to determine whether beer and wine may be sold on Sunday; and,
- Whereas:** Mandating uniform beer and alcohol laws for the state is appropriate considering retail liquor laws are already uniform; and,
- Whereas:** South Carolina will benefit from an increase in sales tax (6%) revenue that can be used to fund county projects across the state; and,
- Whereas:** The counties that choose to not sell alcohol on Sundays still benefit from the tax revenue by the counties that choose to sell wine and beer seven days a week; and,
- Whereas:** Most counties that are “dry” on Sundays have some legislation allowing beer/ wine to be sold in restaurants and other eateries or either the sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption; and,
- Whereas:** There are no dry counties in South Carolina. Eight cities/ towns have allowed Sunday beer and alcohol sales: Columbia, Spartanburg, Charleston, Greenville, Aiken, Rock Hill, Summerville, Santee, Daniel Island, Hardeeville and Tega Cay.
- Therefore:** Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:
- Section I:** Beer and wine sells will become uniform in the state of South Carolina and the right of the local government to vote on such decision will be dismissed.
- Section II:** Beer and wine will be sold in grocery stores, pharmacies, eateries, and convenience stores on Sundays in every county of S.C.
- Section III:** This bill shall go into effect on January 1st, 2016 upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Kristin Irby
Erskine College

- Purpose:** To amend §§ 56-5-3700 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to increase fines for failure to wear a helmet when operating a motorcycle and mopeds.
- Whereas,** A law that enforces the use of helmets helps reduce mortality rates in collisions involving motorcycles and mopeds; and,
- Whereas,** Fines are the most common penalty for violations of this law; and,
- Whereas,** Larger fines would act as a more effective deterrent for potential violators; and,
- Whereas,** The additional revenue generated by this increase in fines could help alleviate financial pressure on the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Amend § 56-5-3700 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to read:
Any person violating the provisions of §§ 56-5-3660 to 56-5-3690 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than two hundred or be imprisoned for not more than thirty days.
- Section II:** The revenue collected as a result of this amendment ought to be directed towards the budget of the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Section III:** This bill shall take effect 60 days upon passage by the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Logan Franks
Erskine College

Purpose: 10-cent increase on gas, in the form of a tax, to improve roads conditions, and promotes safer driving.

Whereas, Other states have attempted to improve road conditions, and promote safe driving, and since South Carolina has consistently ranked among the worst states concerning road conditions, and among the highest in traffic related deaths, and since South Carolina currently has the lowest gas prices in the nation.

Section 1: Let South Carolina implement a 10¢ increase on gas prices in the form of a tax on gasoline sales.

Section 2: Let the tax be applicable to all purchases of gasoline in the state of South Carolina.

Section 3: Let the revenue from this tax be distributed directly into the transportation category on the state budget, and let the revenue go directly to repairing state roads, and public campaigns to promote safer driving habits

Subsection A: Allow 80% of revenue created by this bill to be applied directly to the repair of state roads

Subsection B: Allow the remaining 20% to be applied directly to advertising campaigns to promote safe driving habits

Section 4: Let this bill be known as “The Road Condition and Safety Bill”

Section 5: Let this bill go into effect 91 days after passage

**A Bill
Presented by Rainey Bland
Erskine College**

Purpose: To decrease the risk of pollution, diseases, cancer, and children being exposed to second hand smoke by banning the smoking of substances such as in public parks.

Whereas, People who smoke are likely to develop diseases such as lung cancer and liver cirrhosis. Cirrhosis is mostly caused by smoking and reduces and even poisons the liver, unable for the organ to perform its function. For example, a healthy lung is pinkish in color and helps the person breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. But a smoker's lung is very dark and is covered with tartar. A smoker's lung is unable to functionally help the person breathe and increases severe asthma, with causes stroke and heart attack; and,

Whereas, Second hand smoking contaminates the air and is retained in clothing, hair, curtains, and furniture. It represents a dangerous health hazard; and,

Whereas, Over 4,000 different chemicals have been identified in environmental tobacco smoke, and at least 43 of these chemicals cause cancer; and,

Whereas, Neither parents nor children should be subjected to second hand smoking at public parks; and,

Whereas, Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature convened in regular session:

Section I: Officers of the law will patrol parks to ensure the law is properly being enforced.

Section II: This bill shall take effect six months after passage by the General Assembly and the signature of the Governor

A Bill
Presented by Breanna Minus and Diamond Greene
Francis Marion University

- Purpose:** To ensure that all students enrolled in a college or university have the equal opportunity to receive grants no matter if their major is in a field of religious study.
- Whereas,** The Higher Education Tuition Grant Commission will fairly consider all applying student majoring in a course of religious study to be award tuition grants; and,
- Whereas,** Can only be awarded to a student that is taking course of religious studies, divinity, or theology for educational purposes only.
- Whereas,** The religious field of study must only explain and describe the many behaviors and components of all religions as whole. It must not train or prepare students for a profession in clergy; and,
- Whereas,** A student that organizes or forms a religious organization, or is employed in a position of clergy will not be eligible for grants; and,
- Whereas,** Any student that has been already awarded a tuition grant that partakes in any religious organization or becomes employed in a position of clergy while receiving tuition grants will no longer be eligible for the grant.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** A portion will be changed in **Section 59-113-20** within (e) which will state “(e) is enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education; excluding students seeking a profession in clergy upon graduation or is currently involved in a religious organization that reflects their personal beliefs.
- Section II:** (ii) Student cannot be creator or member in a religious organization that reflects personal beliefs
- (iii) Applications must have a checkbox portion that ask if applicants are a member of clergy or involved in religious organizations.
- (iii) If applicant does not provide accurate information they shall be exempt from further grant opportunities

- 41 **Section III:** A joint task force will be created if there is not one already in to ensure that the
42 student will continue receiving federal grants.
- 43 **Section IV:** This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2016, after passage by the General
44 Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Christian Burris- Durham
Francis Marion University

Purpose: To provide a state natural disaster relief fund for farmers if their crops, livestock, or equipment for the use of agricultural purposes are damaged in the event of an unavoidable phenomenon.

Whereas, This will be a state fund which will only be used in the case of a Farmer's crops, livestock, or equipment for the use of agricultural purposes if it is damaged by a hurricane, hail, or a flood; and,

Whereas, The minimum amount of damage that must occur for any relief fund to be paid is between \$50,000 and \$500,000; and,

Whereas, No more than \$500,000 should be allotted to any sole farmer regardless if their damages should exceed this amount; and,

Whereas, If the individual farmer would prefer to be paid through compensation in the form of a similar factor of production rather than cash allotment they may choose to do so; and,

Whereas, A farmer found to be falsely claiming damages from a natural disaster will be liable to suit by the State of South Carolina, and face fines up to, and exceeding the amount they were allotted by the South Carolina Natural Disaster Relief Fund.

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

Section I: A portion will be added to **Section 38-31-60** after "(m)" which will state "(n) may refund an individual farmer of punitive damages to his/her crops, livestock, or equipment used for agricultural purposes if it suffers hurricane, hail, or flood damage. (o) may be eligible for South Carolina Natural Disaster Relief if damages are between \$50,000 and \$500,000 (i) claims must be made within thirty days (ii) if a false claim is made the individual will be subject to suit by the state of South Carolina, and face fines up to and exceeding the cash allotted to the individual.

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Section II: If the damages caused by a natural disaster exceed \$500,000 the farmer's private insurer will cover the remaining damages if insurance policy is set up in that manner.

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Section III: A joint task force will be created if there is not one already in to assess agricultural damages cause by any such natural disaster which were listed above.

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Section IV: This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2016, after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

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A Resolution
Presented By Michaela Cracknell
Francis Marion University

Purpose: To establish May 16th a state recognition day for Students with Disabilities.

Whereas, This resolution will establish May 16th as a state day of recognition for students with disabilities; and,

Whereas, This resolution will encourage public schools and universities within the state of South Carolina to have a special recognition for their students with disabilities on this day; and,

Whereas, This resolution will also raise awareness and establish insight to encourage more equal and fair treatment of students with disabilities; and,

Whereas, May 16th was decided as the day in recognition of Reagan Richardson, a student with disabilities in Conway, South Carolina.

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

Section I: The day or recognition should be titled “Students with Disabilities Awareness Day”

Therefore, This resolution shall go into effect on January 1, 2016 after passage by the General Assembly and signature by the governor.

A Bill

**Presented By Brandon Edwards, Josh Myers, and Jasime Colbert
Lander University**

Purpose: To remove Chapter 19 from the South Carolina Code of Law Title 16 (Crimes and Offenses) regarding the outlawing of gaming in the state of South Carolina and to allow casinos to be built and operated in the state of South Carolina as permanent structures.

Whereas, Gaming is no more a hobby as playing the lottery or placing a wager on a horse race. The people that see gambling as pleasure shall be allowed to take part in gaming in the state of South Carolina.

Whereas, The removal of the above mentioned chapter would place more responsibility in the hands of those who gamble and set precedent for the future lifting of restrictions on personal liberties; and,

Whereas, Lifting gambling restrictions in South Carolina will produce economic growth. People will visit from out of state which will generate more tourism and will lead to more money spent at hotels and restaurants, as a result this will generate more tax dollars for the state

Whereas, With gaming restrictions lifted, South Carolina will be able to give back money through taxable gaming income to promote education just as the lottery supports scholarships throughout the state to South Carolina residents that are unable to pay for college

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

Section I: Chapter 19 of the South Carolina Code of Laws Title 19 shall be completely removed.

Section II: All rights are reserved by the South Carolina General Assembly to set the annual tax rate of the mentioned industry.

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

**A Resolution
Presented By Hayley Gibson
Lander University**

Purpose: To create a policy that regulates South Carolina Departments of Motor Vehicles and to allow an individual regardless of gender or sexual preferences to follow the same procedure to change there last name after marriage.

Whereas, Currently in South Carolina, heterosexual men and homosexual individuals are being held to a different criteria, than a heterosexual females who want to change their last name after marriage.

Whereas, The state will implement a regulation on the Department of Motor Vehicles Employees that will allow heterosexual men and homosexual individuals follow the same procedures allotted to heterosexual women.

Whereas, This will enforce the rights of heterosexual males and homosexual males and females. As well as saving the individuals time and money.

Whereas, There are already nine states that have enforced similar laws and regulations. These include Georgia, California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York and North Dakota.

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

Section I: The criteria for a woman to change her last name after marriage is;

1. Get certified copies of your marriage license.
2. Fill out and submit the necessary paper work with the Social Security Administration
3. Get a new drivers license
4. Update necessary records (i.e.: Passport, bank, tax forms...)
5. Notify your work place

Section II: If an employee of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles does not consist with the regulations created, their employment will be terminated.

Section VI: This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented By Jaquin Derrick and Kyle Johnson
Lander University

Purpose: To decriminalize prostitution and institute a permanent restraining order against prostitutes of no less than a mile away from all schools, churches, and hospitals in the state of South Carolina.

Whereas, In South Carolina, and every other state in the United States except Nevada, it is illegal to sell or purchase sexual services in exchange for material gain. This is a gross overstep of government authority, and blatantly inconsistent, in light of the fact that pornography, which is essentially filmed prostitution, is completely legal; and,

Whereas, This bill seeks to rectify this inconsistency by decriminalizing prostitution, while keeping safeguards against human trafficking in place and preventing prostitutes from soliciting their services within a mile churches, schools, and hospitals; and,

Whereas, Time, money, and resources will be saved in an effort to enforce laws against what in reality is a victimless crime; and,

Whereas, Consenting adults will be allowed to exchange money for a valued commodity, which essentially the essence of free market capitalism, the basis on which this country was founded.

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

Section I: “Prostitution” refers to the act of consenting adults exchanging sexual services for money or other material possessions.
“Prostitute” refers to any individual over 18 that solicits the exchange of sexual services for money and material gain.

Section II: This bill will repeal Section 16-15-90 of Title 16 of the South Carolina Code of Laws pertaining to prostitution; lewdness, assignation and prostitution generally

Section III: This bill will also amend Section 16-50-100, regarding the coercion of prostitutes, by adding the following: “It shall be further unlawful for a prostitute to loiter and/or solicit their services while within a mile of any institution of learning, hospital, or place of worship.” It will not change Section 16-15-305, concerning child exploitation and child prostitution.

46 **Section IV:** This bill does not seek to change the remaining portion of Section of
47 16-50-100, nor Section 16-15-305, concerning child exploitation and
48 child prostitution
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50 **Section V:** This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and
51 signature of the Governor on January 31, 2016

**An Amendment
Presented By Jennifer Vassy and Ettele Toole
Lander University**

Purpose: To increase gun safety by requiring current concealed weapon permit carriers to complete a one-hour course within the second and third year of the permit's viability to update carriers on any new or amended laws with any state that shares reciprocity with South Carolina, as well as South Carolina Laws.

Whereas, By increasing the requirements for the concealed weapon permit, the state will seek to ensure that those carrying concealed weapon permits are committed to being an upstanding, law-abiding, responsible, and safe concealed weapon carrier,

Whereas, This amendment will increase the knowledge and therefore the safety for all people (carriers and non-carriers) in the state of South Carolina. By informing carriers of changes to laws, South Carolina is preventing lawful permit holders from making unlawful mistakes due to misinformation or lack of information,

Whereas, People with concealed weapons permits have a responsibility to keep themselves, as well as those around them safe by being knowledgeable about their rights and proper safety. This amendment will serve to prevent law-abiding citizens with a permit from being charged for breaking laws that the carrier may not be aware of,

Whereas, By holding our carriers accountable for the laws they are mandated to adhere to, as well as knowledge of laws in states with reciprocity, South Carolina will be setting the standard for responsible and safe concealed carry.

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

Section I: Classes would be one hour long, taught by currently certified CWP instructors, and go over any new gun laws in South Carolina, as well as laws in neighboring states and states sharing reciprocity. To renew an existing permit proof of having taken the class is to be sent to SLED along with copies of a valid driver's license and Concealed Weapons permit, the renewal application, and the \$50 renewal fee.

Section II: This amendment wishes to add to section 23-31-215 subsection P of the 1976 Code to read: "proof of completion of the one hour law review class within the second and third year of the viability of the permit."

Section VI: This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor on July 1st, 2016.

A Bill
Presented By Michael Harris
Lander University

Purpose: To prevent the desecration and destruction of the flag of the United States or flag of South Carolina by malicious individuals attempting to incite public disorder and anger the general public.

Whereas, The people of the State of South Carolina have a right to know that the flags of their nation and state will not be publicly abused or disrespected; and,

Whereas, The state of South Carolina and its citizens are proud of the symbols that represent the state and the nation, which the state has a vested interest in protecting. The state of South Carolina can and should enforce laws against flag desecration for the promotion of public order, civic duty and patriotism; and,

Whereas, The people of the State of South Carolina are entitled to be proud of their state and nation without having to witness the symbol of their homeland desecrated and demeaned; and,

Whereas, The people of the United States who love their nation and wish to see its sacred symbols preserved will look to South Carolina as an example of a state with the wherewithal and pride to protect these symbols and support them.

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

Section I: Please refer to Chapter 17 Section 16-17-210 for all relevant definitions.

Section II: To amend Section 16-17-220 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to read as follows: Any person who in any manner, for exhibition or display, shall (a) knowingly place or cause to be placed any word, inscription, figure, mark, picture, design, device, symbol, name, characters, drawing, notice or advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, color or ensign of the United States, the Confederate States of America or this State or upon a flag, standard, color or ensign purporting to be such, (b) knowingly display, exhibit or expose or cause to be exposed to public view any such flag, standard, color or ensign upon which shall have been printed, painted or otherwise placed or to which shall be attached, appended, affixed or annexed any word, inscription, figure, mark, picture, design, device, symbol, name, characters, drawing, photographs, notice or advertisement of any nature, (c) expose to public view, manufacture, sell, expose for sale, give away or have in possession for sale, to give away, or for use for

any purpose, any article or substance, being an article of merchandise or a receptacle of merchandise or article or thing for carrying or transporting merchandise upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached or otherwise placed a representation of any such flag, standard, color or ensign to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark or distinguish the article or substance on which placed or (d) publicly mutilate, deface, defile, defy, jeer at, trample upon or cast contempt, either by word or act, upon any such flag, standard, color or ensign shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than sixty days, or both, in the discretion of the court, and shall also forfeit a penalty of fifty dollars for each offense, to be recovered with costs in a civil action or suit in any court having jurisdiction. Such action or suit may be brought by and in the name of any citizen of this State, and such penalty when collected, less the reasonable cost and expense of action or suit and recovery to be certified by the clerk of court of the county in which the offense is committed, shall be paid into the State Treasury. Two or more penalties may be sued for and recovered in the same action or suit.

Section III: This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor on 1st January 2016.

A Bill
Presented By Parysh Washington and Leah Sheppard
Lander University

Purpose: To put a term limit of three terms, totaling eighteen years, on Circuit Court Judges.

Whereas, Term limits are applied to Legislative and executive branches because these are not meant to be political careers; and,

Whereas, Allowing qualified lawyers to rotate judgeship; and,

Whereas, There are more South Carolina Bar members than there are jobs; and,

Whereas, Setting a precedent to allow equal opportunity for different rulings; and,

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

Section I: Circuit court is trial court, the court level in-between lower and appellate court. Currently there are forty six Judges that rotate through sixteen judicial districts. These Judges are elected by General Assembly.

Section II: Adding to Article V Section 13. Judicial circuit's term limits.

Section III: The judge is only eligible if he has attained the age of at least thirty-two years,

Section IV: Has been a licensed attorney at law for at least eight years,

Section V: Has been a resident of this State for five years next preceding his election.

Section VI: This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor on January 1, 2016.

A Bill
Presented by Walter Johnson
Lander University

- Purpose:** To provide limitations for the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for the purpose of surveillance.
- Whereas,** To prevent the use of drones to conduct surveillance on a person on privately owned property without the consent of the owner; and,
- Whereas,** To protect the privacy of the states citizens, and the ability to regulate privately owned and state institutions of their use of drones without proper permissions; and,
- Whereas,** To prevent the gathering of surveillance of a person on his or her private property by another person, state agency, or a political subdivision without written consent from owner or a warrant; and,
- Whereas,** Passing this bill will show the country that South Carolina provides necessary security for the privacy of its citizens; and,
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** “Drone” means a powered, aerial vehicle that: does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely, can be expendable or recoverable, and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload.
- Section II:** Exceptions that do not prohibit the use of a drone:
1. To counter a high risk of a terrorist attack by specific individual or organization if the United States Department of Homeland Security determines that credible intelligence indicates that the is such a risk.
 2. If the law enforcement agency first obtains a search warrant signed by a judge authorizing the use of a drone.
 3. If the law enforcement agency possesses reasonable suspicion that swift action is needed to prevent imminent danger to life or serious damage of property, to stall the imminent escape of a suspect or destruction of evidence.
 4. An environmental or weather-related catastrophe. The use of an UAV by state or local authorities to preserve public safety, protect property, survey environmental damage to determine if a state of emergency should be declared, or conduct surveillance for the assessment and evaluation of environmental or weather-related damage, erosion, flood, or contamination.

46 5.Research, education, training, testing, or development efforts undertaken
47 by or in conjunction with a school or institution of higher education within
48 the state and its political subdivisions, nor to public and private
49 collaborators engaged in mutually supported efforts involving research,
50 education, training, testing, or development related to UAV systems or
51 UAV technologies and potential applications.
52

53 **Section III:** Prohibited use:

54 1. A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of, including
55 granting a permit to use, an UAV armed with any lethal weapons.
56 2.This act prohibits any use of an UAV for domestic use in private
57 surveillance . A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of ,
58 including granting a permit to use , an UAV to permit any private person
59 to conduct surveillance on any other private person without the express,
60 informed consent of that other person or the owner of any real property on
61 which that other private person is present.
62

63 **Section IV:** The owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of privately owned real
64 property may initiate a civil action for compensatory damages for
65 violation of this law.
66

67 **Section V:** Evidence obtained or collected in violation of this act is not admissible as
68 evidence in a criminal prosecution in any court of law in this state.
69

70 **Section VI:** This bill shall go into effect upon passage by the General Assembly and
71 signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Caleb Johnson
North Greenville University

Purpose: To create free economic conditions during an abnormal disruption in the market in order to stimulate recovery and growth.

Whereas, The illegality of price gouging slows the recovery process; and,

Whereas, Price gouging reduce lines and wastes; and,

Whereas, Price gouging allows the market to adjust normally to an emergency or other abnormal disruption.

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

Section I: A full repeal of Section 39-5-145.

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

**An Amendment
Presented by Graham Brooks
North Greenville University**

- Purpose:** To ensure that the state of South Carolina lives within its means and does not burden its citizens with debt.
- Whereas,** Budget battles in state and national legislative bodies are becoming frequently chaotic; and
- Whereas,** Paying off debts is a drag on state economies; and
- Whereas,** Taxation and spending are involving more money each year.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted in the South Carolina Legislature:
- Section I:** The South Carolina Constitution shall include this as an amendment, that the state budget must be balanced every fiscal year.
- Section II:** In the event of unforeseen dire circumstances that must allow deficit spending, such spending may be enacted with two-thirds of the votes of each legislative body and the signature of the governor.
- Section III:** This shall go into effect for the next fiscal year upon approval by the Legislature and the signature of the Governor.

A Bill

**Presented by Jenna Tyrpak, Audrey Salaita, and Caleb Johnson
North Greenville University**

- Purpose:** To allow for a more accurate pricing of event tickets and reduce the number of laws in South Carolina by repealing laws relating to ticket scalping.
- Whereas,** Ticket scalping allows for quicker entry to an event; and,
- Whereas,** Ticket scalping increases the efficiency of the event ticket markets; and,
- Whereas,** Repealing laws relating to ticket scalping would reduce the number of laws in South Carolina and allow law enforcement to spend time addressing more serious safety concerns.
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** A full repeal of South Carolina Code of Laws 39-5-36.
- Section II:** A full repeal of South Carolina Code of Laws 16-17-710.
- Section III:** This act shall go into effect immediately after passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

**A Bill
Presented by John Partin
North Greenville University**

- Purpose:** To make the termination of a pregnancy illegal twenty weeks after fertilization.
- Whereas,** Medical evidence shows that unborn babies are capable of feeling pain twenty weeks after fertilization; and,
- Whereas,** 56% of all Americans support an abortion ban twenty weeks after fertilization, including 60% of women, and another 10% support a ban earlier than the current twenty-four week ban; and,
- Whereas,** Fourteen other states have similar bans after twenty weeks (AL, AZ, AR, GA, ID, IN, KS, LA, MS, NE, ND, OK, TX, WI).
- Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:
- Section I:** Abortions of unborn babies twenty weeks after fertilization will be illegal for any doctor, medical practice, or any other person to perform in the state of South Carolina.
- Section II:** Any person caught performing this illegal activity will be subject to a minimum of ten years of prison time.
- Section III:** Except in cases where the mother's life is threatened by the pregnancy, as determined by a doctor.
- Section IV:** Except in cases where the pregnancy is the result of the rape of a female minor or incest of a female minor and has been reported to South Carolina Law Enforcement two days prior to the abortion being requested.
- Section V:** This act shall go into effect after its passage by the General Assembly and signature of the Governor.

A Bill
Presented by Pedro Benjamin Mateo
North Greenville University

Purpose: Enforce tougher penalties for domestic violence offenders through a tiered system of penalties based on the severity of the crime.

Whereas, *The Post and Courier* of Charleston found that guns were used in sixty-four percent of all domestic violence killings of women in South Carolina over the last ten years; and,

Whereas, it is known that in order for this to be successful, our citizens must be educated on the subject matter; and,

Whereas, upon the signing of this bill, the State of South Carolina will work along side Governor Haley's Domestic Violence Task Force.

Therefore, Be it resolved in the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Section I: The most severe offense would be domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature, a serious, violent felony that would carry a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Section II: There would be three other tiers, first-, second- and third-degree domestic violence, with penalties that range from zero to 10 years. In addition, the proposal would bar domestic abusers from possessing guns for up to 10 years after their conviction.

Section III: This bill will go into effect upon the signature of the Governor.

The Constitution of the South Carolina Student Legislature

Article I Name

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

Article II Purpose

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

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

Article III Membership

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 **Article IV**
55 **Officers**
56

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

total of two previous sessions needed. Candidates for Lieutenant Governor shall be members of the Senate during in which the election is being held. Candidates for Speaker of the House shall be members of the House during the session in which the election is being.

Section 9. A candidate for President *Pro Tempore*, Speaker *Pro Tempore* or *Fundraising Chair* shall have attended one previous session prior to the session in which the election is being held. The Fall Session during which the elections are being held shall not count towards the previous session needed.

Section 10. In the event that the office of President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall become vacant at any time other than that immediately preceding Fall Session, the Governor, with the consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a qualified replacement. Any appointment of a new President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall be confirmed by the respective chamber at the next Fall Session. In the event that the office of President *Pro Tempore* or Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall become vacant at a time immediately preceding Fall Session, the chamber concerned, as its first order of business, shall hold nominations and elections to fill the vacancy. For the purpose of this document, “immediately preceding” shall mean a period of two (2) months prior to the first day of the upcoming event.

Article V Powers and Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Governor shall:

- A. With the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, have the power to form a Cabinet to perform the duties of the Executive Branch designated to them by the Governor, to include the following positions and any others designated by the Governor as necessary to the operations of the South Carolina Student Legislature:
 - i. Secretary of State
 - ii. Attorney General
 - iii. Chief Justice
 - iv. Treasurer
- B. Have full power, with the consent of the Executive Committee, to create and fill any other office which the Governor deems necessary to the South Carolina Student Legislature;
- C. With the advice of the Executive Committee, have full power to establish and maintain an “Office of the Governor” for his assistance and to perform the duties designated by the Governor as necessary to the operations and execution of the powers of the Governor of the South Carolina Student Legislature

- i. The Governor shall have full power to appoint a Chief of Staff to manage and coordinate the operations of the Office of the Governor

- D. Represent South Carolina Student Legislature throughout the State of South Carolina and the United States;
E. Present the “Journal of Acts and Resolutions” to the Governor and the General Assembly of South Carolina;
F. Report to the South Carolina Student Legislature at the Fall Session on the state of the organization;
G. Preside over all Interim Meetings;
H. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee;
I. Sign or veto all legislation that has passed the House and the Senate during Session.

Section 2. The Lieutenant Governor shall:

- A. Assume the duties of the Governor in the event the Governor vacates the office of Governor or is incapable of fulfilling the duties of the office;
B. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee;
C. Preside over the Senate, but shall have no vote except in the event of a tie;
D. With the consent of the Senate, appoint three (3) members of that body, no two (2) of whom shall be from the same school, to serve on the Conference Committee;
E. Serve as a member of the Finance Committee;
F. Be responsible for the publication of the “Journal of Acts and Resolutions;”
G. Be responsible for the compilation and publication of the Bill Book;
H. Be responsible, with the Speaker of the House, for the organization and distribution of a legislation calendar for Fall Session.

Section 3. The Speaker of the House shall:

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

Section 4. The President *Pro Tempore* shall:

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

Section 5. The Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall:

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

Section 6. The Secretary of State shall:

- A. Assist and advise the Governor in all matters in which the Governor shall need aid;
- B. Prepare the minutes and records of interim meetings and Spring Session;
- C. Be responsible, with the Attorney General, for the reapportionment of each Delegation prior to Fall Session;
- D. Assist the Election and Awards Committee in the execution of their duties as that committee may deem appropriate;
- E. Receive the certified results from the Election Chair of the Election and Awards Committee.

Section 7. The Attorney General shall:

- A. Serve as Prosecutor before the Trial Committee;
- B. Be replaced as Prosecutor if impeached;
- C. Serve as a member of the Constitutional Committee;
- D. Be responsible, with the Secretary of State, for the reapportionment of each Delegation prior to Fall Session.
- E. Shall determine the constitutionality of legislation, under the Constitution the State of South Carolina, whose constitutionality has been called into question on the floor. The legislation shall be tabled for review by the Attorney General. Upon a decision The Attorney General shall recommend to the body a course of action based on his decision within one hour from when he receives it. In the absence of the Attorney General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall perform these duties.

Section 8. Chief Justice of the Court shall:

- A. Rule on the constitutionality of legislation under the Constitution of the State of South Carolina in the absence of the Attorney General.
- B. Preside over special sessions of the Supreme Court as outlined in Article VII.
- C. Serve as Chairman of the Trial Committee;
- D. Serve as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee;
- E. Obtain and distribute the trial case to be used in the Supreme Court hearings at session no later than 30 days prior to session.

Section 9. The Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep a current account of all funds of the South Carolina Student Legislature;
- B. Serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee;
- C. Prepare and present the annual operating budget;
- D. Abide by the Policies and Procedures set forth in the Treasurer Manual;

Section 10. The Fall Session Committee Chairmen shall:

- A. Chair their respective committees at Fall Session;
- B. Serve on the Trial Committee.
- C. Serve as members of the Election and Awards Committee.

Section 11. The Comptroller General shall:

- A. Perform an annual internal audit of the organization and prepare an audit report to be presented to the SCSL General Assembly in Joint Session.
- B. Present the audit report to the General Assembly as the first order of business at the first joint session of the first full day of the Fall Session.
- C. Coordinate with external auditors through the course of any external audit of SCSL.
- D. Documented approval from the Comptroller General shall be required for disbursements of more than \$150. A documented unanimous vote of the Finance Committee may override disapproval from the Comptroller General. Email or written notation is sufficient to constitute documentation.

Article VI
Meetings

Section 1. Notice of all meetings shall be given no less than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall call all meetings.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall propose the order of business and business to be conducted.

Section 4. The meetings shall be:

- A. Spring Session;
- B. Fall Session;
- C. Interim Meetings.

Section 5. Spring Session:

- A. Spring Session shall be presided over by all presiding officers of the Executive Committee;
- B. Each Delegation in attendance is entitled to one vote for the following purposes:
 - 1. Amendments or revisions of the Constitution;
 - 2. Election of Fall Session Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in accordance with Article IX;
 - 3. Any other business deemed by the Executive Committee to be pertinent to the South Carolina Student Legislature.
- C. 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:
 - i. Be approved by the Executive Committee before the last day of session.
 - ii. 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, with the aid of the President *Pro Tempore* and the Speaker *Pro Tempore*, form calendars of legislation for the chambers;
4. A bill or resolution passing the joint session shall be presented to the Governor for approval;
5. All legislation signed by the Governor or passed over the Governor's veto shall be included in the "Journal of Acts and Resolutions;"
6. All legislation presented to the Governor will be signed or vetoed and returned to the chamber prior to the time scheduled for adjournment of the joint session. The legislative body, by a two-thirds vote, may extend its session and consider only those pieces of legislation vetoed and returned by the Governor.
7. Any legislation passed and not signed or vetoed by the Governor after the final adjournment, including any extended session, shall be considered approved by the Governor and ordered printed in the "Journal of Acts and Resolutions."

D. Registration Fees

1. Member dues will be collected at the beginning of session at the discretion of the Finance Committee.

Section 6. Fall Session:

- A. Fall Session shall be an annual student legislature, modeled after the General Assembly of South Carolina and shall be comprised of a Senate, a House of Representatives, and a Supreme Court;
- B. Elections for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, and Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the House shall be held as the first order of business at the first joint session on the last day.
- C. Each member school shall be represented by a delegation consisting of:
 1. A chairman, and;
 2. Two (2) delegates per school, and;
 3. One delegate for each 200 full time undergraduate students for the first 1,000 students (5 possible), and;
 4. One delegate for each 1,000 full time undergraduate students from 1,000 to 10,000 (9 possible), and;
 5. One delegate for each 3,000 full time undergraduate students from 10,000 up;
 6. All numbers shall be rounded up if the numbers exceed by more than 50 percent (50 percent plus 1) the previous population bracket.

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

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

391
392 **Section 7. Interim Meetings:**

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

399 **Article VII**
400 **The Supreme Court**

401 **SECTION 1. Supreme Court.**

402 The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices, any three
403 of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chief Justice shall
404 preside, and in his absence the senior Associate Justice. In all cases decided by the
405 Supreme Court, the concurrence of three of the Justices shall be necessary for a reversal
406 of the judgment below

SECTION 2. Election of members of Supreme Court.

The members of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall receive resumes and choose the Associate Justices prior to the spring session. No more than two (2) justices shall be chosen from the same delegation.

SECTION 3. Jurisdiction of Supreme Court.

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

Article VIII
Committees

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall:

- A. Consist of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, and the Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the House, and shall be chaired by the Governor;
- B. Approve all officers appointed by the Governor;
- C. Call all meetings of the South Carolina Student Legislature;
- D. Be responsible to plan all meetings of the South Carolina Student Legislature;
- E. Review and approve an annual budget;
- F. Appoint three (3) members-at-large to the Constitutional Committee;

Section 2. The Finance Committee shall:

- A. Consist of the Treasurer, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House, and be chaired by the Treasurer;
- B. Prepare the annual budget no later than the last Interim meeting before Fall Session;

- C. Set and levy registration fees;
- D. Solicit funds for South Carolina Student Legislature;
- E. Approve all disbursements and reimbursements;
- F. Review and revise the Treasurer Manual before Spring Session annually.

Section 3. The Trial Committee shall:

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

Section 4. The Constitutional Committee shall:

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

Section 5. The Election and Awards Committee shall:

- A. Consist of the Chairmen of the following committees:
 - 1. Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - 2. Committee on Education
 - 3. Committee on Judiciary
 - 4. Committee on Labor Commerce and Industry
 - 5. Committee on Medical, Municipal, Military, Transportation, and Public Administration
 - 6. Committee on Miscellaneous
 - 7. Committee on Ways and Means
- B. And shall be chaired by the Chair of the Committee on Judiciary.
- C. No member of the Committee who is running for office shall continue to serve on the Committee. In this case the respective vice chair will take his place on the Committee. In the case that the vice chair is also running for office, the replacement shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Executive Committee.

- D. Any member of the Committee who has been nominated for an award may not vote on the award(s) they have been nominated for. In this case, the Committee member will step away from the committee to allow for discussion and voting.
- E. Secretary of State shall assist the committee in making such preparations as it deems necessary, and shall be tasked with submitting all results to the Governor.
- F. The Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and the Secretary of State shall count the ballots in all elections of the South Carolina Student Legislature.
- G. Oversee the determination of the award honorees and recipients in accordance with Article XI.
- H. The Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and the Secretary of State shall submit a teller's report as discussed in section 44 of *Robert's Rules of Order; Newly Revised*. This report shall be sent to the Executive Committee and be available to any delegation upon request.

Section 6. The Fall Session Committees shall:

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

Section 7. The Conference Committee shall:

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

Article IX
Finances

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall, each year, through the office of the Treasurer, provide the South Carolina Student Legislature with an annual operating

budget. The presentation of the annual operating budget shall be done by the Treasurer to the General Assembly during Fall Session.

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

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

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

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

Article X Elections

Section 1. Nominations shall be by the Secretary of State each day of Spring Session for Chairman and Vice Chairman of each committee listed in Article VIII. Names shall be listed by position in the order which the nominations are received. Chairmen and Vice Chairmen shall be elected by secret ballot. Each Delegation shall be given one vote for each chair and vice chair position. Ballots shall be distributed, collected, counted, and certified by the Secretary of State, the Chief Justice, and the Attorney General on the last of Spring Session. Results of these elections shall be announced to the delegates before the conclusion of Spring 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.
- D. A delegate can only place his name on the ballot for a single office and cannot be listed more than once.
- E. The candidates will be listed on the Ballot in the order that their nominations are received by the assembly.
- F. Ballots which do not clearly identify the preference of the voter shall not be counted.

Article XI

Discipline of Officers

Section 1. Any elected or appointed officer may be removed from office for the following:

- A. Failure to discharge the duties of his office;

- B. Behavior determined by the body to be demeaning to the integrity of the South Carolina Student Legislature.

Section 2. Specific charges against the officer must be presented at any meeting of the Trial Committee. Upon a two-thirds vote of the present committee members, the officer in question shall be impeached.

Section 3. The impeached officer shall remain in office and he shall have until the next meeting of the members to prepare a defense. The elected officers will determine the time between the two meetings thus stated. The officer in question will have a minimum of 72 hours to prepare a defense.

Section 4. Following impeachment charges, a hearing consisting of no less than 3/4 members, shall be held to consider all charges made against the impeached officer.

Section 5. At the hearing all charges and evidence shall be brought forth in front of the Trial Committee. The impeached officer shall be afforded a maximum time allotted to deliver a defense, and shall have final remarks before a vote is taken.

Section 6. Upon a 3/4 vote of the trial committee present, the impeached officer shall be removed from office.

Section 7. Any vacancies created by the discipline of the Trial Committee shall be filled according to the method laid out in the Constitution of the South Carolina Student Legislature.

Article XII

Awards

Section 1. The Carlisle Award is given annually at Fall Session in honor of the founder of the South Carolina Student Legislature, Dr. Douglas Carlisle. The Carlisle Award is awarded to the delegate or Officer who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, best represents the ideals of the South Carolina Student Legislature.

Section 2. The Best Senator Award is given annually at Fall Session to the Senator who shows himself to be an accomplished speaker and conscientious statesman. The Senators shall nominate candidates for the Best Senator Award and then each Senator shall cast one vote for one of the nominees. The Lieutenant Governor shall cast a vote in case of a tie. The Election and Awards Committee shall administer the ballots.

Section 3. The Best Representative Award is given annually at Fall Session to the Representative who shows himself to be an accomplished speaker and conscientious statesman. The Representatives shall nominate candidates for the Best Representative Award and then each Representative shall cast one vote for one of the nominees. The Speaker of the House shall cast a vote in case of a tie. The Election and Awards Committee shall administer the ballots.

Section 4. The Best Legislation Award is given annually at Fall Session to the Author whose legislation, in the opinion of Election and Awards Committee, best manifests thorough research, topicality, and excellent use of language. The committee is not limited to bills presented to the House or Senate.

Section 5. The Best Delegation Award is given annually at Fall Session to the small, medium, and large delegations that, in the opinion of the Election and Awards Committee, best exemplified cohesion and activity.

A. A small delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose school has a current population of 2,000 students or less.

B. A medium delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose school has a current population between 2,001 and 8,000 students.

C. A large delegation shall be defined as a delegation whose school has a current population over 8,001 students.

Section 6. The Chad M. Beatty Award is given annually at Fall Session to the outstanding non-officer senior as decided by the Elections and Awards Committee.

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

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

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

Article XIII

Parliamentary Authority

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

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

Article XIV Equality

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

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

Article XV Amendment of the Constitution

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

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

Article XVI Preemption of Constitution and Bylaws

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