



Legislative Update Week 12
April 3, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Vouchers pass the Senate - On Wednesday the Senate voted [25-15](#) to pass a harmful voucher bill, [S.935](#), which creates a private voucher system.

Debate lasted many hours Tuesday and Wednesday, with several Senators fighting to amend the bill and raising points about how the bill allows for discrimination, violates the South Carolina and US Constitution, and how it does nothing to improve the education or lives of the majority of South Carolina's students or to address the historic teacher and school staff shortage crisis in our state.

The [amendments proposed on Tuesday can be found here](#) and the [amendments proposed on Wednesday can be found here](#). Votes on each amendment are also recorded on the corresponding links.

The bill may now be taken up by the House. Read more to learn how to [take action](#)!

Want in-depth recaps? Check out these links:

- A [video from discussion between Senators Fanning and Martin on Tuesday can be viewed here](#).
- A [thread live-tweeted by The SCEA for the full 8+ hours of debate, including several videos, on Wednesday is linked here](#).
- A [video of the final hour of debate on amendments and the vote on the bill can be found here](#).

2 Anti-Truth Legislation - On Tuesday, the House Education & Public Works discussed language on a committee bill now known as [H.5183](#).

H.5183 was written following several hearings on anti-Truth bills **H. 4325, 4343, 4392, 4605, and 4799**. However, the public and educators were given no opportunity to review and be heard on the new bill prior to the committee voting to adopt the language.

Twelve legislators—Representatives Allison, Lin Bennett, Brittain, Calhoon, Felder, Gatch, McGinnis, Moore, Morgan, Oremus, Smith, and Trantham voted yes. Five legislators—Representatives McDaniel, Govan, Alexander, Henderson-Myers, and Rivers—voted no. [The full meeting summary can be found here.](#)

Despite objection on point of order from Representatives Govan and McDaniel, **H.5183** was introduced, read for the first time, and placed on calendar without reference on Wednesday.

The House is expected to begin debate next week. Read more to learn how to [take action](#)!

3 H.4608 - The House K-12 Subcommittee met on Wednesday to discuss **H.4608**, a bill that seeks to prevent transgender youth from participating in sports. **H. 4608** [is similar to many bills around the country that attack transgender youth.](#)

Despite testimony from experts, many impacted in the community and even from Representative John King, the subcommittee voted 4-2 to give the bill a favorable report. Only Representatives Alexander and Rivers voted no. [A full subcommittee meeting summary can be heard here.](#)

On Thursday, the full House Education and Public Works committee [met for less than 10 minutes](#) before voting to give the bill a favorable report. The vote also coincided with the celebration of the International Transgender Day of Visibility, which was formally recognized by President Joe Biden in a proclamation last year. [A full meeting summary of this very brief meeting can be found here.](#)

Members of the House Rules Committee, voted to fast-track the bill, which will be taken to the floor on Tuesday, where it needs a two-thirds vote to get on the calendar.


[According to an article from the Post & Courier](#), members of the Rules Committee acknowledged the legislation is not the most pressing issue facing South Carolinians and that there have been no issues allowing transgender student athletes to compete in women's sports.

NEA General Counsel [published a memo](#) breaking down legislation from around the country with steps educators can take. [NEA EdJustice also has a page](#) dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth where you can become informed and take action. SC United has put together a [toolkit](#) on **H.4608** and similar legislation to help you get information and take action, too.

Don't forget that with any legislation or issue, you can reach out to your elected official by phone, email, or even social media [using this tool](#)!

[**Check out the Week Ahead with Legislation and Meetings of Interest!**](#)

Use Your Educator Voice!

 **Senators who did not vote for the harmful voucher bill S.935.** [Fifteen Senators](#) listened to educators and voted against S.935.

They are Senators **Fanning, Jackson, Hutto, McLeod, Kimpson, Allen, Kevin Johnson, Malloy, Martin, Matthews, McElveen, Sabb, Scott, Stephens, and Williams.**

[**You can use this link to find out whether your Senator voted for or against the**](#)

[bill and to send them a personal note either thanking them for opposing the bill or letting them know you are disappointed for supporting the bill.](#)

Representatives on the House Education and Public Works Committee who voted against adopting H.5183 as a committee bill. Five legislators—Representatives **McDaniel, Govan, Alexander, Henderson-Myers, and Rivers**—voted no because they believed the public and educators deserved the opportunity review and be heard on the new bill.

[Click here to thank them for standing for educators, students, and truth.](#)

Representative [John King](#) for voicing opposition to **H.4608** and expressing the need for the legislature to focus on and take up legislation that impacts all of South Carolina's children rather than prioritizing legislation that discriminates against some children.

👎 Jeers - Senators who voted for the harmful voucher bill S.935. [Twenty-five Senators](#) voted to send public dollars to private schools that can be held to lower standards, discriminate in admissions, hire non-certified teachers, and teach curricula that has little oversight.

They are Senators **Adams, Alexander, Bennett, Cash, Climer, Corbin, Cromer, Davis, Gambrell, Garrett, Grooms, Gustafson, Hembree, Michael Johnson, Kimbrell, Loftis, Massey, Peeler, Rankin, Rice, Senn, Talley, Turner, Verdin, and Young.**

[You can use this link to find out whether your Senator voted for or against the bill and to send them a personal note either thanking them for opposing the bill or letting them know you are disappointed for supporting the bill.](#)

Representative [Brandon Newton](#) for adding his name to sponsor House voucher scheme H.4879.



Above: Pictures of 3 of the 15 Senators (Senators Martin, Fanning, and Jackson) who rose to oppose the harmful voucher bill **S.935** on the Senate floor this week.



Take Action!



Stand Up for Public Schools

Say **NO**
to censorship
and voucher schemes

The House is expected to take up debate on voucher schemes like **S.935** and **H.4879** and anti-truth censorship bill **H.5183** this week.

These bills are **blatant attacks on South Carolina's Public Schools** and the over 96% of students who attend them.

These pieces of legislation would send public funds to schools that can discriminate against students while censoring and overly scrutinizing teachers in Public Schools.

Tell Your Representative to Stand Up for Public Schools!



South Carolina's schools are facing an unprecedented educator and school staff shortage crisis that only deepens by the day.

Students deserve to have fully staffed schools & a highly qualified educator every classroom.

Legislators need to fund it.

Urge your Senator and Representative to [fund raises for ALL](#) South Carolina educators and schools staff.

Advocate for raises for ALL!

The Week Ahead & Legislation of Interest

[Click here for a look at the meetings scheduled for next week](#) on bills of interest to education.

Want the latest on federal legislation?

[Check out Education Votes by NEA](#) and subscribe to the [weekly Education Votes email](#).



Contact your elected officials at any level on any issue.

Click this button to find their contact information, including email, phone number, and even their Facebook or Twitter.

Find & Contact Elected Officials



Do you believe every South Carolina student deserves a great public school?

Make sure your state Senator & Representative know that Public Education issues will have most impact your decision as a voter.

Take the Pledge!

