



Legislative Update Week 17

May 7, 2022

We're in the final countdown for the 2nd regular session of the 124th South Carolina General Assembly.

This upcoming week is the final week of the session with Thursday, May 12th being Sine Die, the last day of the regular legislative session. Legislators will return in June for budget purposes and other matters.

Top 3 Things to Know

1 *Unencumbered Time Passes the House* - A core priority of The SCEA Legislative Agenda has made its way closer to the finish line! Your collective voice and the advocacy of The SCEA resulted in the House saying "We hear you," and unanimously passing duty-free unencumbered time for educators.

The collective voice and advocacy of The SCEA resulted in the House ***unanimously*** passing duty-free unencumbered time for educators through [S.946](#). The SCEA has worked hard to make sure this important legislation advanced this session.

Because this bill already unanimously passed in the Senate, the next step is for the Senate to vote on concurring or not concurring with the House passed version.

[You can reach out to your Senator now to urge them to concur with the House!](#)

2 *Senate votes to support aspiring educators* - The Senate unanimously passed a

version of [H.3588](#), the LIFE Scholarship bill that extends the Scholarship to include education majors, as well as a service requirement for education scholarship recipients to teach in South Carolina for each year they receive the scholarship. The next step is for the Senate to concur with the strengthened House version of the bill.

South Carolina is currently facing a five-alarm educator shortage crisis. Attracting and retaining educators has never been more urgent, and reducing the debt burden of aspiring educators working to become certified educators is one way to meaningfully attract talented new educators to the profession.

These valuable changes to H.3588 could begin to address the recruitment and retention crisis to ensure every student in South Carolina has the highly qualified educator they deserve in their classroom.

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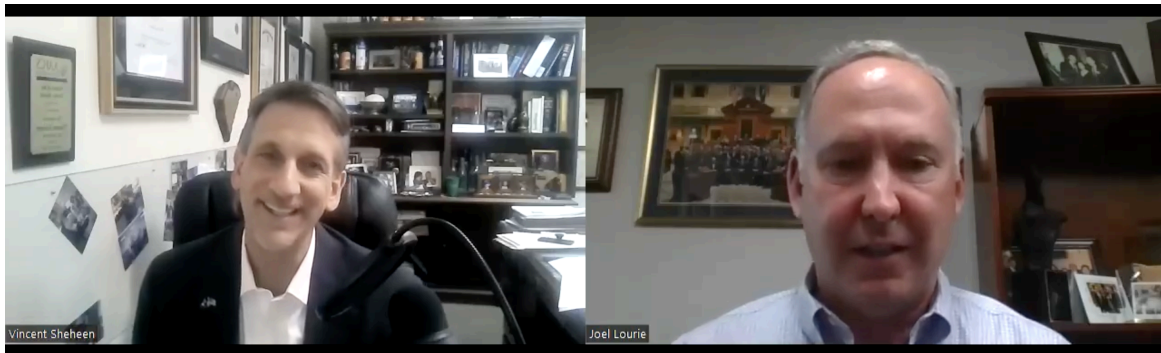
[You can write to your Representative now to urge them to concur with the Senate on H.3588.](#)

3 House Voucher Fight - This week the House will begin debate on harmful voucher bill [S.935](#) that will take your public dollars to pay for private schools that can pick and choose their students and discriminate against the most vulnerable children.

You can help stop harmful vouchers by [calling](#) and [emailing](#) your representative.

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!](#)



Above: [Former state Senators Sheheen and Lourie, friends of The SCEA and hosts of South Carolina's #1 political podcast Bourbon In The Back Room wish The SCEA members a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week.](#)

Use Your Educator Voice!

👍 Cheers - **Members like you** for making your voice heard to advocate for unencumbered time. Your collective voice and the advocacy of The SCEA resulted in the House saying, "We hear you," and unanimously passing duty-free unencumbered time for educators.

[You can reach out to your Senator now to urge them to concur with the House!](#)

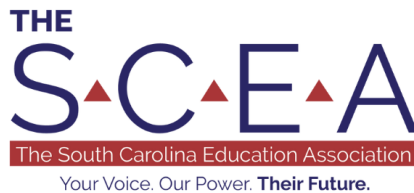
[You can thank your Representative for voting YES on unencumbered time by](#)

[finding their email here!](#)

 **Take Action!** 

Your Voice Matters!

Unencumbered Time Passed the House!



The House passed S.946, the unencumbered time bill, unanimously. The next step is for the Senate to concur with the strengthened House version of the bill.

Act Now: Tell your Senator to concur with the House on S.946.

Write to your Senator now!

Stand Up for Public Schools



**Say NO
to voucher schemes**

South Carolina's Public Schools and students are under attack from harmful legislation.

Your Representative needs to hear from you NOW.

Tell them: Stand up for Public Schools. Say NO to voucher schemes!

Call your Representative!

Email your Representative!

Primary Day is Coming!

The statewide primary election takes place on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Make sure your voice is heard—Check your voter registration or register to vote!

Registration Deadlines & Information:

- ONLINE - Sunday, May 15, 2022
 - BY MAIL - (POSTMARKED) - Monday, May 16, 2022
 - IN PERSON - Friday, May 13, 2022
- [Click here to check your registration](#)
 - [Click here to register to vote](#)



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!

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.](#)

