



---

*Legislative Update Week 9*  
*March 11th, 2023*

---

## **The SCEA Legislative Reception**



The SCEA members, Alexandria Murray, Kat Lowe, and MaryRita Watson, meet with House Representative Jason Elliot, Greenville, on Tuesday

The SCEA held a legislative reception at the Palmetto Club on Tuesday.

Legislators, former and current educators, and staff gathered to discuss education policy and current legislation impacting public education in South Carolina!

---

## The SCEA Lobby Day



*The SCEA members meet at Lobby Day on Wednesday*

On Wednesday, The SCEA held their annual Lobby Day at the State House. Over 100 members and allies gathered to advocate for public education.

Senator Mike Fanning, Senate Education Chairman Greg Hembree, and House Education and Public Works Chairwoman Shannon S. Erickson spoke to members.

Senator Fanning specifically outlined the bills he is working to pass through the legislature, including pay increases, additional steps on the pay schedule, and paid parental leave for teachers.

---

## School Safety and Targeted Violence

H.3360 Center for School Safety and Targeted Violence establishes a center within the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to provide training, education, and expertise in school safety and prevention of targeted violence. The SCEA has testified in favor of this bill.

H.3360 had its third reading on the House floor and is set to be sent to the Senate.

---

## Read to Succeed Endorsements

S.418 Read to Succeed Endorsements would limit the current requirements in the Read to Succeed legislation.

This bill responds to concerns raised by educators around the burdensome number of requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal.

This bill received a second reading on Thursday. The SCEA supports the legislation and will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates.

---

## Vouchers

On Wednesday, the Senate debated “Academic Choice in Education” (ACE) (S.285), the voucher scheme that will use tax credits to indirectly fund private and religious institutions.

The private institutions receiving these funds are not subjected to the same level of oversight as public schools, nor are they required to admit every student. Educators have raised concerns about how this will limit opportunities for students with IEPs and 504s.

S.285 remains on the Senate floor for debate, which will resume next week.

“Scholarship Trust Fund Bill” (S.39), the other voucher bill, remains in committee.

[Take Action On Vouchers!](#)

---

## Censorship

The Senate scheduled a subcommittee hearing to discuss H. 3728: “South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act,” on March 15, at 9 a.m. in Gressette Room 308.

This is a censorship bill that could limit discussions of race, gender, and other important issues in K-12 and higher education classrooms, making it difficult for many teachers to accurately teach their subjects and restricting educators’ ability to respect, reflect, and protect all students in their classrooms.

Additionally, this bill requires schools to share curricula with parents and create a complaint form that parents, other students, and school employees can use to challenge lessons or curriculum components they believe violates this law.

The SCEA fears that many educators may become burdened with unnecessary complaints and fears for the future of accurate education in Black history and other cultural topics.

[Take Action Now To Stand Up For Truth!](#)

---

## Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act

After nearly two hours of debate, the House passed H.3726, the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act on Wednesday.

The bill is sponsored by House Speaker Murrell Smith and has broad bipartisan support. The legislation aims to unite statewide leaders to increase economic growth through education and businesses.

The bill now advances to the Senate, where it appears to have support. The SCEA will continue to monitor.

---

## **The Ballot Initiative**

H.3591 would repeal the state constitution's ban on private schools receiving public funds. Opponents argue that public funds would be better allocated to the public education system.

This bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

---

## **Aspiring Educator Scholarships**

S. 125: Scholarship Stipend would encourage students to pursue a career in education by providing scholarships for aspiring teachers to lessen their student debt burden while receiving their degree.

The bill was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

---

## **Budget**

The South Carolina House will start floor debate for the FY24 state budget on Monday.

The budget, passed by the Ways and Means Committee, that will be debated would increase state funding to the State Aid to Classrooms program by \$260 million. The Ways and Means budget would also increase the statewide minimum salary schedule by \$2,500 at every cell.

However, the only teachers that would be guaranteed a \$2,500 raise are those that teach in the eight districts that currently pay on the statewide minimum schedule. Raises in all other districts would be dependent on any existing gap between current pay and the new statewide schedule and on policy decisions of local school boards.

You can view the Ways and Means Committee document [here](#).

---

## **Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

Below are meetings scheduled for next week on bills of interest to you. You can click on the date link to view the agenda and the bill number to see the legislation.

Wed 3/15  
[9:00 AM in Gressette Room 308](#)

Wed 3/22

10:00 AM in Gressette Room 207

S 126 (Charter School Accountability Act)

---

## Introductions of Interest

Below are bills that were introduced in the House and Senate this week that may be of interest to you. We have provided a brief description as well as a link to the full text of each bill. Please review and let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

### H. 4100: Countywide School District Mandate

*Crawford*

Representative Heather Crawford (R-Horry), Representative Val Guest (R-Horry), Representative Lee Hewitt (R-Georgetown) and others introduced a bill to require each county to be constituted as a school district and to prohibit a county from having multiple school districts within its boundaries beginning July 1, 2025.

The bill was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

### H. 4121: Charter School Athletics

*Forrest*

Representative Cal Forrest (R-Saluda) introduced a bill to prohibit a charter school from participating in postseason playoff or championship competitions for athletics unless the playoff and championship competitions only include charter schools as participants. The bill was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

### H. 4122: Administration of Lifesaving Medication in Schools

*Erickson*

Representative Shannon Erickson (R-Beaufort), Representative Spencer Wetmore (D-Charleston), Representative Brandon Guffey (R-York) and others introduced a bill to permit any lifesaving medications to be administered to a person experiencing a medical emergency by designated school personnel. The bill was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

### H. 4123: Earnings Limitation for School Resource Officers

*Herbkersman*

Representative Bill Herbkersman (R-Beaufort) introduced a bill to exclude school resource officers from the police officers retirement system's earnings limitation. The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

### H. 4125: Private School Sports Participation

*Guffey*

Representative Brandon Guffey (R-York), Representative Matt Leber (R-Charleston), Representative Jeff Bradley (R-Beaufort) and others introduced a bill to set forth limited situations in which high school private school students may participate in sports at public high schools. The bill was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

---

---

## Numbers to Know

- **95,000**: Number of South Carolina residents currently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease
  - **92.4%**: Percentage of retention rate at Clemson University
  - **2,763**: Latest report of Covid-19 cases in SC
  - **7th**: Volkswagen's ranking in largest companies in the U.S.
  - **15**: Number of states with a hate crime law excluding LGBTQ language
- 

## Education Bills That Moved This Week

[Click here to follow all tracked bills.](#)

### **SB418: READ TO SUCCEED ENDORSEMENTS**

(HEMBREE G)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023
- Roll call: [Ayes-41 Nays-0](#)
- State Bill Page: [SB418](#)

### **HJR3312: CHILD FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE**

(HADDON P)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023
- Senate Subcommittee recommends passage to Agriculture Subcommittee
- State Bill Page: [HJR3312](#)

### **HB3360: CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY AND TARGETED VIOLENCE**

(POPE T)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023
- Adopted, sent to Senate
- State Bill Page: [HB3360](#)

### **SB244: SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

(KIMBRELL J)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023 - Senate Subcommittee recommends passage to Education Subcommittee
- State Bill Page: [SB244](#)

### **HB4300: FY2023-2024 APPROPRIATIONS** (BANNISTER B)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023 - Special order, set for for third reading immediately after second reading of H. 4301
- State Bill Page: [HB4300](#)
- News Stories:
  - [3/8/2023 - SC law enforcement, nurses, mental health professionals in line for pay raises in House budget](#)
  - [2/28/2023 - SC House budget pushes economic development, investments in people; includes tuition freeze](#)

### **SB245: BOOSTER CLUBS**

(KIMBRELL J)

- Current Status: 3/7/2023 - Referred to Committee House Education and Public Works ([House Journal-page 14](#))
- State Bill Page: [SB245](#)

### **SB125: SCHOLARSHIP STIPEND**

(HEMBREE G)

- Current Status: 3/7/2023 - Referred to Committee House Education and Public Works ([House Journal-page 14](#))
- State Bill Page: [SB125](#)

### **SB285: ACADEMIC CHOICE IN EDUCATION (ACE)** (DAVIS T)

- Current Status: 3/9/2023 - Special order
  - State Bill Page: [SB285](#)
  - News Stories: 2/22/2023
    - [Bill helping parents pay for private tuition through tax credits advances in SC Senate](#)
- 

### **In The News**

[Can a family Bible prove when you were born? SC lawmakers ask the question](#)  
But for some in South Carolina, especially African Americans born at home in rural areas of the state before the 1970s, proving when they were born can be a difficult.

*The Post & Courier*

[Editorial: SC House says it wants transparency in schools. This bill actually provides it](#)

South Carolina House members have been adamant in demanding what they call greater transparency in our public schools, pushing through a bill last month that they say will ensure it and that critics say will whitewash history.

*The Post & Courier*

[Executive gets 15 months in prison in doomed nuclear project](#)

A former executive utility who gave rosy projections on the progress of two nuclear power plants in South Carolina while they were hopelessly behind will spend 15 months in prison for the doomed project that cost ratepayers billions of dollars.

*Wall Street Journal*

[SC offers \\$35M to hospitals to build mental health crisis units](#)

Patients in mental health crisis in South Carolina might finally find a place nearby to treat them after the state put up \$35 million in grants to encourage hospitals to create new units.

*The Post & Courier*

SC lawmakers praise deal to attract \$2B Columbia-area EV manufacturer  
South Carolina lawmakers gave the first nod to a record-breaking \$1.3 billion to entice Volkswagen subsidiary Scout Motors to build in Richland County.  
*The Post & Courier*

Harpootlian discusses Murdaugh verdict on SC Senate floor  
State Senator and Alex Murdaugh's defense attorney Dick Harpootlian (D-Richland) discussed his client's recent guilty verdict on the senate floor Tuesday.  
*ABC Columbia*

South Carolina offers \$1.3B to new Scout electric SUV maker  
South Carolina's governor said Monday he is going to ask lawmakers to approve nearly \$1.3 billion to bring to the state a new electric vehicle plant by a Volkswagen Group-backed group trying to revive a brand that was a 1960s forerunner to today's SUVs.  
*Associated Press*

Bills would expand SC alcohol sales while restricting those who sell it  
During the pandemic, many American discovered the ease of getting groceries delivered straight to their doorsteps.  
*WTHR*

S.C. bill moves forward to legalize horse race betting  
We're days away from the first leg of the Aiken Triple Crown. A bill is making its way up the ranks again that would create a commission to legalize horse track wagering.  
*WCSC*

SC abortion arrest raises questions about criminalizing women for ending pregnancies  
The arrest of a woman more than a year after delivering a 6-month-old stillborn fetus raises questions on whether women in South Carolina should be punished for ending pregnancies as state legislators continue debating stricter abortion laws.  
*The Post & Courier*

SC lawmakers continue studying whether to restructure USC board  
State senators on Thursday continued studying whether to restructure the University of South Carolina's board of trustees.  
*The State*

Price of justice: Bail reform push in SC Statehouse a complicated balance of safety, liberty  
The day before she buried her youngest child, Andrea Manigault learned one of the men arrested in his murder was getting out of jail again.  
*The Post & Courier*

S.C. lawmakers call for impeachment inquiry after comptroller general's \$3.5B error  
A panel at the South Carolina State House is in the midst of investigating how the office of the state's top accountant made a \$3.5 billion mistake over the last decade.  
*WISTV*



Alzheimer's cases are rising. Here's what SC lawmakers want to do about it  
South Carolina lawmakers are looking to tackle the rising number of residents living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia by using a new strategy.  
*The State*

Impeachment inquiry under consideration after \$3.5 billion error in SC  
South Carolina lawmakers are eyeing the possibility of an impeachment inquiry of the state comptroller over a multi-billion-dollar error that spanned many years.  
*WLTX 19*

SC House passes bail reform to stop what it calls "revolving door" for criminals  
The South Carolina House of Representatives passed a reform to the state's bail bond system that supporters say will make it harder for defendants to commit crimes while awaiting trial: a condition Republicans repeatedly dubbed "the revolving door."  
*The Post & Courier*

