



Week 16: April 23-25, 2024



On the left is The S.C.E.A President Sherry East and Representative John King and on the right is President East with Representative Seth Rose.



House and Senate Floor Highlights

The SC House and SC Senate met in statewide session Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of last week.

In the South Carolina House last week deliberations on [H 5438](#)—a joint resolution concerning the approval of [document 5269](#), related to revised regulations on classroom library materials—were adjourned. Notably, if this resolution is taken up, it is anticipated to face objections and subsequently be assigned to the contested calendar.

In the Senate, Tuesday marked the commencement of debate on [H 5100](#), the FY24-2025 state budget. Wednesday's agenda featured the favorable report and scheduling for consideration on Thursday of [S 1160](#), addressing the electronic mapping of schools by the Department of Education. The Senate also designated Wednesday, June 5th at noon for the election of a new member to the State Supreme Court, and slated [H 3501](#) for consideration on Thursday. Additionally, [H 5245](#)—a bill favoring enrollment preference for students from military families into charter schools—was scheduled for Thursday's deliberations. The day also witnessed ongoing debate on the state budget, culminating in its third reading and passage of Section 1, parts A and B, pertaining to the Department of Education. Notably, this includes approval of the proposed new salary structure and a \$50 increase in teacher classroom supply reimbursement to \$400. The budget now returns to the House for approval with Senate amendments, likely triggering a conference committee to reconcile disparities. Thursday's Senate session also featured the second reading of [H 4957](#), concerning athletes' compensation for name, image, and likeness usage, with amendments permitted for third reading.

Moreover, points of order were raised regarding bills slated for Thursday's consideration under rule 39, necessitating a 24-hour review period. The Senate also prioritized [H 4624](#)—a bill targeting certain transgender therapy procedures for minors, along with requirements for public school staff to report student perceptions—for this week's agenda.

H.4624 Gender Identity

Action Alert - [H.4624](#) requires that school employees inform a student's parent or guardian if they suspect the child "suffers from gender dysphoria, gender identity disorder, or other psychological conditions that can result in a person identifying with a gender different than that of their sex." This would be required across the board, even in situations where telling the child's family puts the child at risk for abuse or homelessness.

This provision was initially removed from the bill after educators testified about the extreme harm this would cause, but then it was added it back.

All South Carolina students deserve to feel protected in our public schools.

Tell your Senator to **remove the language** from this bill that would require the school employee to "out" students, which could cause potential harm.

<https://www.thescea.org/H4624>

Budget Passes – Raises

On Wednesday, state senators approved a \$13.8 billion spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year, slated to commence on July 1. Within this comprehensive budget, the Senate aligned with the House's initiative to augment the initial salary for teachers in the state to \$47,000 annually, a significant increase from the previous \$42,500 figure. [Read more.](#)

H. 3728 Conference Committee

There will be a conference committee on H. 3728: Transparency and Integrity in Education Act on Tuesday April 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Gressette 407. H. 3728 - It's essential for students to engage in honest and thorough conversations about the history of the United States and South Carolina. Such discussions are vital for grasping the enduring racial and gender disparities in our society. Without a firm grasp of our past, we cannot pave the way for a fairer and more inclusive future.

[H. 3728](#) Could forbid teachers to discuss racial and gender inequality, subject them to undue surveillance, burden them with unnecessary complaint processes, and threaten schools with loss of state funding.

Throughout the 2023-2024 legislative session, both the House and Senate have approved their respective drafts of the bill. However, they have yet to reconcile their differences, leaving the final version unresolved. Consequently, a committee comprising six legislators will collaborate to seek common ground and advance some iteration of the classroom censorship bill. Before their deliberations commence, it's imperative that we communicate our stance: we urge them to oppose the bill.

The Conference Committee is scheduled to have a meeting Tuesday April 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Gressette 407. It is crucial they hear your voice. Since its induction The SCEA has opposed H.3728. **Call, leave a message and email the Conference Committee today.** Respectfully, we urge you **NOT** to send a favorable report.

The conference committee members are:

Representative Shannon Erickson
Beaufort County
(803) 734-3053
ShannonErickson@schouse.gov

Representative Adam Morgan
Greenville County
(803) 212-6795
AdamMorgan@schouse.gov

Representative Terry Alexander
Florence County
(803) 734-3004
TerryAlexander@schouse.gov

Senator Shane Massey
Aiken, Edgefield, Lexington, McCormick & Saluda Counties
(803) 212-6330
ShaneMassey@scsenate.gov

Senator Greg Hembree
Horry, Dillon Counties
(803) 212-6350

GregHembree@scsenate.gov

Senator Darrell Jackson
Richland County
(803) 212-6048
DarrellJackson@scsenate.gov

State Board Regulation 43-170/ Reg 5269

H. 5438 - [Reg 43-170](#) The Regulation is expected to see action soon, we will continue to monitor.

Items of Concern

S 0124 General Bill - A new proposal aims to change South Carolina's laws by adding a section called 59-18-1115. This section would start a test program letting public school districts hire teachers who aren't certified, up to ten percent of all teachers they employ. The program would have rules about their education, how they're evaluated, and what experience they need. It also requires districts to report each year about how the program is going and to make sure these non-certified teachers pass certain checks before they can start teaching.

S 0305 General Bill - A new proposal wants to change South Carolina's laws by adding a section called 59-25-60. This section would allow people to count their previous work experience towards getting a teaching certificate if that experience is in the same area as the certificate they're applying for. It also says that people who already have a teaching certificate can also get credit for their past work experience if it's related to their teaching field.

Statewide Primary Elections

Statewide primary elections will be held on June 11, 2024. To vote in the primary elections, you must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election.

Check your voter registration and stay up to date on important election information from The SCEA at the link below.

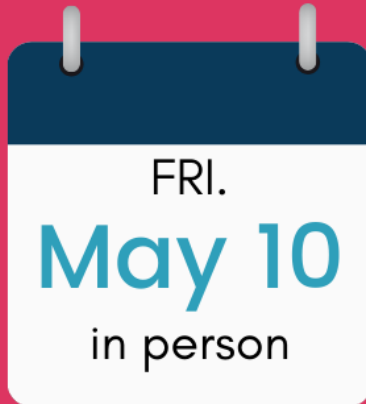
[CLICK HERE TO CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION](#)

**The League of Women Voters of South Carolina – 411
Voter Guide**



To vote in the June 11 Primary

REGISTER TO VOTE



Be #VoteReady at

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

[VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org), launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, offers comprehensive, nonpartisan election information, including absentee ballot details, candidate profiles, and polling place locators. It serves as a valuable resource for voters seeking factual data on elections. The League of Women Voters, operating at national, state, and local levels, has been advocating for democracy and educating the public since 1920, emphasizing grassroots involvement and nonpartisan principles.

PAC Committee Interest

If you are interested in serving on the committee to make political recommendations, please email President Sherry East at seast@thecea.org.

Education Bills That Moved 04/23/24 - 4/25/24

HCR 5452 - A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE SOUTH CAROLINA'S 2024 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR UPON BEING SELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO CHILDREN, AND TO WISH THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

04/23/24 – House - Introduced, adopted, sent to Senate

04/24/24 – Senate - Introduced, adopted, returned with concurrence

H 3424 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 39-5-190 SO AS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR AN OPERATOR TO MAKE A PORNOGRAPHIC WEBSITE AVAILABLE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN, TO PROVIDE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL CREATE CERTAIN PROCEDURES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

04/23/24 - Senate - Committee report: Favorable with amendment Labor, Commerce and Industry

H 5439 Concurrent Resolution - A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024, AS A DAY OF PRAYER IN SOUTH CAROLINA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, AND TO URGE OUR STATE'S CITIZENS TO JOIN TOGETHER IN THEIR HOMES, PLACES OF WORK, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP TO PRAY FOR THE UNITY OF THE HEARTS OF ALL MANKIND AND TO CONTINUE IN PRAYER FOR OUR STATE AND OUR NATION.

04/18/24 - House - Introduced, adopted, sent to Senate

04/23/24 - Senate - Introduced

04/23/24 - Senate - Referred to Committee on Family and Veterans' Services

S*1279 Resolution - A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE CHILDREN'S TRUST OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND COMMEND THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

04/23/24 - Senate - Introduced and adopted

S 0124 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-18-1115 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WILL PERMIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HIRE NONCERTIFIED TEACHERS IN A RATIO UP TO TEN PERCENT OF ITS ENTIRE TEACHING STAFF, TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC, EVALUATION, AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORTING AND NONCERTIFIED TEACHER REGISTRATION AND CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.

S 0305 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-25-60 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE MAY BE AWARDED ON AN INITIAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE IF THE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS IN OR RELATED TO THE CONTENT FIELD OF THE CERTIFICATE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT EXISTING CERTIFICATE HOLDERS MAY ALSO RECEIVE THE SAME CREDIT FOR PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE.

S 0134 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-19-85 SO AS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BY REQUIRING SCHOOL BOARDS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROVIDE LIVE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SUCH MEETINGS, TO EXTEND APPLICABILITY OF THESE PROVISIONS TO THE GOVERNING BODIES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO PROVIDE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE JULY 1, 2024.

S 0124 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-18-1115 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WILL PERMIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HIRE NONCERTIFIED TEACHERS IN A RATIO UP TO TEN PERCENT OF ITS ENTIRE TEACHING STAFF, TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC, EVALUATION, AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORTING AND NONCERTIFIED TEACHER REGISTRATION AND CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.

S 0305 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-25-60 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE MAY BE AWARDED ON AN INITIAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE IF THE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS IN OR RELATED TO THE CONTENT FIELD OF THE CERTIFICATE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT EXISTING CERTIFICATE HOLDERS MAY ALSO RECEIVE THE SAME CREDIT FOR PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE.

S 1266 Joint Resolution - A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION, RELATING TO PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 5266, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS.

S 0134 General Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-19-85 SO AS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BY REQUIRING SCHOOL BOARDS TO

ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROVIDE LIVE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SUCH MEETINGS, TO EXTEND APPLICABILITY OF THESE PROVISIONS TO THE GOVERNING BODIES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO PROVIDE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE JULY 1, 2024.

Provisos of Interest

- Amendment No. 6, Senators Hembree and Setzler:
(SDE: School Mapping Data Program) (A) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Education, to facilitate efficient emergency responses in public schools by public safety agencies in this State, the School Mapping Data Program is established as a statewide initiative within the State Department of Education. Subject to funding, the department shall contract with a vendor to provide school mapping data for each public school in the State. The data must be provided to each school district, local law enforcement agency, and public safety agency for use in response to emergencies. For purposes of this proviso, emergencies include, but are not limited to, any event in which a law enforcement officer, firefighter, rescue squad, emergency medical service provider, public safety telecommunicator, or any other emergency management provider may respond.

- Amendment No. 7, Senators Hembree and Malloy:
Section 1, Department of Education –
School districts shall report monthly, to the Department of Education, their monthly fund balance that will be used to calculate an average.

- Amendment No. 8, Senators Kimbrell, Garrett, and Rice:
Section 27, State Library, insert a sentence at the end to read-
Prior to receiving any of these funds, county libraries must certify to the State Library that their county libraries do not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children's, youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent.

The following provisos of interest were carried over by the Senate, so they can still be considered:

- Amendment No. 22, Senators Martin, Jackson and Williams
Section 108, Public Employee Benefit Authority –
Amendment would allow school board members to opt in to the state health plan.

- Amendment No. 9, Senators Talley, Senn, and Turner:
Section 1, Department of Education, insert -
(d) an appeal stays the determination of a sanction made by the association, body, or entity, or staff member of such, pending the outcome of the appeal;
(5) a uniform system applicable to all member schools establishing fines for the cancellation of a scheduled game regardless of if the game is in or out of region. At a minimum, the school canceling the scheduled game must be fined an amount equal to the cost incurred for officials, tickets, and concessions. If the game is rescheduled or cancelled for a documented health or safety reason the school shall not be fined; and

- Amendment No 24, Senators Climer, Young, and Kimbrell:
Section 1, Department of Education -
This amendment would allow students in private schools to play on athletic teams in public schools if their home school does not offer that particular sport.

- Amendment No. 25, Senators Setler and Shealy:
Section 1, Department of Education, Insert:
(SDE: Palmetto Boys/Girls State) Of the funds appropriated to the State Department of Education, or carried forward from the prior fiscal year, the department shall provide \$25,000 to Palmetto Boys State and \$25,000 to Palmetto Girls State./

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

**Tue 4/30 10:00 AM in Gressette Room 407
H 3728 (Transparency and Integrity in Education Act)**

Wed 5/1 9:00 AM in Gressette Room 207

H 4655(Unstructured and Self-directed Recess in Public Schools)

