

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025-26  
TO THE PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE**

**SECTION 44 - P160 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**44.2 AMEND** (AGRI: Fruit/Vegetable Inspectors Subsistence) Authorizes up to a \$30 daily subsistence allowance to be paid to temporary fruits and vegetables inspectors instead of paying meals and lodging expense reimbursements.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to update the designated budget line item. Requested by the Department of Agriculture.

**44.2.** (AGRI: Fruit/Vegetable Inspectors Subsistence) A daily subsistence allowance of up to \$30.00 may be allowed for temporarily employed fruits and vegetables inspectors from funds generated by fruits and vegetables inspection fees and budgeted under other funds in ~~Program III. Marketing Services, D. Inspection Services~~ Program II. Consumer Protection, B. Inspection Services, in lieu of reimbursements for meals and lodging expense.

**44.cbs ADD** (AGRI: Commodity Boards Interest Retention) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD proviso to allow Commodity Boards to retain and carry forward accrued interest generated by their accounts held by the State. Requested by the Department of Agriculture.

**44.cbs.** (AGRI: Commodity Boards Interest Retention) Commodity Boards shall be allowed to retain and carry forward any accrued interest generated from the Boards' accounts held by the State, including interest generated from assessments collected from producers, as those terms are defined in Section 46-17-40.

**SECTION 49 - P280 - DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM**

**49.19 DELETE** (PRT: Barnwell County) Redirects funds appropriated for the Barnwell County YMCA to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

**49.19.** ~~(PRT: Barnwell County) Funds remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Act 102 of 2023, Section 118.19(B)(86)(i) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the Barnwell County YMCA shall be redirected to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.~~

**49.21 DELETE** (PRT: Cherokee County Midway Complex) Redirects funds appropriated for Cherokee County Former Broad River Electric Facility Renovation to the Cherokee County for the Midway Complex.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

**49.21.** ~~(PRT: Cherokee County Midway Complex) The funds appropriated in Act 84 of 2023, Section 118.19, Item (86)(w) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for Cherokee County Former Broad River Electric Facility Renovation shall be redirected to Cherokee County for the Midway Complex.~~

**49.23 DELETE** (PRT: Criterion Club of Dillon Funds) Redirects remaining funds appropriated for the Criterion Club of Dillon to the Dillon School District 4 Facility upgrades project.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

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~~49.23. (PRT: Criterion Club of Dillon Funds) Funds remaining of the \$125,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Proviso 118.19 (B)(93)(ffff) to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the Criterion Club of Dillon shall be transferred and used for the Dillon School District 4 Facility upgrades.~~

**49.lfc** **ADD** (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** ADD new proviso to direct the SC Film Commission to carry forward and expend funds to allow \$5 million for film project rebate opportunities to be available to local producers whose budgets are \$250,000 to \$999,999, and provides the requirements for qualification of the rebate program.

49.lfc (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) (A) From the funds authorized to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the South Carolina Film Commission, the commission may carry forward any unexpended funds. For Fiscal Year 2025-26, five million dollars of the carried forward funds shall be used to create a pilot program whereby:

(B) An entity may apply to receive a state rebate with a project budget of a minimum of \$250,000 and maximum of \$999,999. Organizations certifying the satisfaction of the following requirements may receive a state rebate for 25% of all production costs, including wages and supplies, after a cumulative audit from the South Carolina Department of Revenue and the South Carolina Film Commission. The requirements are as follows:

(1) producer must be registered with both the South Carolina Secretary of State and the South Carolina Department of Revenue;

(2) producer must be a primary resident of South Carolina with a minimum of two years of residency in this state;

(3) all production activity must be physically in South Carolina;

(4) all producers' personal and corporate income taxes must be current;

(5)(i) applicant must disclose the fiduciarily responsible parties with existing production;

(ii) the production funds must be in a separate account and be used exclusively for the production;

(6) production must have full funding prior to producing;

(7) production must include a five-second long static or animated official FilmSC logo in the end credits before the below-the-line crew crawl for the life of the project, and which includes a link to filmsc.com on the production's web page.

(C) Upon application approval, production-based activity must begin within 60 calendar days. Once an application is approved by the South Carolina Film Commission, the project must be completed and funds expended within three years of the approval date. The final rebate will be distributed to the production company on record.

**SECTION 50 - P320 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**50.26** **DELETE** (CMRC: Lexington County Repurpose) Redirects funds appropriated to the Town of Lexington for the conference center to be used for the Sunset Split project.  
**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

~~50.26. (CMRC: Lexington County Repurpose) The \$10,000,000 appropriated in Act No. 84 of 2023, by proviso 118.19, Item (87)(o) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington Conference Center shall be redirected to be used for the Sunset Split project. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.~~

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**50.27 DELETE** (CMRC: Lexington County CC Repurpose) Redirects funds appropriated to the Town of Lexington for the convention center to be used for the Sunset Split project.  
**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

~~**50.27.** (CMRC: Lexington County CC Repurpose) The \$1,000,000 appropriated in Act No. 94 of 2021, by proviso 118.18(77) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington County Convention Center and the \$5,000,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, by proviso 118.19(93)(rrrrr) to the Town of Lexington for the Lexington County Conference Center shall be redirected to be used for the Sunset Split project. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.~~

**50.bpf CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD** (CMRC: Biomass Power Feasibility Study)  
**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** CONFORM TO FUNDING / ADD new proviso to direct the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission, to expend up to \$150,000 to conduct a study to determine the viability of biomass power production, focusing specifically on wood. Provides the requirements and inclusions of the study.

*50.bpf. (CMRC: Biomass Power Feasibility Study) (A) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, from the funds appropriated to the department, up to \$150,000 shall be expended, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission, to partner with a public research institution located in this State to conduct a study to determine the viability of biomass power production in South Carolina, as defined in Section 12-63-20(B)(2), with a specific focus on wood. The study must include, but is not limited to:*

*(B)(1) identification of the leading pathways for supplying biomass energy at scale and what infrastructure South Carolina may need to put in place to ensure a supply of biomass power to both commercial and residential consumers;*

*(2) identification of the sources of raw materials for biomass power within South Carolina;*

*(3) the economic potential for South Carolina to capture market share in production of biomass power, including the potential to create new jobs;*

*(4) the range for production costs;*

*(5) identification of the processes currently available to produce biomass power;*

*(6) identification of any state-led or federal initiatives and how they may apply to the implementation of a similar, scalable program in South Carolina;*

*(7) identification of the lifecycle cost of inputs (biomass, fossil fuel, energy costs of production) for the production of biomass power;*

*(8) identification of price points for both the producer and end user defined by current and future markets;*

*(9) identification of the current production capacity and any usable facilities that may be re-purposed or scaled to meet potential demand for biomass power;*

*(10) identification of industry initiatives for use and demand for biomass power;*

*(11) identification of what risk reduction measures or financial support mechanisms are available from the federal government;*

*(12) identification of any barriers to entry, such as policy or regulatory constraints;*

*(13) identification of the capability of South Carolina energy producers for generation and distribution of biomass power and the capacity within existing energy infrastructure; and*

*(14) identification of risks.*

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(C) The department shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Governor by June 30, 2026.

**SECTION 88 - Y140 - STATE PORTS AUTHORITY**

**88.1 AMEND** (SPA: Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) Directs the State Ports Authority to pay the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank \$1,000,000 before June 30, 2025 to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year references. Requested by the State Ports Authority.

**88.1.** (SPA: Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project) The State Ports Authority shall, from other general fund or operating fund surplus available and any funds appropriated to the authority in prior fiscal years and left unexpended as of July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, pay to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank one million dollars before June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project.

**88.6 AMEND** (SPA: Funds for Due Diligence on Port-Related Facility) Directs the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) to distribute up to \$2,000,000 of funds previously appropriated in the Jasper Ocean Terminal Facility Permitting and Infrastructure Fund to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) for service as an intermediary and professional service provider with counties with economic interests in Jasper County's ocean terminal-related improvements. Directs SCRDA to submit a written request to the Department of Commerce for review and approval of a distribution from SCSPA to SCRDA before the distribution of funds. Directs SCRDA to provide a report summarizing negotiations and communications with GPA to the President of Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Governor by 1/31/26.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

**88.6.** (SPA: Funds for Due Diligence on Port-Related Facility) Of the funds previously appropriated to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) in the Jasper Ocean Terminal Facility Permitting and Infrastructure Fund, SCSPA is directed to distribute, in installments and subject to the approvals as hereinafter provided, up to \$2,000,000 to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) for SCRDA's service as an intermediary and service provider on behalf of a coalition of its interested member counties with economic interests in Jasper County's ocean terminal-related improvements to procure legal, financial, engineering, and other professional services necessary to analyze, and to the extent appropriate, engage in negotiations with the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) supporting infrastructure for port-related development of the Jasper Ocean Terminal site and supporting property owned by the joint venture and/or nearby property currently owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Services should include, without limitation, the following: field geotechnical work of the dredge area to provide guidance for developing the site; conducting an environmental site assessment to determine if any environmental conditions warrant further review, including potentially entering into a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with the Department of Environmental Services; conducting an ALTA boundary survey and subdivision plat; initial archaeological field work and reports necessary to coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office for the necessary scope of a final Cultural Resource Information System study; and coordinating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for technical documents and plans necessary to secure the release of an existing spoil easement. Prior to receiving funds from SCSPA, SCRDA shall submit a written

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request to the Department of Commerce for the review and written approval of a distribution from SCSPA to SCRDA, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, with a copy of the written request by SCRDA and the written approval from the Department of Commerce to be provided to SCSPA prior to the distribution of funds. On or before January 31, ~~2025~~ 2026, SCRDA shall submit a written report to the President of the South Carolina Senate, the Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, and the Governor of South Carolina, summarizing the substance of its negotiations and communications with GPA and recommending a course of action for consideration.

**SECTION 92D - D300 - OFFICE OF RESILIENCE**

**92D.1 AMEND** (SCOR: Catastrophic Weather Event) Directs that improvements to real or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, resulting from damage caused by the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, or Hurricane Florence of 2018, made after the event and before June 30, 2025, is not considered an improvement and may not be reassessed at a higher rate as a result of the improvement. Directs that for the current fiscal year, an eligible property's tax value shall remain the same unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year references, add Hurricane Helene in reference to the catastrophic weather events, and adds the Office of Resilience's Rapid Rebuild Program to the listed offices for funding improvements. Requested by the Office of Resilience.

**92D.1.** (SCOR: Catastrophic Weather Event) (A) Any improvements made to real property or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015, Hurricane Matthew of 2016, ~~or~~ Hurricane Florence of 2018, or Hurricane Helene of 2024, after the event and before June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, is not considered an improvement and may not be reassessed at a higher rate as a result of the assistance provided. This provision only applies if, as a result of the catastrophic weather event, the improvements made to the property were funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery program implemented by the Office of Resilience, or its predecessor, the Disaster Recovery Office, or the Office of Resilience's Rapid Rebuild Program funded by the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund. This provision also applies if, at the discretion of the county and using qualifications determined by the county, the improvements were made with the assistance of a volunteer organization active in disaster, or a similar volunteer organization.

(B) During the current fiscal year, the property tax value of an eligible property shall remain the same unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs. No refund is allowed on account of values adjusted as provided in this provision.