

AMENDMENT: 2

Senator Martin

57.par. (JUD: Equal Parenting and Alimony Reform) (A) There is created the Equal Parenting and Alimony Reform Study Committee. This committee is charged with studying and making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the concept of the presumption of equally shared parenting time in custody orders, and regarding reforms to the alimony system with a focus on permanent alimony to ensure fair and equitable economic allocations. Membership of the study committee shall be comprised of five members as follows:

(1) Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or his designee, who shall serve as Co-Chair;

(2) Chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, or his designee, who shall serve as Co-Chair;

(3) one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or his designee;

(4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee; and

(5) one member appointed by the Governor.

(B) The study committee shall provide findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly by March 1, 2026, at which time the study committee shall dissolve. Members of the study committee shall receive mileage, per diem, and subsistence from the Judicial Department as provided by law. Staff support for the study committee shall be provided by the relevant standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

AMENDMENT: 3

Senator Martin

117.cr. (GP: COVID-19 Restrictions) For the current fiscal year, state-supported institutions of higher learning that receive funds appropriated or authorized through the General Appropriations Act shall be restricted from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, the wearing of a facemask, or a COVID-19 diagnostic test result, for any student as a condition of enrollment, attendance at on campus instruction, use of facilities, or residence on campus. The COVID-19 diagnostic test result shall also extend to a COVID-19 antibody test. In instances of off-campus learning events for which third party program providers require proof of vaccination, the third-party requirements shall apply.

AMENDMENT: 4

Senator Jackson

84.idw. (DOT: Indirect Cost Waiver Federally Funded Projects) The Department of Transportation shall retain indirect cost recoveries relating to federally funded projects. Indirect cost recoveries shall be retained by the Department in accordance with Section 2-65-70(B) and shall be deposited in the State Highway Fund and used by the agency for repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the existing transportation system

AMENDMENT: 5

Senator Cromer

25.de. (TEC: Dual Enrollment Courses) Of the funds appropriated to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the board shall require all technical colleges to adopt policies prohibiting automatic enrollment of students in dual enrollment courses. The State Board shall withhold ten percent of state funding for any technical colleges failing to adopt such policies.

AMENDMENT: 6

Senator Alexander

102.1. (ELECT: County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Compensation) The amounts appropriated in this section for “County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members,” shall be disbursed annually to the County Treasurer at the rate of ~~\$1,500~~ \$2,500 for each member, not to exceed ~~\$13,500~~ \$22,500 per county. The County Treasurer shall use these funds only for the compensation of County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members. Any funds not used for this purpose shall be returned to the State Treasurer. These funds are exempted from mandated budget reductions. In addition, in the calculation of any across the board agency base reductions mandated by the Executive Budget Office or the General Assembly, the amount of funds appropriated for compensation of County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members shall be excluded from the agency’s base budget. Unexpended funds shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year and shall be utilized for special primaries, runoffs, and elections.

AMENDMENT: 7

Senator Grooms

117.151. (GP: Job Order Contracting Pilot Program) (A) For the current fiscal year, the Division of Procurement Services of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority may pilot test a job order contracting method at the request and on behalf of up to ~~six~~ twenty-two governmental bodies or public procurement units consisting of ~~two~~ eight state agencies and ~~four~~ twelve school districts two other political subdivisions by entering into job order contracts to acquire construction services when the exact time or exact quantities of future jobs are not known at the time of contract award. The State Engineer must approve, in his sole discretion, which governmental bodies and public procurement units may participate in the pilot project. Procurement Services may enter into job order contracts with up to four businesses for each governmental body or public procurement unit for each licensing classification and sub-classification for construction. The job order contracts must terminate twenty-four months after award.

(B) For purposes of this provision, the term “job order contract” means a contract that provides for the issuance of job orders for the performance of construction, renovation, and repair work, where contractors propose an adjustment factor or factors to be applied to a catalog of preset unit prices calculated using local prevailing wage rates, local equipment, and local material costs, and where individual job orders are issued to the awarded contractors on an as-needed basis and the price paid for the work is a lump sum of the preset unit prices needed to complete the job order multiplied by the quantity required multiplied by the adjustment factor.

(C) For purposes of the pilot project, an individual project using job orders may not exceed ~~five hundred thousand~~ seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars and the sum of all individual job orders

may not exceed ~~four million~~ *six million* dollars per contract. Work may not be divided artificially in order to avoid these limits. A single project must not be performed using job order contracts in combination with contracts awarded pursuant to Section 11-35-1550 ~~of the 1976 Code~~.

(D) For purposes of the pilot project, a job order must clearly specify all tasks to be performed or property to be delivered under the order so the full price for the performance of the work can be established when the order is placed. All job orders must be issued on a fixed-price basis. All job orders must be issued within the period of the contract and must be within the scope and maximum value of the contract. Each job order shall provide an itemized list of each construction tasks required to complete the work with the task's associated unit price and applied adjustment factor. Each job order proposal shall be certified as contract compliant by a reviewer independent of the contractor.

(E) Any solicitation for a job order contract must include the following: (1) the period of the contract; (2) the maximum dollar value of the services to be procured under the contract; (3) the maximum dollar value of the services to be procured under a single job order; (4) a description that reasonably describes the licensing classification and the general scope, nature, complexity, and purposes of the services to be procured under the contract in a manner that will enable a prospective bidder to decide whether to submit a bid; (5) the procedures that the governmental body will use for issuing job orders for the pilot program; (6) if applicable, the geographic area to which the job order contract applies; ordinarily, a geographically contiguous area should not be subdivided; and (7) the number of job order contracts to be awarded.

AMENDMENT: 8

Senator Grooms

93.cf. (DOA: Carry Forward Forensic Accounting Review Audit) The Department of Administration is authorized to carry forward any remaining funds appropriated pursuant to Proviso 117.186 of Act 226 of 2024 and to expend them in the current fiscal year to fund activities related to oversight of the implementation of the recommendations in the AlixPartners report, including the hiring of an independent compliance consultant pursuant to S.253 (R.1) of 2025.

AMENDMENT: 9

Senator Grooms

93.csp. (DOA: Centralized Software Pilot) From the funds appropriated, the Department of Administration shall implement a pilot program in the sixteen technical colleges to utilize a single, third-party centralized software system that operates above existing accounting or enterprise resource planning (ERP) software without requiring major workflow changes, automatically standardizes naming conventions across all colleges to enable direct comparisons of key financial measures, employs AI-driven analytics to detect anomalies, outliers, or compliance flags while providing plain-language summaries of trends and findings, supports multi-campus, multi-fiscal-year data with secure role-based access, and grants the department top-level oversight to view aggregated data in real time, compare performance across colleges, and identify compliance concerns or best practices that could enhance statewide financial oversight. The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the sixteen technical schools must assist the department as directed with the coordination and technical facilitation of data collection, the implementation of the software and any additional assistance as requested. The department shall provide an assessment report on the pilot's impact, cost savings, and improved financial transparency to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and the House Ways and Means Committees no later than June 30, 2026.

AMENDMENT: 10

Senator Grooms

93.13. (DOA: Federal/Other Fund Authorization Adjustments) The Executive Budget Office (*EBO*) is authorized to approve agency requests for federal and other fund authorization adjustments. Requests will be approved and reported by the Executive Budget Office pursuant to Chapter 65, Title 2, the “South Carolina Federal and Other Funds Oversight Act”. For the current fiscal year, EBO shall provide a quarterly report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee of all interim authorization of funds adjustments granted to state agencies or institutions of higher education during the current fiscal year. Any interim authorization adjustments requested by any state agency or institution of higher education may only be granted by EBO if meeting every applicable criterion delineated in the South Carolina Federal and Other Funds Oversight Act. EBO shall further provide a report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee by February 1st of the current fiscal year identifying, by agency, the amount of unused federal and other funds authorization for the most recently completed fiscal year.

AMENDMENT: 11

Senator Grooms

*62.tp. (SLED: PTSD Treatment Program)
Coroners and deputy coroners, as defined in Section
17-5-5, shall be eligible for the PTSD treatment
program administered through the State Law
Enforcement Division and the South Carolina Law
Enforcement Assistant Program.*

AMENDMENT: 12

Senator Grooms

104.po. (SFAA: P-Card Oversight) Using funds appropriated, no later than October 1, 2025, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, Division of Procurement Services (Division) shall publish and maintain a South Carolina Purchasing Card Policy and Procedures Manual (Manual) to establish sound practices for the use of purchasing cards (P-Cards) and for management oversight of such use to reduce the State's risk of P-Card misuse and fraud. The Division shall develop and provide training and testing on the requirements of the Manual and begin offering such training no later than October 15, 2025. The director of each governmental body as defined in Section 11-35-310 employing P-card holders shall ensure the governmental body develops an agency-specific P-card use manual no later than April 1, 2026. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure that every P-card holder and those with responsibility for implementation and oversight of its P-card program have completed the Division P-card training and successfully passed the Division P-card testing no later than April 15, 2026. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure that no supervisory or oversight of P-card role shall be assigned nor new P-cards issued before such employees shall complete Division P-card training and successfully pass Division P-card testing. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall ensure the governmental body develops, implements, and provides the Division with documentation of an internal P-card annual

training program for employees with supervisory or oversight of P-card programs and for all P-card holders. The director of each governmental body employing P-card holders shall obtain an annual compliance audit of the governmental body's P-card program conducted by an independent third-party entity qualified to conduct such an audit and shall provide audit report results and corrective action plans, if any, to the Division no later than October 1, 2025. The Division shall compile all such audit report results into a single report and provide the report to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (Authority) at its first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. In each audit of the procurement system of a governmental body pursuant to Section 11-35-1230, the Division shall also audit the governmental body's P-card program to determine whether internal controls of the governmental body's P-Card program are adequate to ensure compliance, in all material respects, with the Manual, applicable laws and regulations, and internal policies. The Division shall include its findings and recommendations in the audit report submitted to the Authority. The Authority shall impose administrative penalties for repeat or egregious violations of the Manual, including but not limited to, reduction or suspension of the governmental body's P-Card program, reduction in procurement certification granted pursuant to Section 11-35-1210, removal of authority to conduct sole source procurements, or directing that all or a portion of any P-Card rebates due the governmental body be deposited in the General Fund. The Authority is authorized to request in-person reports from governmental body leadership on corrective actions being taken to rectify such repeat or egregious violations of the Manual and may exempt any governmental body from any requirement of this proviso.

AMENDMENT: 13

Senator Grooms

101.3. (VET: ~~Base Protection Plan~~ Military Enhancement Fund Allocation) Funds appropriated to the department for the ~~Base Protection Plan~~ Military Enhancement Fund may be allocated to items including, but not limited to, land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. Eligible recipients are counties and municipalities with federal military installations. Prior to any allocation of funds, proposed projects shall be presented to the Joint Bond Review Committee for its favorable review and comment and a detailed description of the proposed project shall be posted on the department's website in a conspicuous place for public review.

AMENDMENT: 14

Senator Peeler

117.psr. (GP: Political Subdivision Reimbursement) (A) For the property tax year that ends in the current fiscal year, for the property tax exemption on certain manufacturing property for which a reimbursement is required by law, up to three hundred million dollars may be used to reimburse political subdivisions, including school districts.

(B) To the extent that funds in excess of the amounts necessary to make the full reimbursement for the property tax exemption on certain manufacturing property are unavailable, then the balance in the Trust Fund for Tax Relief may be expended to make the reimbursements in full.

AMENDMENT: 15

Senator Bennett

1A.56. (SDE-EIA: Grants Committee) (A) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Education for Innovation Grants, the grants committee shall accept applications per the established process for new grantees not to exceed the amount appropriated by the General Assembly.

(B) The process shall include the application and selection process. The grants committee must be comprised of seven members, one member of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, ~~three~~ two members selected from the education community, and ~~four~~ three members selected from the business community. The suggested criteria for awarding the grants to schools or school districts or directly purchasing services must include, but are not limited to:

(1) identification of key measurable benchmarks to raise student achievement and ensure all students are prepared to graduate college, career and civic ready;

(2) innovative strategies to close student achievement gaps in reading and mathematics, with a focus on schools with an academic achievement rating of below average and unsatisfactory;

(3) a demonstrated ability to implement the initiative or model as outlined in the application; and

(4) a demonstrated ability to be both replicable and scalable with priority given to projects grounded in evidence-based practices that have significantly impacted student achievement outcomes; and

(5) no funding received from the grants committee in the last three years.

(C) Notice of grant opportunities and applications shall be posted on the department's website by May 30th. Applications for funding must be

submitted to the department by June 30th. Notification of grant awards and final grant amounts shall be sent to applicants by July 31st.

(D) Applicants who commit to a match will be given priority in the selection process. The match may be met by funds or by in-kind donations, such as technology, to be further defined by the grants committee. Public school districts and schools that have high poverty and low achievement will receive priority for grants when their applications are judged to meet the criteria established for the grant program. De-identified student level data shall be submitted, including a definition of program fidelity. The committee shall submit an annual report to the Governor, the Chairman of House Ways and Means and the Chairman of Senate Finance by June 30th.

(E) Grantees will be required to participate in an external evaluation by selecting an evaluator ~~from a~~ approved by the department ~~approved list as prescribed by the committee in the application.~~ Funding for the evaluation shall be based on a percentage of the grantee's final award.

(F) The grants committee must award at least one grant to an applicant providing an assessment tool that will provide each district with a local inventory dashboard of education software programs used by their students and teachers, and that includes an aggregate dashboard of program usage from across the state, for the department. Additionally, the system must provide a compilation of usage data by educator and student, be able to conduct rapid cycle evaluations to measure the effectiveness of education software programs based on student outcomes, and support evidence-based analysis of education software programs aligned to the required levels of evidence in the Every Student Succeeds Act. Any system procured must meet the state and agency minimum IT security standards as prescribed by the department. The department is authorized to carry forward and expend any balance for funds authorized in the prior fiscal year for Innovation Grants that provide an assessment tool as described herein in the current fiscal year.

AMENDMENT: 17

Senator Grooms

100.pap. (SC Public Assistance Program) The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) is authorized to establish the South Carolina Public Assistance (PA) Program to support disaster recovery for localized hazard events that cause severe damage but do not meet thresholds/criteria for a federal disaster declaration. State agencies and non-profit organizations will not be eligible to receive reimbursement under this program. SCEMD will utilize the PA Program funds to reimburse eligible entities for unbudgeted response and infrastructure repair costs. SCEMD will follow the guidelines and process utilized for the administration of the Federal Public Assistance program. Cost reimbursement will be 75% of eligible costs. SCEMD will provide quarterly reports to the Legislature on the status of the PA Program funds including disbursements. SCEMD will coordinate with the Office of Resilience on an ongoing basis to ensure recovery assistance funds are implemented to avoid duplication and maximize positive impacts for South Carolina communities.

AMENDMENT: 18

Senator Grooms

112.1.(DS: Excess Debt Service) Excess debt service funds available in Fiscal Year ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 may be expended in the fiscal year to pay down general obligation bond debt for which the State (1) is paying the highest rate of interest; (2) will achieve relief in constrained debt capacity; or (3) reduce the amount of debt issued. Prior to the use of these funds, the Office of the State Treasurer shall notify the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Bond Review Committee.

~~All outstanding agency loans, to include any accrued interest, made pursuant to Proviso 112.2 of Act 264 of 2018 shall be deemed satisfied.~~

AMENDMENT: 19

Senator Martin

73.rcc. (ORS: Rural Community Centers) The Office of Regulatory Staff shall allocate up to \$250,000 of any fund balances, if available, to support rural community centers that provide broadband, Wi-Fi, and telehealth services for underserved residents in rural communities. Support shall be provided by a local chamber of commerce to assist in having these services throughout the State so that no underserved resident would have to travel more than twenty miles to reach a fully-equipped community center.

AMENDMENT: 20

Senator Davis

31.hrp. (DPH: Health-Related Programs) (A) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Department of Public Health shall conduct a comprehensive study and prepare a detailed report on all health-related services, programs, and activities provided by state agencies. The study and report shall include, for each service, program, or activity:

(1) a detailed description of the service, program, or activity;

(2) the geographic areas served; and

(3) the amount of funding allocated.

(B) The department shall produce a report on all their findings. The report shall also identify any potential opportunities in which the agencies can work with health and human services agencies to provide the listed services, programs, or activities. The report shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by June 30, 2026.

AMENDMENT: 22

Senator Hembree

~~1.101. (SDE: Charter School Transfer) Of the funds appropriated or authorized herein, a charter school that is authorized or chartered by an institution of higher education, or entity owned by or affiliated with an institution of higher education, may unilaterally assign its charter and contract to another willing authorizer provided that its current authorizer is operating under a warning of noncompliance with any core requirements or significant noncompliance of other standards or is on probation by its accrediting body for degree granting higher education institutions. Furthermore, a charter school may apply to have its charter and contract assigned to a different authorizer if its current authorizer ceases operations. An authorizer under warning, on probation, or ceasing operation shall not demand or withhold any unspent appropriated funds held by or owed to a charter school. Furthermore, the authorizer may not charge any fees associated with the school having its charter and contract assigned to another authorizer. Prior to accepting an assignment application, the receiving authorizer shall consider any existing allegations by the prior authorizer that the assigning school is in noncompliance with its charter contract and determine whether any corrective action should be taken by the school, and the assignment shall not be allowed unless and until the corrective action has been taken.~~

AMENDMENT: 23

Senator Cromer

49.pi. (PRT: Pine Island State Park Access) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the department shall restrict public access of Pine Island State Park to scheduled visitors only. All visitors must have confirmed appointments, and such appointments shall be staggered to prevent overcrowding and ensure safety of the surrounding area.

AMENDMENT: 24

Senator Davis

112.cl. (DS: Commerce NBIF Loan) Of the excess debt service funds available in the current fiscal year, up to twenty-five percent (25%) of said amount shall be used to pay down the intra-agency loan made to Palmetto Railways related to the Navy Base Intermodal Facility and shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce.

AMENDMENT: 25

Senator Cromer

117.152. (GP: In-State Tuition Mitigation) (A) The following recurring funds have been appropriated in Part IA to institutions of higher learning to mitigate tuition and fee increases for in-state undergraduate students:

(1) The Citadel	\$ 2,667,821 <u>3,081,444</u> ;
(2) Clemson University	\$ 12,692,729 <u>10,196,972</u> ;
(3) University of Charleston	\$ 3,984,195 <u>2,752,554</u> ;
(4) Coastal Carolina University	\$ 3,057,122 <u>2,456,003</u> ;
(5) Francis Marion University	\$ 2,850,186 <u>2,289,757</u> ;
(6) Lander University	\$ 2,638,877 <u>2,119,998</u> ;
(7) South Carolina State University	\$ 2,293,851 <u>1,842,814</u> ;
(8) University of South Carolina-Columbia	\$ 15,480,000 <u>12,436,186</u> ;
(9) University of South Carolina-Aiken	\$ 2,940,000 <u>2,361,911</u> ;
(10) University of South Carolina-Upstate	\$ 3,300,000 <u>3,173,940</u> ;
(11) University of South Carolina-Beaufort	\$ 1,341,312 <u>1,077,571</u> ;
(12) University of South Carolina-Lancaster	\$ 756,180 <u>597,278</u> ;
(13) University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie	\$ 512,832 <u>411,995</u> ;
(14) University of South Carolina-Sumter	\$ 855,000 <u>686,882</u> ;
(15) University of South Carolina-Union	\$ 757,402 <u>608,475</u> ;
(16) Winthrop University	\$ 2,564,926 <u>2,330,588</u> ;

and

(17) Medical University of South Carolina	\$ 9,500,000 <u>4,809,000</u> .
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(B) In order to retain the above appropriations, each institution of higher learning listed above must certify to the Commission on Higher Education by August 15, 2024 2025, there is no in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase, excluding increases in auxiliary and athletic fees for the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 academic year on in-state continuing students, excluding increases in student activity fees, health and wellness fees, and other auxiliary fees for the 2025-26 academic year. For purposes of this subsection, a continuing student is defined as a student currently enrolled who was also enrolled in the previous regular semester (fall or spring). Student activity fees includes both dedicated non-E&G fees as well as student activity fees supporting E&G activities.

(C) The Commission on Higher Education shall develop the process by which institutions provide the certification. Certification of any institution proposing an in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase must include analysis as to the necessity of the increase and all cost savings measures that have been undertaken to minimize them. Any institution unable to provide such certification to the commission shall remit their respective above recurring allocation to the General Fund by September 15, 2024 2025.

(D) By November 1, 2024 2025, the Commission on Higher Education shall report to the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Executive Budget Office the institutions that failed to certify that the in-state undergraduate tuition or in-state undergraduate mandatory fee increase met the guidelines outlined in this provision. The Executive Budget Office is directed to reduce the recurring appropriation of any institution found to be non-compliant with the certification.

AMENDMENT: 26

Senator Martin, Hembree, and Bright Matthews

67.cec. (DJJ: Capital Expenditure Charge)
Local governments utilizing the juvenile detention services provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice shall pay a capital expenditure charge of \$200 per day per child not to exceed 30 days to the department to cover capital expenditures and investments in the facilities that house such juveniles. This capital expenditure charge is in addition to the per diem charge of \$50 that offsets operating expenses. If full funding is not received from the local governments, then the remainder of the funds due shall be transferred to the department from the local government fund on behalf of such local governments. The transfer to the department of behalf of the local government shall be deemed to have been distributed to the local government.

AMENDMENT: 28

Senator Goldfinch

1.77. (SDE: Funding for Schools Safety) (A) The funds appropriated for Funding for Schools Safety shall be made available for the direct benefit of all children of South Carolina enrolled in K-12 schools by funding security assessments and facilities upgrades aligned with school safety priorities. The department shall allocate these funds to the public school districts and charter school districts. Eligible school facility upgrades shall include: (a) classroom/internal door locks; (b) secure school entry points and access control; (c) window covers; (d) bulletproof glass or bulletproof film for windows or doors; ~~and~~ (e) electronic or other technology; and (f) ballistic proof doors. School facilities eligible for safety upgrades under this subsection are defined as locations with daily student attendance and shall not include unimproved real property, centralized district administration facilities, or other facilities, including those normally identified with interscholastic sports activities.

(B) The department shall develop an application process for public and charter school districts to request funding for facilities upgrades aligned with school safety priorities and establish policies, procedures, and priorities for the making of ~~grants~~ awards pursuant to this subsection. Criteria for prioritizing the awarding of ~~grants~~ funding shall include, but not be limited to, percentage of students enrolled from low-income families, the age and condition of the existing school facilities to be upgraded as well as the ability to commence construction in a timely matter and the quality of the application. The criteria must also require that all proposed projects do not create new recurring annual expenses and comply with local, state, and federal building codes.

(C) Applications must be submitted to the department by September 1, ~~2024~~ 2025. Upon receipt of applications pursuant to the application process adopted by the department, the department shall prioritize the eligible projects with the greatest need using the established criteria and shall submit a list of recommended ~~grant~~ awards to the State Board of Education no later than ~~November 30, 2024~~ December 31, 2025. Grants Funding shall be awarded upon an affirmative vote of the State Board.

(D) The financial assistance provided to public school districts and charter school districts pursuant to this provision must be used for the eligible school facility project. The department is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to ensure that funds are expended in a manner consistent with this provision. Unexpended funds may be carried forward to be expended for the same purposes by the department and ~~grant~~ award recipients. Following the close of the fiscal year, the department shall submit a report of approved projects to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

(E) Unexpended funds may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes by the department and school districts.

AMENDMENT: 29

Senator Martin

57.23. (JUD: Administrative Expense for Retired Judges) Upon approval of the Chief Justice, a retired judge or justice appointed by the Chief Justice to perform judicial duties shall receive \$400 a day.

AMENDMENT: 31

Senators Peeler and Alexander

93.ha. (DOA: Health Agencies Analysis) From funds appropriated, the Department of Administration shall conduct an analysis of the Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) or their successor agencies that includes, but is not limited to, the current organizational structures, management and supervision of full-time employees, duplication of administrative efforts, suitability for shared services, and opportunities for collaboration between the agencies. DAODAS, DDSN, and DMH must provide their full cooperation, and make available any staff, books, records, statements, and other information needed by the Department of Administration to complete the analysis. The Department is authorized to effectuate structural reorganization, including any reduction in force needed based upon the findings in their analysis. The Department shall provide a detailed report on structural reorganization and the Executive Budget Office shall report the number of FTEs deleted by agency, program, and funding source to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee no later than June 30, 2026.

AMENDMENT: 33

Senator Martin

117.105. (GP: Refugee Resettlement Program) No state funds shall be expended to assist in the United States Refugee Resettlement Program ~~unless the county council of the county where the resettlement is to occur approves the relocation.~~

AMENDMENT: 34

Senator Davis

117.164. (GP: Land Acquisitions) Prior to entering into contracts to utilize funds appropriated or authorized by the General Assembly to acquire interests in land for natural resource protection and rural land preservation, including conservation easements (*Land Protection Projects*), the Department of Natural Resources, *the* Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, *the* Office of Resilience, *the* and Forestry Commission (Resource Agencies) shall coordinate and collaborate with *each other and with* the SC Conservation Bank to maximize the most cost effective options available for the acquisition with the greatest public benefit. The SC Conservation Bank shall coordinate with *each one* the Resource ~~Agency~~ Agencies to ensure that the funds are used for projects that support the agency's objectives *and do not substantially encroach upon another agency's objectives*, the State's broader conservation objectives, and that demonstrate a satisfactory degree of financial leverage, partnerships, and other indicators of quality as determined by the SC Conservation Bank and ~~Resource Agency~~ *the agency*. Along with its statutorily required annual budget requests, each one of the Resource Agencies shall certify in writing to the Executive Budget Office that its budget requests for Land Protection Projects conform with the requirements of this proviso, with a copy of that written certification being contemporaneously provided to the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

AMENDMENT: 35

Senator Davis

117.1a. (Land Acquisition Process) (A) For the current fiscal year, of the funds appropriated to the South Carolina Conservation Bank (Bank) for Conservation Grant Funding to be used in connection with funding, in whole or in part, the land acquisition appropriation requests by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Parks, Rec, and Tourism (PRT), the Office of Resilience (SCOR), and the Forestry Commission (Forestry), collectively, the “Resource Agencies,” the Bank and the Resource Agencies shall assess the relative merits of the land protection projects advocated by the Resource Agencies and subsequently determine the manner in which the funds shall be spent on said projects, said determination to be memorialized in a writing executed by the authorized officers of the Bank and the Resource Agencies no later than November 1, 2025. This assessment shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) the land protection projects’ relative degrees of importance in terms of natural or historic resource protection;
- (2) the availability of other sources of funding for the projects; and
- (3) the ability to acquire the projects for less than their fair market value;

(B) After the determination has been made by the Bank and the Resource Agencies, the Bank shall petition the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) for a final determination of how the funds appropriated to the Bank shall be allocated to fund the land use protection projects. Once the land is acquired, it shall be temporarily held at the Department of Administration (DOA) for management until JBRC determines the most appropriate resource agency to oversee the acquired land project. After JBRC’s determination, DOA shall transfer the acquired land to the designated Resource Agency to manage.

AMENDMENT: 36

Senator Alexander

55.26. (DES: Permitting Timeframes) Except for Energy Infrastructure Projects, which are defined as the construction, placement, authorization, or removal of energy infrastructure including, but not limited to, electric transmission and generation assets, natural gas transmission assets, and all associated or appurtenant infrastructure and activities, including communications and distribution infrastructure, the Department of Environmental Services will issue a decision on a completed application for a permit no later than ninety days after the date the application is received by the department. The department may require a preapplication meeting with the applicant to establish milestones within the review period prior to commencing the ninety-day review period. The department and applicant may mutually agree in writing to extend the ninety-day review period. Such agreement shall be in writing and state a specific date on when the extension will end. The department shall not stop, stay, or otherwise alter the review period without such written agreement with the applicant.

AMENDMENT: 37

Senators Peeler, Alexander, and Cromer

117.ncc. (GP: Interim Neurological and Critical Care Hospital Board) (A) With the funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for Neurological Critical Care and Rehabilitation Services in South Carolina, there is created the Interim Neurological and Critical Care Hospital Board at the University of South Carolina. The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to transfer no more than an additional \$200,000,000 of agency funds to the University of South Carolina for the same purposes. The board shall consist of the following members and shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing official:

(1) two members appointed by the Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, one of which may be a member of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees;

(2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, who may be a senior level employee of the University of South Carolina with knowledge of the medical field;

(3) two members appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, one of which may be a member of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees;

(4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House, who may have a background in hospital management or administration and may not be an employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina; and

(5) one member appointed by the Governor, who may have a background in hospital management or administration and may not be an employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina nor a former employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina.

(B) The Chairman of the Board shall be one of the members appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the President of the Senate, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, or the Speaker of the House to be elected by the board.

(C) The board shall be administratively supported by the University of South Carolina.

(D) The Executive Budget Office and the Department of Health and Human Services shall not transfer funds authorized in this proviso, or any other act, prior to the approval of the Joint Bond Review Committee. The request for transfer must come from the Interim Neurological and Critical Care Hospital Board and shall include draw schedules which align with the expenditure of funds and include detailed planning documents and milestones, as well as any further information requested by Joint Bond Review Committee staff on behalf of the committee.

(E) The Interim Board shall request approval of each draw of funding from the Joint Bond Review Committee, prior to each transfer of funds.

AMENDMENT: 38

**Senators Peeler, Alexander, Grooms, Verdin,
Cromer, Jackson, Davis, Martin, Bennett, and
Turner**

118.21. (SR: Income Tax Reduction) For the ~~2024~~ 2025 income tax year, the top marginal rate imposed on the South Carolina taxable income of individuals, estates, trusts, and any other entity except those taxed or exempted from taxation under Sections 12-6-530 through 12-6-550 ~~of the S.C. Code~~, equals ~~6.2~~ 6.0%. The bracket to which the ~~6.2~~ 6.0% applies must be the same as the bracket for which the top marginal rate would have otherwise applied.