

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 1 - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- 1.3** **AMEND** (SDE: State Aid Classrooms) States the General Assembly's intent to fully implement the EFA via the State Aid to Classrooms allocation and provide for the allocation of those funds. Updates the average per pupil funding projections and the estimated teacher salary schedule. Provides for the distribution of funds to the SC Public Charter School District. Requires the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to document annually the expenditure of all funds by each district and to post each school district's projections on their website and for each school district to also post their numbers. Requires the department and the EOC provide links to this information on their websites. Provides pupil classification weightings.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update pupil count, total per pupil funding, teacher salary schedule, and fiscal year references.
- 1.47** **AMEND** (SDE: Full-Day 4K) Provides guidelines for participation in and funding for the SC Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). *Companion to EIA proviso 1A.26.*
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct the Department and First Steps to collect and share any waiting lists for the 4K program by September 1st, and to determine a process for notifying parents of eligible students available slots. Requested by the Office of First Steps.
- 1.70** **AMEND** (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) States that the projected Southeastern average teacher salary is projected to be \$59,866. Requires a local district board of trustees to provide a step increase for all eligible certified teachers. Requires districts to use the district salary schedule used in the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the increase. Suspends the requirement that districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year. *Companion to EIA proviso 1A.31.*
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the Southeastern average teacher salary and fiscal year reference.
- 1.74** **DELETE** (SDE: ESSER Funds) Directs the department to ensure school districts are made aware of permissible uses of the ESSER funds at their disposal. Directs the department distribute a list of cooperative purchasing agreements for districts to utilize to enhance their ESSER fund allocation by 8/1/24. Directs the department to distribute and to provide training and technical support to district personnel.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 1.77** **AMEND** (SDE: Funding for Schools Safety) Outlines the allocation and use of funds for school safety upgrades. Directs the department to create a process for school districts to apply for funding. Directs that applications must be submitted by September 1, 2024 and directs the department to submit a recommended list to the State Board of Education by November 30, 2024.
WMC: AMEND proviso to add that funding is specifically for security assessments and facility upgrades. Updates the calendar year references and changes the submission date of the list of recommended grant awards to December 31. Requested by the Department of Education.
- 1.85** **AMEND** (SDE: Teaching Transformation Pilot Program) Directs that \$1,000,000 be allocated to USC's College of Education for a pilot program to reinvent and transform the state's teaching profession. Provides for the goals, intentions, and requirements of the program. Directs the pilot

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
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program to be in partnership with selected SC Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and to be designed and developed in collaboration with national partners, Education Resources Strategies and Bank Street College. Requires the pilot program to be anchored in data collection underway by SC-TEACHER, with a grant funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and effective educator practices across the globe. Directs the pilot program to compliment and/or enhance the state's effective innovation in the issue of the state's teaching profession.

WMC: AMEND proviso to add "subject to funding" regarding the allocation of funding for the pilot program, and to delete references to whole child education. Requires a report to be submitted on the success of the pilot program to the Governor, Chairmen of Ways and Means and Senate Finance, and the Superintendent of Education by June 30. Requested by the Department of Education.

1.87 **AMEND** (SDE: Surplus Property) Directs a school district to transfer or to offer for sale a lease a property which has been vacant for the previous four school years and has not been approved for use before July 1, 2024. Directs school districts to publish the list of properties on their website by September 15, 2024. Directs the district to transfer property by December 31, 2024 to a governmental subdivision or state agency that has provided written confirmation to accept the property for public use. States that if no subdivision or state agency accepts the property, the district is directed to offer the property for sale or lease at fair market value. Directs that 5% of state payments be withheld if a district fails to comply.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references.

1.89 **AMEND** (SDE: Alternative Education Programs Options) Directs SDE to create, publish, and provide to all public schools a list of alternative education programs at various institutions to students who are not on track for on-time graduation or who are at risk of dropping out of school. Directs that school counselors should also provide student information those institutions unless the student has opted out pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Directs the department to develop an opt-out form for parents or students eighteen or older and make it available on its website.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update technical language for the students and schools involved in alternative education programs, and to specify the age of students who should receive information on alternative diploma seeking education program to ages sixteen or older. Requested by the Department of Education.

1.91 **AMEND** (SDE: Reporting Requirements) Suspends the college freshman reporting requirements of Section 59-101-130. Directs SDE and EOC to use existing data to report on the in-state and out-of-state college enrollment, persistence, and post-secondary completion of high school graduates from South Carolina. Requires SDE to streamline data collection timelines and processes. Extends legislatively mandated due dates for school, district, and state plans to June 30, 2025.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

1.100 **DELETE** (SDE: District Accounting Systems and Best Practices) Directs the Department of Education to convene a study committee to examine and propose revisions to improve district accounting systems and best practices. Establishes the membership and duties of the committee. Directs the committee to provide a report of potential reforms by May 31, 2025 to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Education.

1.103 DELETE (SDE: First Steps Division) Authorizes First Steps to operate independently from SDE effective July 1.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Office of First Steps.

1.107 AMEND (SDE: Strategic Compensation Pilot Program) Creates the Strategic Compensation Pilot Program for certified teachers. Establishes the criteria for the applicants, and requires a report to be submitted to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the pilot program.

WMC: AMEND proviso to delete “certified teachers” and add “potential” in reference to secondary indicators. Add “and charters” in regard to entities receiving funds under this grant, and add that reports produced on effectiveness of the pilot shall place an emphasis on yearend data. Requested by the Department of Education.

1.112 AMEND (SDE: Interscholastic Athletics) Directs that students who attend independent schools shall not be denied the opportunity to try out for and participate in an interscholastic athletic program offered at a public school. Provides the criteria and eligibility requirements for students to be able to participate in the program. Defines “independent school”.

WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the requirement that “the private school’s enrollment for grades nine through twelve does not exceed two hundred students” in order to participate in an interscholastic athletic program offered at a public school.

1.115 DELETE (SDE: Williamsburg County School District) Directs SDE to prepare a report on the Williamsburg County School District citing the reasons for declaring a state of emergency, to be provided to the respective delegation by January 1st.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Education.

1.117 ADD (SDE: Charter School Accountability) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that Section 59-40-55(B)(11), relating to the requirement that a charter school sponsor shall permanently close charter schools with the lowest federal accountability rating for three consecutive years, is suspended. Directs that affected schools must submit a corrective action plan with academic goals, focusing on supporting students behind by more than one grade level. Plans must be submitted by August 1 using a sponsor-prescribed form approved by the State Department of Education. The sponsor and State Superintendent must review and approve the plans by September 5, allowing amendments during the review period to promote continuous student growth.

1.118 ADD (SDE: Activity Buses) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow activity buses to be utilized by nonprofit organizations and allow the school districts to impose fees and conditions for the use of the buses.

SECTION 1A - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-EIA

1A.4 AMEND (SDE-EIA: Teacher Salaries/State Agencies) Provides for the distribution of funds as recommended by the department and funded by the General Assembly to adjust teacher pay based on the local school district where the agency is located for instructional personnel employed by a state agency not containing a school district.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

WMC: AMEND proviso to delete references of “recommended by the Department of Education” in regards to distribution of funds and “Section 1, VIII.F” in regards to EIA appropriations.

1A.9 **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Teacher Supplies) Provides guidelines for distributing teacher supply reimbursement of up to \$400 each school year to offset the expenses teachers have incurred for teaching supplies and materials. Allows any classroom teacher, including those at a S.C. private school that are not eligible for this reimbursement, to claim a refundable income tax credit on their tax return.

WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that the reimbursement shall not be reported as income on the employee’s W-2 and that the district may not withhold the amount of the supply check from the employee’s salary. Updates calendar year references.

1A.26 **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Full-Day 4K) Provides guidelines for participation in and funding for the SC Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). *Companion to 1.47.*

WMC: AMEND proviso to direct the Department and First Steps to collect and share any waiting lists for the 4K program by September 1st, and to determine a process for notifying parents of eligible students available slots. Requested by the Office of First Steps.

1A.31 **AMEND** (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) States that the projected Southeastern average teacher salary is projected to be \$59,866. Requires a local district board of trustees to provide a step increase for all eligible certified teachers. Requires districts to use the district salary schedule used in the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the increase. Suspends the requirement that districts maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year. *Companion to General Education proviso 1.70.*

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the Southeastern average teacher salary and fiscal year reference.

1A.41 **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: EOC-South Carolina Autism Society) Directs that \$500,000 of the EIA funds appropriated for Partnerships, Education Oversight Committee (A85) be transferred quarterly from the EOC to the South Carolina Autism Society for the Autism Parent-School Partnership Program. Requires the society, on or before August 1, 2024, to provide an audit of the society’s books from the previous fiscal year to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees. Directs that the society provide an updated audit to the Chairmen on or before June 30, 2025.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year references.

1A.44 **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting) Requires the department and First Steps to acquire unique student identifiers or SUNS numbers by the 45th day for each student that is enrolled in the CDEPP program and to provide a report on the information to various committees by November 30th. Requires the department and First Steps provide any information the EOC requires for the annual CDEPP report by November 30th.

WMC: AMEND proviso to change “CDEPP” to “CERDEP” to accurately reflect the program name of the Child Early Reading and Development Education Program. Requested by the Department of Education.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 1A.45** **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive) Creates a program within CERRA to recruit and retain classroom educators in rural and underserved districts that annually experience excessive teacher turnover. Requires CERRA report by July 31st of the current fiscal year to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House on the incentives that have been developed and to make recommendations for attracting and retaining high quality teachers. Authorizes Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive funds to be carried forward and used for the same purpose. require EOC to evaluate the allocated funds and their impact on the Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive. Requires the evaluation to be submitted to the WMC, SFC, House and Senate Education Committees, and the Governor's Office by December 15th.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that funds may not be used to cover costs or fees for hiring and/or relocating international teachers and to update the evaluation submission date.
- 1A.51** **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Career and Technology Education) Provides for the distribution and use of Career and Technology Education funds to school districts and multi-district career centers. Requires the district plan contain certain information on other available career and technical equipment and to include charter schools offering at least one career and technical education completer program. Authorizes school districts and career centers to carry forward these funds for the same purpose. Directs that \$125,000 be allocated to the Palmetto Partners for Science and Technology for robotics competition, curriculum, and support.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.
- 1A.60** **DELETE** (SDE-EIA: Bridge Program) Directs that \$1,400,000 of Rural Teacher Recruitment funds be transferred to SC State University to implement and enhance a BRIDGE program to recruit minority high school students along the I-95 corridor into the teaching profession. Directs SC State to use \$400,000 of these funds to partner with one or more higher education institutions to establish a similar bridge program.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 1A.63** **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Surplus) Requires and provides guidelines for the expenditures of the EIA cash funds and EIA funds of prior fiscal year, not appropriated or authorized to be carried forward.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the provision using the first \$1.6 million in additional funds not carried forward or otherwise appropriated to reimburse school districts for reduced meals and up to \$5,000,000 in additional funds not carried forward or otherwise appropriated for instructional materials and school bus purchase. Provides a list of items that carried forward funds may be used for.
- 1A.69** **AMEND** (SDE-EIA: Developmental Education and Therapy Services) Directs that of the funds appropriated for Developmental Education and Therapy Services, \$486,486 shall be allocated to the Meyer Center; \$1,513,514 shall be allocated to Pattison's Academy; and \$1,300,000 for Palmetto Excel.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that funds shall be disbursed by the department to the district in full not later than December 1, and the district shall remit the total allocation to the schools within 30 calendar days.
- 1A.74** **ADD** (SDE-EIA: CERDEP Foundational Literacy Skill Training) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct SDE to provide training on literacy skills to all public school educators and aides who

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

work with CERDEP, and staff of the Office of First Steps in every district that has CERDEP classrooms. Provides a stipend for educators who successfully complete the training. Allows SDE to carry forward and expend funds for the same purposes. Requested by the Department of Education.

SECTION 3 - H660 - LOTTERY EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

- 3.5 DELETE** (LEA: FY 2024-25 Lottery Funding) Directs expenditure of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 3.6 ADD** (LEA: Ticket Sales) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow the use of cash or debit card to purchase lottery game tickets.
- 3.7 ADD** (LEA: FY 2025-26 Lottery Funding) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct expenditure of lottery funds for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

SECTION 7 - L120 - GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

- 7.3 ADD** (JDLHS: Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow the School to carry forward unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and expend at the discretion of the board.
- 7.4 ADD** (JDLHS: Use of Income Received by the School) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to require income received on specified agricultural related endeavors to be used for permanent improvements, maintenance, and school operating expenses.

SECTION 11 - H030 - COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

- 11.6. AMEND** (CHE: Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth) Provides for the distribution of up to \$100,000 of available need based grants funds to foster youth in the custody of DSS who are attending a higher education institutions in the state.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update funding amounts.
- 11.17 AMEND** (CHE: Prohibition on Discriminatory Practices) Directs CHE to print and distribute the definition of anti-Semitism to all SC public colleges and universities and provide the detailed definition of anti-Semitism for this purpose. Directs SC public colleges and universities to take the definition into consideration when deciding whether there has been a violation of policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion. Directs that this provision does not violate anyone's First Amendment rights provided in the U.S. and S.C. Constitutions.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the requirement to print for distribution the definition of anti-Semitism. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.
- 11.19 DELETE** (CHE: Battelle Alliance at Savannah River National Lab) Directs 20% of the funds appropriated for the Battelle Alliance to be allocated to South Carolina State, 40% shall be allocated to USC, and 40% shall be allocated to Clemson University. Requires the funds to be

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

expended collaboratively to conduct research and develop workforce training programs to fill engineering, science, research, and management positions. Requires the universities to submit a plan and timeline to CHE and its Board of Commissioners on how the funds will be utilized to further the mission prior to receiving any funds, and requires the plan to be reviewed by Battelle. Requires the plan to also be submitted to JBRC and SFAA for approval before funds can be allocated or expended. States that if the plan is not approved by June 30 by all entities, the funds must be remitted back to the general fund.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.

11.22 **ADD** (CHE: HEEEP Audit) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to require CHE to conduct an audit on the HEEEP expenditures by September 1, and provide a result of the audit to the Chairmen of WMC and SFC by November 1.

11.23 **ADD** (CHE: Review of Tuition Mitigation Calculations) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to require CHE to review the calculation of tuition mitigation funding in collaboration with public research institutions, four-year public institutions, and systems of higher education, and report their findings by October 1.

SECTION 19 – H240 – SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

19.1 **AMEND** (SCSU: ~~Truth Hall and Green Student Center~~ *Facilities Maintenance, Repair, and Renovation*) Allows carried forward and appropriated funds for the purpose of maintenance, repairs, and renovations to be expended on Truth Hall and Green Student Center. Allows funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purposes.

WMC: AMEND proviso to include Turner Hall, Whittaker Library, and Nance Hall in the authorized maintenance, repairs, and renovations with carried forward funds.

19.2 **ADD** (SCSU: Loan Forgiveness) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that the balance and all interest and costs associated with the loan issued to SCSU is forgiven.

SECTION 20 - H450 - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

20.10 **ADD** (USC: SC TEACHER Advisory Committee) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to create an advisory committee to study recommend policy changes to enhance the teaching of the educator workforce. Provides for the composition of the committee.

SECTION 23 - H510 - MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

23.6 **ADD** (MUSC: Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Assessment) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct the MUSC Hospital Authority to work with current alcohol and substance abuse treatment providers to evaluate the need for long-term inpatient rehab programs. Requires the Authority to submit a report outlining their efforts and proposed plan to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by September 20, 2025.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 25 - H590 - STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

- 25.10** **ADD** (TEC: Make It In SC Public Awareness Campaign) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to create a public awareness campaign to promote understanding of the opportunities in manufacturing and related industries in SC. Provides the requirements of the funds and allows the funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.
- 25.11** **ADD** (TEC: Emergency Medical Personnel) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to provide \$500,000 of the SCWINS appropriation to the SC EMS Association Foundation for scholarships for adults completing EMT, AEMT, and paramedic courses. Requires the association to provide a report by June 30 on the scholarship program.

SECTION 27 - H870 - STATE LIBRARY

- 27.5.** **AMEND** (LIB: SCLENDS) Allows the State Library to accept money for the South Carolina Library Evergreen Network Delivery System (SCLENDS). Directs that the consortium shall allow South Carolina libraries the ability to share resources and provide a forum for sharing expertise in technical areas such as systems administration and cataloging. Directs that funds received for SCLENDS be placed in a special account and only be used to pay for items related to SCLENDS. Authorizes unexpended funds to be carried forward and be used for the same purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to change “Evergreen” to “Electronic.” Requested by the State Library.

SECTION 29 - H950 - STATE MUSEUM COMMISSIONS

- 29.6** **AMEND** (MUSM: Remittance to General Services) Directs the State Museum to remit at least \$1,800,000 to the Department of Administration as compensation for expenses associated with its lease of the Columbia Mills Building.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the remitted amount from \$1.8 million to \$3,505,361.94. Requested by the State Museum Commission.

SECTION 31 - J060 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- 31.5** **AMEND** (DPH: Cancer/Hemophilia) Prohibits the amounts appropriated for prevention, detection and surveillance of cancer, for providing cancer treatment services, and for the hemophilia assistance program from being transferred to other programs and prohibits the funds from being reduced more than a pro-rata share in the event of any mid-year reductions or base reductions assessed to the department.
WMC: AMEND proviso to include “other blood disorders.” Requested by the Department of Public Health.
- 31.34** **AMEND** (DPH: HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention) Authorizes funds for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment to be used to develop a partnership with the Joseph H. Neal Health Collaborative to provide services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Includes a plan for prevention and treatment of Hepatitis C. Directs the department to ensure that the funds are spent solely for testing and treatment services. Allows funds to be used to enhance services

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

provided through federal funds allocation or the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program rebate funds. Directs Ryan White Part B Grants funds be included in the funds allowed to enhance services.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update language to better align with the intended use of funds in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and HCV.

SECTION 33 - J020 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

33.20 **AMEND** (DHHS: Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative) Directs the department to implement accountability and quality improvements initiatives for: (A) Community Health Improvement Initiative; (B) Community Health Alignment Initiative; (C) Improving Access Initiatives; (D) Quality Through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (QTIP) Initiative; (E) Health Services Initiative; and (F) Primary Care Safety Net Initiative. Provides eligibility requirements. Directs the department to evaluate each initiative annually and report the results to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Budget Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the funding contained in subsection (F) for local alcohol and drug abuse authorities.

33.32 **ADD** (DHHS: Prohibit Funding to Abortion Providers) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow the Director to withhold funding to abortion providers allowed under the law.

SECTION 35 - J120 - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

35.10 **AMEND** (DMH: Orangeburg Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility) Authorizes the department to use up to \$2,000,000 of its available one-time funds to secure a site in Orangeburg County and prepare it for licensure as a Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility. Directs the department to provide a status report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance, Senate Medical Affairs, House Ways and Means, and Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committees by January 10, 2025.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year reference.

35.13 **ADD** (DMH: Out of Home Placement) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to provide that funds allocated in Act 84 of 2023, Section 118.19(27)(c) for State-Operated Intensive Group Homes shall be redirected to support out-of-home placements. Requested by the Department of Mental Health.

SECTION 38 - L040 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

38.2 **AMEND** (DSS: Recovered State Funds) Authorizes the department to withhold a portion of state funds recovered under Title IV-D.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update federal program and office names. Requested by the Department of Social Services.

38.14 **AMEND** (DSS: Family Foster Care Payments) Establishes the amount of monthly foster care payments for children under the department's sponsorship and under kinship care.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

WMC: AMEND to update the amount of monthly foster care payments. Requested by the Department of Social Services.

38.23 AMEND (DSS: Internal Child Fatality Review Committees) Requires the Director of the Department of Social Services to create and fund Internal Child Fatality Review Committees to allow for rapid and expeditious review of child fatalities that are reported to the Department.

WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the fiscal year reference. Requested by the Department of Social Services.

38.25 DELETE (DSS: Wilderness Therapeutic Camps) Directs DSS to make and promulgate any licensing standards rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of Article 1 of Title 63, Chapter 11, relating to child welfare agencies, as applied to Wilderness Therapeutic Camps. Define "Wilderness Therapeutic Camp."

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Social Services.

38.26 DELETE (DSS: Group Home Transition) Directs the department to provide financial and administrative support to group homes to enable any necessary transition of services or the development of new service models for children and young adults. Directs that group homes with young adults ages 18 to 23 are not required to provide 24 hour face to face supervision.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by Department of Social Services.

SECTION 40 - L060 - DEPARTMENT ON AGING

40.5 AMEND (AGING: Home and Community Based Services) Directs that Home and Community-Based Services state funds be used for services that most directly meet the goal of allowing seniors to live safely and independently at home. Defines allowable services; provides a methodology for allocating these funds to the Area Agencies on Aging; allows the AAAs to spend up to 10% for administrative services and the department to retain 1/4 of 1% to monitor and oversee the program; allows the department to retain up to 3% to be allocated for cases of a recognized emergency and/or natural disaster recognized by the Governor and directs that if the funds are not allocated they are to be treated as carry forward funds and reallocated to the AAA's; requires each AAA to submit a budget to the Department on Aging's for approval that indicates the services to be provided; authorizes these funds to be carried forward and used for the same purpose; and prohibits the funds from being transferred and used for any other purpose.

WMC: AMEND proviso to add pest control and dental and other supportive health services to allowable services. Requested by the Department on Aging.

40.10 ADD (AGING: Allocations and Aid Carryforward) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow carry forward of funds for allocations or aid from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year. Requested by the Department on Aging.

SECTION 41 - L800 - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

41.4 DELETE (DCA: Home Visiting Pilot) Allows the department to use funds appropriated to the Children's Trust Fund to pilot home visiting programs that target zero- to three-year old children in the county not receiving home visiting services.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
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THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

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.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the designated budget line item. Requested by the Department of Agriculture.
- 44.12** **ADD** (AGRI: Commodity Boards Interest Retention) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow Commodity Boards to retain and carry forward interest accrued from the Boards' accounts held by the State.

SECTION 47 - P240 - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 47.1** **AMEND** (DNR: Publications Revenue) Allows the department to retain revenues generated from the sale of "South Carolina Wildlife" magazine and its by-products in order to become self-sustaining.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the allowance for general funds to be utilized for the South Carolina Wildlife magazine. Requested by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 47.19** **AMEND** (DNR: Deer Processing Pilot Program) Allows funds appropriated to the department to be utilized to create a pilot program awarding grants to deer processors who agree to process antlerless deer without a fee to the hunter, with the purpose of harvesting antlerless deer in areas where they impact the agriculture sector. States the processors must agree to donate the processed meat to non-profit organizations. Requires a report to be provided to the Chairmen of SFC and HWM on the implementation of the program and the grants awarded by June 30.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.
- 47.20** **DELETE** (DNR: Barnwell County) Redirects funds appropriated for the Steel Creek Boat Landing Repair to the County of Barnwell for the Barnwell Outdoor Amphitheater.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Natural Resources.

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.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 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.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 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.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

WMC: DELETE proviso.

- 49.24** **ADD** (PRT: Local Film Carry Forward) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct the SC Film Commission to carry forward and expend funds to allow \$2 million for film project rebate opportunities to be available to local producers whose budgets are \$250,000 to \$999,999. Provides the requirements for qualification of the rebate program.
- 49.25** **ADD** (PRT: Town of McColl Repurpose) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow funds appropriated to the Town of McColl for Downtown Improvements to be redirected for the Main Street Methodist Church of Dillon's slate roof replacement project.

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.
WMC: DELETE proviso.
- 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.
WMC: DELETE proviso.

SECTION 55 – P500 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- 55.10** **AMEND** (DES: Pollutants Remediation Fund) Establishes the PFOS, PFOA, and Emerging Pollutants Remediation Fund within the DES Environmental Affairs Division. Defines the purposes of the fund and provides a funding mechanism for private well owners and public drinking water systems. Defines “facilitate drinking water improvements”, provides qualifications on disbursement of forgivable loans and grants from the fund, and describes which additional funds may be deposited. Allows the department to use up to \$2,000,000 for PFAS strategy implementation, staffing, and other costs associated with fund administration.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update percentage amounts for funds made available to private well owners and municipal, county, joint, and small public drinking water systems.
- 55.20** **AMEND** (DES: Innovative Reusable Byproduct Pilot Program) Creates the Innovative Reusable Byproduct Pilot Program from funds appropriated to the department. Provides the purposes of the program and application process. Directs the department to submit a program report to the General Assembly by June 30, 2025.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the reporting requirement date.
- 55.21** **AMEND** (DES: Dam Repair Assistance) Directs the department to establish a Dam Repair Assistance Grant Program using funds for system upgrades. Directs that the program will provide cost-sharing grants of up to 75% of the total cost to fix deficiencies in high and significant hazard dams regulated under the Dams and Reservoir Safety Act. Directs the department to create and post policies, criteria, and guidance for the program on its website by October 15, 2024.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the website posting requirement.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 55.25** **AMEND** (DES: PFAS Pilot Program) Creates the PFAS removal evaluation fund and pilot program. Provides the requirements of the program and requires a progress report to be submitted by June 30.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the progress report submission date.
- 55.26** **ADD** (DES: Permitting Timeframes) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct DES to issue decisions on permit applications within 90 days of receipt. Allows DES to require preapplication meetings prior to the application review period and to allow the review period to be extended if mutually agreed upon in writing.

SECTION 57 - B040 - JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

- 57.3** **AMEND** (JUD: Judicial Expense Allowance) Provides a \$1000 monthly expense allowance to full time judges.
WMC: AMEND proviso to increase the monthly allowance to \$1500. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.19** **DELETE** (JUD: Circuit Court Judges) Suspends the requirements of Section 14-5-130 for the current fiscal year.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.20** **ADD** (JUD: Travel Court) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeal judges may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for a traveling term of court outside of Richland County. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.21** **ADD** (JUD: Calhoun and Supreme Court Building Office Space Renovations) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that funds from Act 239 of 2022, Section 118.19(48) be redirected to renovate office space in the Calhoun Building and the Supreme Court Building. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.22** **ADD** (JUD: Across the Board Budget Reductions) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that if EBO or the General Assembly implements an across the board budget reduction, funds appropriate in Part 1A, Section 57 are exempt. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.23** **ADD** (JUD: Reactivated Judge Program) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that the requirement for retired judges or justices to serve three consecutive months without pay before receiving the pay difference provided for in Section 9-8-120(3) is suspended. Directs that a retired judge or justice shall receive \$400 per day for full judicial duties with approval from the Chief Justice. Requested by the Judicial Department.
- 57.24** **ADD** (JUD: Chief Administrative Judge Allowance) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that each chief administrative judge assigned to Circuit and Family Courts shall receive a monthly allowance of \$1000. Requested by the Judicial Department.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 60 - E210 - PROSECUTION COORDINATION COMMISSION

- 60.3** **AMEND** (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) Directs that funds appropriated for Judicial Circuits State Support be apportioned quarterly to the circuits on a per capita basis.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update distributed amounts. Requested by the Prosecution Coordination Commission.

SECTION 66 - N080 - DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES

- 66.6** **AMEND** (DPPP: Reentry Transition Services) Directs the department to allocate up to \$500,000, if available, for reentry transition services.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

SECTION 67 - N120 - DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

- 67.14.** **AMEND** (DJJ: Other Funds) Authorize the department to carry forward and expend any General Fund balances and any cash or fund balances from the sources provided for agency operating and capital needs. Directs that the department shall submit a plan prior to the expenditure of any of these funds for the review of the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, Corrections and Penology Committee, and House Judiciary Committee.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

SECTION 71 - L460 - COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS

- 71.7** **ADD** (CMA: Carry Forward of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification Budget) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow the commission to carry forward unexpended funds and expend the funds on the transfer of the Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting. Requested by the Commission for Minority Affairs.

SECTION 72 - R040 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- 72.4** **ADD** (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to authorize the commission to repurpose funds authorized in the General Appropriations Act of 2023 for expenses incurred for third-party consultants and experts. Requested by the Public Service Commission.

SECTION 78 - R200 - DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

- 78.4** **DELETE** (INS: Coastal Insurance Markets) Directs the department to conduct a study on the coastal property insurance market. Provides for the composition and provisions of the study. Directs the study to be submitted to SFC, the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, WMC, and the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, and the Governor by October 1. Directs the department to immediately initiate efforts to recruit additional insurance providers in the market.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Insurance.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 78.5 DELETE** (INS: Review and Study Committee) Creates a review and study committee to conduct a thorough review of the State's civil justice and insurance laws and address coverage availability, premium rates, and deductibles. Provides for the composition of the committee. Directs the committee to submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor by January 31, 2025.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Insurance.

SECTION 81 - R360 - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

- 81.14 AMEND** (LLR: Compensatory Payment) Allows exempt Office of State Fire Marshal employees, at the agency director's discretion and if funds are available, to be paid for actual hours worked in lieu of accruing comp time during a Governor declared State of Emergency or in a situation that requires the use of mutual assistance under Section 25-1-450, relating to duties of state, county, and municipal governments for mutual assistance in emergencies.
WMC: AMEND proviso to add the Fire Academy to the eligible employees for being paid in actual hours worked. Requested by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

SECTION 82 - R400 - DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- 82.2 AMEND** (DMV: Cost Recovery Fee/Sale of Photos or Digitized Images) Authorizes DMV to collect and retain fees, not to exceed rates charged as of February 1, 2001, to recover the costs of producing, purchasing, handling and mailing information and/or documents. Allows the department to collect and retain fees to defray costs associated with fulfilling FOIA requests. Prohibits the sale of photographs taken for driver's licenses or personal identification cards. Directs that revenue generated by fees, with an exception to FOIA requests, be placed into the State Highway Fund.
WMC: AMEND proviso to eliminate the restriction that limits fees charged for the products at the department to be tied to the rate charged as of February 1, 2001, and to allow the department to retain the balance of the revenue collected from any increase to fees above the rate charged on February 1, 2001. Department of Motor Vehicles.

SECTION 83 - R600 - DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

- 83.5 AMEND** (DEW: REED Act Spending Authority) Authorizes DEW to spend up to \$2,375,072 of funds made available to the State under Section 903 of the U.S. Social Security Act. Directs the funds be used to for UI, WIOA, and Employment Services Programs. Prohibits the funds from being obligated after a 2-year period beginning July 1, 2024.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference. Requested by the Department of Employment and Workforce.
- 83.7 ADD** (DEW: Systemic Study of Higher Education) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct DEW to use appropriated funds to contract state and national experts for a study assessing whether South Carolina's public higher education system and degree programs align with the state's current and future workforce needs. The study will analyze enrollment trends, campus space utilization, graduation rates, workforce alignment, system efficiency, and barriers to degree attainment, including cost comparisons with regional states. Directs public institutions of higher

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical College System to collaborate by providing data. Directs that DEW's procurement of experts is exempt from standard state purchasing procedures, though competition should be maximized. Directs that a final report is due by June 30, 2026 to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, President of the Senate, and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, with a possible six-month extension upon approval.

SECTION 84 - U120 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 84.11 DELETE** (DOT: Preventative Maintenance Credit) Authorizes DOT to transfer a portion of the motor fuel user fee held in the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund to DOR to satisfy the preventative maintenance credits. Fiscal Impact: RFAO states this provision would have no additional impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds expenditures or revenue. **WMC:** DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Transportation.

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. **WMC:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year references. Requested by the State Ports Authority.
- 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 1/31/25. **WMC:** AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

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

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

SECTION 93 - D500 - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- 93.14** **AMEND** (DOA: SCEIS Carry Forward Authorization) Allow funds appropriated to SCEIS to be carried forward and used for the same purpose.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference. Requested by the Department of Administration.
- 93.16** **DELETE** (DOA: State Treasury Forensic Accounting Review Audit) Directs DOA, using funds appropriated for Audit Contracting, to hire an independent forensic accounting firm to conduct a comprehensive review of all cash and investments held in the South Carolina State Treasury. The review will include reconciling these assets with records from state agencies SCEIS and STARS, as well as with external financial records. The scope will include identifying discrepancies, recommending corrective actions, and proposing future controls. Interim and final reports are due by September 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024, respectively, with the option for extension if necessary. Directs that state agencies and relevant entities are required to fully cooperate, providing all requested information, while the State Auditor will assist in scope development and report preparation. All working materials are exempt from public record requests, except for the interim and final reports. The Department of Administration's procurement for this review is exempt from state procurement code requirements.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.
- 93.17** **DELETE** (DOA: Savannah River Site Funds Redirect) Redirects funds appropriated to Aiken County – Improvements to Sage Mill Industrial Park in Act 239 of 2022 to the Eastern Aiken County Industrial Park Project.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.
- 93.18** **DELETE** (DOA: Allendale County) Redirects funds appropriated for the Allendale County Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation and Upgrades to the Allendale County Sheriff's Office and E-911 for Upgrades.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.
- 93.19** **DELETE** (DOA: State House Complex Improvement) Directs DOA to produce a cost analysis study related to the burying of powerlines and infrastructure improvements on and around the State House complex.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Administration.

SECTION 96 - E080 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

- 96.4** **ADD** (SS: Cable and Video Service Certificates) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to ensure that, for the current fiscal year, the Secretary of State cannot automatically deny a cable or video service certificate application under Section 58-12-310, relating to an application for a certificate, if a community fails to provide unconditional consent within 65 days of the Secretary's request, as outlined in Section 58-12-310(C). Approved applications remain subject to the conditions in Section 58-12-310(D).

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 96.5** **ADD** (SS: Charitable Funds Administration) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to directs that the Secretary of State may retain up to an additional \$150,000 of fine revenue to administer the enforcement of the Solicitation of the Charitable Funds Act in addition to the \$200,000 currently retained.

SECTION 97 - E120 - OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL

- 97.6** **ADD** (CG: Carry Forward Authority) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to allow the CG to carry forward funds from the prior fiscal year to fund agency operations and secure accounting, auditing, and legal services.

SECTION 98 - E160 - OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER

- 98.9** **AMEND** (TREAS: Penalties for Non-Reporting) Directs that if a municipality does not submit audited financial statements within 13 months of the end of their fiscal year, the State Treasurer must withhold their state payments until the statement is received. Requires the State Treasurer to follow the requirements of proviso 117.48 when an audit report is received from a county or municipality with significant findings related to court fine reports or remittances. Provides penalties for deficiencies and delinquent reports. Provides for funds to be made available to the State Auditor for an audit to determine amounts due to the State Treasurer. Suspends the penalty requirement for municipalities for the fiscal year and authorizes and directs the State Treasurer to release all funds withheld from municipalities in the prior two fiscal years.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the suspension of the penalty requirement for municipalities for the fiscal year and the authorization of the State Treasurer to release all funds withheld from municipalities in the prior two fiscal years. Requested by the Office of State Treasurer.

SECTION 99 – E190 – RETIREMENT SYSTEM INVESTMENT COMMISSION

- 99.1** **AMEND** (RSIC: Fiduciary Audit) Suspends Section 9-16-38 for the current fiscal year. **WMC:** AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.
- 99.2** **DELETE** (RSIC: Unfunded Liability Study) Directs the commission to study viable alternatives of addressing the retirement system's unfunded liability that do not involve and increase in employer or employee contributions. Directs the commission to submit a report by 12/31 to the Chairmen of House Ways and Means and Senate Finance that provides a summary of any alternative method and its affects if employed in other states.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Retirement System Investment Commission.

SECTION 100 - E240 - OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

- 100.12** **AMEND** (ADJ: State Guard Activation) Authorizes the Adjutant General to compensate State Guard personnel at a rate of \$150 per day during training and will not be covered by SCRS and that training is not to exceed 12 training periods per year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that personnel called to State Active Duty must be compensated \$150 per day. Requested by the Office of Adjutant General.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 100.17 AMEND** (ADJ: PPE Stockpile) Allows the Emergency Management Division to rotate and replace the State's PPE stockpile, including the rotation of public and private like-kind stock.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that if excess or expired PPE cannot be sold and meets certain requirements, SCEMD may donate the material for nonmedical use to nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt and properly registered. Requested by the Office of Adjutant General.

SECTION 101 - E260 - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

- 101.1 AMEND** (VET: M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery Carry Forward) Authorize the department to carry forward unexpended funds for the M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery from the prior fiscal year for the same purposes. Directs any unexpended funds in the department including Special Line Items, to be carried forward for operation of the M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery. Excess funds may be used for other department expenses.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete the provision that unexpended funds shall be used for the operation of the M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery.
- 101.3 AMEND** (VET: Base Protection Plan Allocation) Allows the department to allocate Base Protection Plan funds to items including land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. Directs that counties and municipalities with federal military installations are eligible recipients.
WMC: AMEND proviso to delete "Base Protection Plan" and insert "Military Enhancement Fund."
- 101.5 ADD** (VET: Resident Fee Account) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that the department may retain and use Resident Fee Account funds, including Medicare and veteran facility funds, for operations, capital improvements, debt service, and Medicare Part B premiums, as authorized under Act 1276 of 1970.

SECTION 105 - F270 - SFAA, OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR

- 105.7 AMEND** (SFAA-AUD: Auditing Moratorium) Allows the State Auditor or a member of his staff to conduct an audit of program, activity, or agency for which he managed or was employed by after one year has passed.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.
- 105.8 AMEND** (SFAA-AUD: Carry Forward) Authorizes the State Auditor to carry forward all funds from the prior fiscal year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference. Requested by SFAA, Office of State Auditor.

SECTION 108 - F500 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFIT AUTHORITY

- 108.4 DELETE** (PEBA: Funding Abortions Prohibited) Prohibits any funds appropriated for employer contributions to the State Health Insurance Plan from being expended to reimburse the expenses of an abortion, except in certain specified cases. Prohibits the State Health Plan from offering coverage for abortion services, including ancillary services provided contemporaneously

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

with abortion services. Requires the State Health Plan to determine the amount of total premiums paid for health coverage necessary to cover the risks associated with reimbursing plan participants for obtaining an abortion under approved circumstances. Requires the plan be reported annually to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and Ways and Means Committees.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

- 108.6** **AMEND** (PEBA: State Health Plan) Directs that for Plan Year 2025 there shall be an employer premium increase of 11.8% and a subscriber increase of 0%. Authorize PEBA to adjust the plan, benefits, or contributions during Plan Year 2025 to ensure the plan remains fiscally stable.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the amount for the employer premium increase and the plan year.

- 108.12** **AMEND** (PEBA: Employer Contribution Requirement) Directs that a retired member restored to active employment whose compensation is subject to Section 8-11-160 shall be eligible for the provisions in Section 9-1-1590 if employment continues for at least 36 months at a compensation equal or greater than 75% of his average compensation at retirement.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.

- 108.13** **AMEND** (PEBA: Fiduciary Audit) Suspends Section 9-4-40 and bid solicitation for the fiduciary audit for the current fiscal year.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the fiscal year reference.

SECTION 112 - V040 - DEBT SERVICE

- 112.1** **AMEND** (DS: Excess Debt Service) Directs that excess debt service funds available in FY 2024-25 may be used to pay down general obligation bond debt. Requires the Treasurer to notify the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of JBRC before funds are used. Directs that outstanding loans made pursuant to Proviso 112.2 of Act 264 of 2018 are satisfied.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

SECTION 113 - X220 - AID TO SUBDIVISIONS, STATE TREASURER

- 113.2** **AMEND** (AS-TREAS: Quarterly Distributions) Provides for the quarterly distribution of Aid to Subdivisions Local Government Fund.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 117.2** **AMEND** (GP: Appropriations From Funds) Directs that funds appropriated from the General Fund, EIA Fund, Highways and Public Transportation Fund and other applicable funds are to meet the ordinary expenses of the State for FY 2024-25.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
- 117.3** **AMEND** (GP: Fiscal Year Definitions) Defines current and prior fiscal year time frames.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year references.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

- 117.14 AMEND** (GP: FTE Management) Provides guidelines for the Executive Budget Office to monitor full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and directs that no agency may exceed the total FTEs authorized in the Appropriation Act except upon majority vote of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. Requires EBO to delete any non-established positions from the official record of authorized full-time equivalent positions if they are not filled within 30 days of the passage of the Appropriation act or August first, whichever is later. Directs that personal services funds in the Governor's budget recommendations must be at least 97% funded.
WMC: AMEND proviso to direct that each agency is responsible for ensuring the number of FTEs does not exceed the authorized number in SCEIS. Extends the deadline for each agency to establish in SCEIS new positions authorized and directs that EBO, in consultation with the Division of State Human Resources shall delete non-established positions.
- 117.90 DELETE** (GP: USC Greenville Medical School) States the intent of the General Assembly to not appropriate general funds for the new medical school at USC Greenville during the current fiscal year and limits the amount and type of funds that may be transferred from USC to the new medical school.
WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the University of South Carolina.
- 117.111 AMEND** (GP: Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension) Suspends the repeal of Chapter 34 of Title 6, relating to the Retail Facilities Act, as specified in Act 285 of 2006 for sites that provided DOR written notification of election of mode of credit before 7/1/16 and for which a building permit was issued prior to 7/1/16.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
- 117.115. AMEND** (GP: SCRS & PORS Trust Fund) Directs that the funds allocated to PEBA for the SCRS or PORS Trust Funds be credited toward contributions due from participating employers in those systems for FY 2024-25; directs that no credits shall be issued for covered employees of special purpose districts, joint authorities, non-profits, hospitals, participating associations or service organizations as defined in Section 9-1-10(11)(e), relating to retirement systems definitions, and state employees whose salaries are paid with federal funds. Directs that the SC Ports Authority, the SC Public Service Authority, and the Medical University Hospital Authority are excluded from this prohibition. Directs PEBA to collaborate with DOA, EBO, and RFA to determine the amount of credit exclusion for federally funded state employees.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.
- 117.124 AMEND** (GP: Medical Marijuana Research) Authorizes the USC College of Pharmacy and MUSC, to the extent permitted and in accordance with federal laws and regulations, to acquire pharmaceutical grade marijuana, and similar compounds to use for research and clinical trials to develop potential therapeutic agents for certain illnesses. Authorizes USC and MUSC to work with other public and private entities to conduct the research and clinical trials as permitted by federal law and regs. Directs USC and MUSC, by the first day of the 2025 legislative session, to provide the General Assembly with a written summary of actions taken and material findings, if any, resulting from these activities.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update the calendar year.
- 117.127 AMEND** (GP: Secure Area Duty Officers Program) Authorizes the Adjutant General, SLED, and other law enforcement authorities to conduct security-related activities as prescribed by

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

Executive Order 2015-18 (Secure Area Duty Officers Program). Directs that these activities shall be considered state or federal training for purposes of emergency preparedness. Authorizes these agencies to spend state and federal funds to support the program.

WMC: AMEND proviso to allow agencies to conduct counter terrorism-related activities as prescribed by the Governor. Requested by the Office of Adjutant General.

- 117.130 DELETE** (GP: Diverse Student Recruitment and Retention) Directs higher education institutions to use a portion of their appropriated or authorized funds to develop enrollment and retention programs to promote diversity in student population, to include African Americans, Hispanics, and other underrepresented minorities. Directs the institutions to report to CHE on the effectiveness of these programs and for CHE to include this information in their annual report.
WMC: DELETE proviso.

- 117.140 AMEND** (GP: National Guard College Assistance Program) Allows members of the SC National Guard to qualify for college assistance program grants when taking more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Allows service members to receive \$22,000 in grants to cover 100% of college tuition and fees. Directs that service members shall be required to meet all other requirements.
WMC: AMEND proviso to deletes \$22,000 grant money that can be received and allows members to receive college assistance benefits up to an amount equal to 100% of tuition and fees not to exceed \$12,000 for the year. Directs that the lifetime maximum shall not exceed \$25,000. Allows members to complete the FAFSA to received eligible scholarships and grants. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.

- 117.141 AMEND** (GP: Employee Compensation) Provides a plan to distribute employee pay increases for FY 2024-25. Directs EBO to review Executive Branch agencies to determine whether their budgets warrant an increase in other fund authorization due to the pay raise and if so, to work with the Comptroller General to increase the authorization for the affected agencies. Directs that allocations associated with the increases for retirement employer contributions be based on the rate of the retirement system in which employees participate. Authorizes the use of excess funding for statewide employer contributions for other statewide purposes and allow the unexpended funds to be carried forward.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update employee pay increases.

- 117.146 AMEND** (GP: Electricity Market Reform) Directs that the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee issue a report on its findings no later than January 31, 2025. Directs that the committee may continue to meet past that date and issue additional reports.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references.

- 117.147 AMEND** (GP: Homestead Exemption Fund) Suspends Section 11-11-156(C), relating to reimbursement of school districts from homestead exemption fund.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

- 117.152 AMEND** (GP: In-State Tuition Mitigation) States that specific recurring funds have been appropriated in Part IA to institutions of higher education to mitigate tuition and mandatory fee increases. Requires institutions, in order to retain these funds, to certify to CHE by August 15, 2023, that, except for tuition increases due to required pension and state health plan increases,

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

there is no in-state tuition or mandatory fee increase for the 2023-24 academic year. Directs any institution proposing a mandatory fee increase to include an analysis of the necessity of the increase. Directs CHE to develop a certification process and requires any institution that is unable to provide the certification to remit their recurring allocation listed in this provision to the General Fund by September 15, 2024. Directs CHE, by November 1, 2024, to report to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees and to EBO the institutions that did not meet the certification requirement and directs EBO to reduce the recurring appropriation for non-compliant institutions.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update tuition mitigation amounts. Directs that there will be no undergraduate tuition or mandatory fee increase on in-state continuing students. Updates calendar year references.

117.160 AMEND (GP: Millage Calculations) Allows a municipality additional and permanent adjustment to its general operating millage rate increase limitation due to population growth for any increase that would have happened in FY 2021-22 but was not known because of the delayed Census release. Directs the calculation to be made from the July 1, 2020 census population estimates.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

117.161 AMEND (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) Appropriates funds to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination Commission and the Commission on Indigent Defense for recruitment and retention. Directs that before funds are disbursed, all Prosecution and Indigent Defense Circuits shall provide a report of current warrants pending. Directs the commissions to provide progress reports to the Chief Administrative Judge of each respective circuit handling the General Sessions docket, the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor's Office semiannually.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

117.167 DELETE (GP: JROTC Program) Directs that the Department of Education, collaborating with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Adjutant General, and EOC shall submit a report to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the State Board of Education by 2/1/25 on the status of JROTC programs in SC public schools.

WMC: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Department of Education.

117.169 AMEND (GP: Prostate Cancer Study Committee) Creates the Prostate Cancer Study Committee. Provides the initiatives that the study committee shall address and the requirements for the appointed members of the committee. Directs that the chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Requires the committee to continuously meet and provide a report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by January 15, 2025 on its findings and recommendations.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update reporting date.

117.175 DELETE (GP: Surface Water Study Committee) Establishes the Surface Water Study Committee. Provides for the composition of the study committee. Directs the committee to study the current state of surface water in this state and to provide a report to the General Assembly 3/1/2025 on its work and findings.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

WMC: DELETE proviso.

117.176 AMEND (GP: Credit Unions) Allows a federal or state credit union headquartered in SC to act as a qualified public depository for deposits held by a municipality if it meets certain criteria. Directs that the credit union must comply with Section 6-5-15 and be insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference.

117.177 DELETE (GP: Audit Support) Directs the State Treasurer to work with DOA to present an implementation plan to JBRC for the funds appropriated for audit support. Directs that EBO shall not approve any transfer of funds until the plan has been presented to JBRC.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

117.182 AMEND (GP: Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program) Directs the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, DNR, and the Office of Resilience to collaborate to create the Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program. Provides the requirements of the program and directs that a progress report be submitted to the General Assembly by 6/30/25.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update fiscal year reference and the calendar year reference.

117.186 DELETE (GP: Town of Calhoun Falls) Directs the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector General to contract a firm to conduct a forensic audit on the finances of Town of Calhoun Falls from FY 2019-20 through FY 2023-24.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

117.187 DELETE (GP: Hampton County Audit) Directs the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector General to contract a firm to conduct a forensic audit on the finances of Hampton County from FY 2015-16 through FY 2023-24.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

117.190 ADD (GP: Transfer of Physical Assets) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct DOA to transfer responsibility for building and grounds located at 1 National Guard Road in Columbia to the Office of the Adjutant General. Directs that the Adjutant General shall assume financial and administrative responsibility for the building and grounds to include maintenance, improvements, and operational costs. Directs that DOA shall not collect rent or be responsible for any future maintenance or repairs after the transfer. Requested by the Office of Adjutant General.

117.191 ADD (GP: Fraud Mitigation) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to require state agencies that issue benefit checks to the public that are not for services rendered or through procurement process to create and apply fraud prevention measures. These measures should include verifying recipient eligibility, securing check issuance and distribution, and monitoring for fraud. Agencies must submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31 each fiscal year outlining their fraud mitigation steps, any detected fraud incidents, and actions taken to address them.

117.192 ADD (GP: Mandatory Health Insurance) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to prohibit public colleges and universities, including technical colleges, from using state funds to require undergraduate domestic students to have health insurance for application or enrollment in the current fiscal year. These institutions must update or create policies to avoid mandating insurance, prevent automatic

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

enrollment in insurance plans without student consent, and refrain from charging fees for non-participation.

- 117.193 ADD** (GP: FTE Management) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to manage FTE positions in state government by requiring EBO, in consultation with DSHR, to eliminate 25% of each agency's vacant FTE positions as of February 1, 2025, within 90 days of the passage of the General Appropriations Act or by October 1, whichever is later, unless exempted. The elimination will be adjusted for FTEs received in FY 2023-24 or FY 2024-25 appropriations. Agencies must work with EBO and DSHR to select positions for elimination based on funding sources, and EBO must report the deleted FTEs by agency, program, and funding source to the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by December 1 of the current fiscal year.
- 117.194 ADD** (GP: Educational Scholarships for In-State Students) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct that institutions of higher learning may offer up to an additional 4% of educational fee waivers to benefit undergraduate in-state students.
- 117.195 ADD** (GP: Prohibition on the Use of State Funds for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programs) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to prohibit state agencies, quasi-state agencies, higher education institutions, school districts, charter schools, and political subdivisions from using state funds to support DEI programs, offices, or statements, except where required by state or federal law. State funds may not be used for DEI-specific offices, mandatory DEI statements, preferential treatment based on DEI criteria, race- or gender-based hiring preferences, and required DEI training for enrollment or institutional functions. Exceptions include statements for grants or accreditation highlighting support for first-generation, low-income, or underserved students, or certifying antidiscrimination compliance. The prohibition does not apply to academic instruction, research, student organizations, guest speakers, race-neutral academic policies, data collection, or First Amendment-protected speech.
- 117.196 ADD** (GP: Three-Tier Prosecution Incentive Program) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to direct the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense to work together to launch a pilot project to implement the "Three-Tier System" in each circuit. This system will divide new cases among three teams: one to intake and review cases, another to prepare for court, and a third to handle guilty pleas, pre-trial motions, and trials. By June 30, 2026, both commissions must submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, including the total number of pending warrants.

SECTION 118 - X910 - STATEWIDE REVENUE

- 118.1. AMEND** (SR: Year End Cutoff) Directs year-end expenditure deadlines.
WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year references. Requested by the Office of the Comptroller General.
- 118.9. AMEND** (SR: Tax Relief Reserve Fund) Creates the Tax Relief Reserve Fund; directs that accrued interest remain in the fund; and directs the State Treasurer, on December 31, 2024, to transfer from the General Fund any funds identified in this act designated for the Tax Relief Reserve Fund. Directs that the fund may only be used to provide tax relief to businesses and

**SUMMARY OF PROVISO CHANGES FOR FY 2025-2026
AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

individuals as provided by law and authorizes these funds to be retained, carried forward, and used for the same purpose.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update calendar year reference.

118.18 DELETE (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) Appropriates nonrecurring revenue to various agencies for Fiscal Year 2024-25, generated from specific sources.

WMC: DELETE proviso.

118.20 AMEND (SR: Homestead Exemption Fund) Appropriates \$600 million of nonrecurring revenue from the Homestead Exemption Fund to various agencies and to accelerate the income tax reduction.

WMC: AMEND proviso to update the amount for the Homestead Exemption Fund to \$114,369,000 and directs the State Treasurer to disburse that amount to the Part 1A General Fund to provide income tax relief by September 30, 2025. Updates fiscal year and calendar year references.

118.22 ADD (SR: Nonrecurring Revenue) **WMC:** ADD new proviso to appropriate nonrecurring revenue to various agencies for Fiscal Year 2025-26, generated from specific sources.