



SENATOR REX RICE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 1, 2019

GREETINGS! As the South Carolina Senator of District 2, who has the great privilege of representing Pickens County, I would like to thank you for reaching out to me. I gladly welcome and encourage feedback from my constituents, and if you are receiving this, I have received an email or phone call from you concerning various legislative matters. As a way of communicating updated information during this 123rd Session of the General Assembly, I will periodically send out informational emails, such as this. I hope you find it helpful.

Please feel free to contact my Senate office with questions or if I can be of service to you. My assistant's email is deanahage@scsenate.gov or you can call 803-212-6116. If you need immediate assistance, you can reach me on my cell phone at 864-884-0408.

WEEK IN REVIEW: February 25 - March 1, 2019

Department of Health and Environmental Control -- This week the Senate confirmed Rick Toomey as the director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Third Reading and Sent to the House

S.199 -- Veteran Designation: A bill relating to the requirements provide to obtain veteran designation of a driver's license including National Guard Bureau report of separation and record of service and United States Department of Defense honorable discharge certification, and other related terms.

S.318 -- Pay for Success Performance Accountability: A bill to provide the South Carolina Pay for Success Performance Accountability Act to establish the trust fund for performance accountability to fund pay-for-success contracts, whereby the state only pays to the extent that desired outcomes, performed by private-sector organizations, are achieved. Status reports must be provided to the Governor, Chairman of Senate Finance and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

S.329 -- Geothermal Machinery Tax Credits: A bill to extend the repeal date for purchase of geothermal machinery and equipment from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2022. The act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2018. The provisions, as existed on December 31, 2018, are re-enacted and credits earned shall be claimed pursuant to the same terms and conditions.

S.408 -- Operation of Cable System: A bill to provide that any receipts from the operation of a cable system, including a cable service or noncable or nonvideo services, are attributable to the State in pro rata proportion of the costs performing the service. If a pass-through business operates a cable system, then the corporation that owns the interest directly or indirectly must be treated as operating a cable system.

S.514 -- Clemson License Plates: A bill to provide the Department of Motor Vehicles shall issue ‘Clemson University 2018 Football National Champions’ special license plates to owners of private passenger motor vehicles.

S.548 -- Driver’s License for Convicted Persons: A bill to re-define terms relating to driver’s licenses for persons convicted of certain crimes to amend the definition of crime of violence to violent crime, to clarify date requirements and conform sections.

Given Second Reading

S.362 -- Solar Energy Tax Credits A bill to provide that a taxpayer is allowed an income tax credit equal to twenty-five percent of the cost of installation of a solar energy property if he constructs, purchases or leases a solar energy property and other related terms. A credit for each installation of solar energy property may not exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars. The credit is allowed on a first-come, first-served basis, and the total amount of credits available to be taken.

S.397 -- Powers of Sheriffs: A bill to provide that a county sheriff has the power of constable and enforce cases arising within county limits, including municipal limits. When in fresh and continuous pursuit of a suspect within county limits, police officers may follow and arrest the suspect anywhere in the State.

H.3639 -- In-State Tuition Conformity: A bill to conform changes to military personnel and their dependents who are entitled to pay in-state tuition and fees without regard to the length of time they have resided in the state, to expand the categories covered to conform with changes in federal law.

H.3849 -- Contraband Cigarettes Grace Period: A bill to provide a grace period for unstamped packages of cigarettes which applicable taxes have not been paid, not to be considered contraband goods subject to seizure by the Department of Revenue or any peace officer beginning January 1, 2019 and ending October 1, 2019. However, such persons must file a report with the Department of Revenue by March 31, 2019 on an established form stating the quantity of the unstamped packages that were in possession as of January 1, 2019.

This Week in Committee

Banking and Insurance Committee

S.359 -- Pharmacy Benefit Managers: A bill to provide replaces a very light patchwork of regulation for pharmacy benefits managers with a more systematic approach that requires licensure by the Department of Insurance. The provision establishes to introduce a set of standards of conduct, with a referee who is empowered to enforce them, that protects consumers and independent pharmacies from abuse and noncompetitive practices.

Corrections and Penology Committee

S.156-- Telecommunication Device in Correctional Institution: A bill to provide it is unlawful to possess within or introduce a telecommunication device upon the grounds of a correctional facility, except as authorized by the appropriate official in charge of the correctional institution. A person who violates is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be imprisoned for not more than three years, and forfeits all earned work credits, education credits and good conduct credits.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Senate Education Committee Public Hearing -- The Senate Education Subcommittee on S.419 (The South Carolina Career Opportunity and Access for All Act) will host a public hearing. The hearing will be held Monday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m., at McCormick Middle School Gym -- 6979 Highway 28 South, McCormick South Carolina.

Senate Transportation Committee

South Carolina Ports Authority -- A Statewide appointment to the South Carolina Ports Authority, Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr. of Florence.

S.473 -- Private Passenger Rentals: A bill to provide that an insurance policy that covers a person operating a rented or leased vehicle, shall be primary to motor vehicle insurance policy in which the name is a rental company, a qualified self-insurer, or bond posted by rental company for purpose of complying with financial responsibility. The limits of the primary policy must be exhausted before recover under policy issued to or against other financial responsibility maintained by a rental company.