



## SENATOR REX RICE

*LEGISLATIVE UPDATE*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 18-22, 2021**

***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 124<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

You may also visit my website at <https://www.rexrice.com/> for information related to Pickens County, and to view previous legislative updates.

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### ***Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?***

It has been an interesting week responding to emails, phone calls and Facebook posts related to the impeachment of Donald Trump. I have been targeted as the "Rice" who voted to impeach President Trump, but that information is incorrect, as I am a South Carolina state senator.

The impeachment vote was cast by [U.S. Congressman, Tom Rice](#), who represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of SC, including eight counties in northeastern South Carolina, spanning from Horry County up the North Carolina border to Chesterfield County.

## South Carolina Senate Majority Weekly Legislative Summary

**WEEK IN REVIEW: January 18 – 22, 2021**

### *Given Third Reading*

**H.3481 – SC Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund:** A joint resolution to suspend the transfer of funds that would have been transferred to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund, to remain in the operating account of the state's employee health insurance program.

### *This Week In Committee*

#### **Medical Affairs Committee:**

**S.1 – SC Fetal Heartbeat and Protection From Abortion Act:** A bill to require an abortion provider to perform an obstetric ultrasound to determine if the unborn child's fetal heartbeat is present and viewable. No person may perform, induce or attempt to perform an abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detectable. A person who violates is guilty of a felony and upon conviction must be fined ten thousand dollars, imprisoned not more than two years, or both. Exceptions include if the physician believes that a medical emergency necessitates the abortion or if the medical condition of the pregnant women prevents compliance under certain circumstances, and other provisions. Additionally, a practitioner providing prenatal care, deliver, neonatal or post-natal care or other services related to pregnancy, covered by Medicaid, to an uninsured woman shall be reimbursed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human services at the same rate a practitioner would be reimbursed by Medicaid.

\* [Click here](#), to view, S.38, a bill I co-sponsored, which has been assigned a subcommittee. In summary, each institution of higher learning must provide instruction concerning the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the Declaration Of Independence to each undergraduate student for three semester credit hours.

### **Earmarks Report Required**

The General Appropriations Bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state's reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue-raising measure as described in Section 11-11-440 shall, prior to receiving a second reading, have attached to it a statement from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance identifying each funding request included in the bill or resolution made by a Senator for an appropriation for a specific program or project not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year. The statement shall include the requesting Senator's name, an explanation of the project or program, and the amount appropriated.

The Conference Report for the General Appropriations Bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state's reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue-raising measure as described in Section 11-11-440 shall, prior to consideration by the Senate, have attached to it a statement from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance identifying each funding request contained in the conference report for an appropriation for a specific program or project not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year. The statement shall identify whether the funding request originated in the Senate or in the House of Representatives and, to the extent practicable, an explanation of the project or program and the amount appropriated.