



SENATOR REX RICE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10-14, 2020

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.

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

WEEK IN REVIEW: February 10-14, 2020

Given Second Reading

S.867 – Absentee Ballots: A bill to provide the authority charged by law with conducting an election may examine the return-addressed envelopes containing absentee ballots beginning at 9:00 a.m. the calendar day preceding election day. The examination must be done in the presence of any watchers and election managers. The provision additionally provides update language to reflect the new voting systems with paper trails.

This Week In Committee

Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee:

S.758 – Licensed Auctioneers: A bill to provide that a licensed auctioneer who is sixty-five (65) years or older with a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of licensure may apply to the commission to be granted an experience-based continuing education waiver to maintain active licensure.

S.1048 –Aeronautics Commission: A bill to extend the number of terms a resident commission member, serving on the Aeronautics Commission, may serve from one term to two consecutive terms. The bill does not preclude delegations from appointing resident members to a single term.

Family and Veterans' Services Committee:

S.716 – March of Dimes Day: A bill to establish March first of each year as March of Dimes Day in South Carolina.

S.865 –Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children: A bill to reauthorize the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children through December 31, 2030.

S.892 – South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol Act: A bill to establish child abuse response protocol for which must be followed in an investigation and prosecution of a known suspected crime against a child. The SC Children's Justice Act Task Force and SC Network of Children Advocacy Centers shall develop the protocol and provide initial training. The protocol must be publicly available and be reviewed annually by the created advisory committee.

S.1017 – Vending Facilities: A bill to exempt local detention facilities from those served under jurisdiction of operation of vending facilities by blind persons. The chapter does not apply to any commissary services or publicly accessible areas of local detention facilities.

S.1027 – Commission for the Blind: A bill to require members of the Commission of the Blind to meet at least once a quarter, previously listed once each month.

H.4439 – Atomic Veterans Day: A bill to designate July 16 of each year as Atomic Veterans Day in South Carolina and to honor atomic veterans.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Finance Committee

Santee Cooper Report: The report of the Department of Administration pursuant to Act 95 of 2019 regarding the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper).

Family and Veterans' Services Committee:

S.648 – Remains of a Unborn Child: A bill to provide that it is unlawful for a person to sell, purchase, donate, accept or experiment upon the remains of a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion, and to provide penalties.

S.1023 – Microplastic Contamination: A joint resolution to direct the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Environmental Control to conduct research into microplastic contamination.