


RILEY POPE & LANEY LAW

**Under the Dome Legislative Update**
**January 30, 2026**
**08-2026**

- ***Income Tax Reform passes the Senate***
- ***Ten Commandments in classrooms***
- ***Regulate or Ban? Hemp Consumables split the General Assembly***

## Week 7 – Income Tax Reform, Ten Commandments in Classrooms

House and Senate members met in regular session this week, with the Senate approving H.4216, the income tax reform bill and the House spending hours on floor Wednesday afternoon debating H.4762, a bill requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in all public school classrooms – both K-12 and public colleges and universities. In a move toward executive consolidation, S.325, a bill which would transform the Department of Consumer Affairs from a standalone state agency into a cabinet agency under the purview of the Governor.

The Senate Family and Veterans' Services Child Welfare Subcommittee ran out of time before considering S.710 on Wednesday, a bill addressing with parental consent for prescriptions. H.3924 regarding hemp-derived consumables and beverages received a favorable as amended report by the full Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday and was sent to the Senate floor. Given its status as a leadership priority, we anticipate debate regarding the balance between total prohibition and strict regulation.

## Budget Update

The House Ways and Means version of the FY 2026-27 state budget is being printed and will be placed on House members' desks next week for review before floor debate the week of March 9th. The Committee will host a budget briefing next Thursday, March 5th to prepare for debate.

Senate Finance budget subcommittees continued hearing state agency budget requests this week, and the Senate issued the budget calendar through the end of session.

**House Budget Schedule 2026**

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| March 3-5: | (Week 8) | Printed Appropriation Bill placed on House Members' desk | SFC Budget Subs |
| March 10-12: | (Week 9) | **HOUSE FLOOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS** | SFC Budget Subs |

**Senate Budget Schedule 2026**

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| March 17-19: | (Week 10) | Budget Subcommittees, Proviso Recommendations |
| March 24-26: | (Week 11) | Budget Subcommittees, Proviso Recommendations |
| March 31-April 3: | (Week 12) | Budget Subcommittees, Proviso Recommendations |
| April 7-9: | (Week 13) | **FULL SFC COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS** |
| April 14-16: | (Week 14) | Final SFC Version Printed |
| April 21-23:** | (Week 15) | **SENATE FLOOR DEBATE** (Rule 53) |
| April 28-30: | (Week 16) | **ADDITIONAL FLOOR DEBATE** (If Needed) |
| May 5-7: | (Week 17) | Bill returned to House, Conference Committee |
| May 12-14 *(Sine Die)*: | (Week 18) | Conference Committee/Report Delivered to Governor |

## 2026 Legislative Meetings and Important Dates

Scheduled Live Broadcasts link
*Click this link for all notations of Live Broadcast*

Archive Video
*All Live Broadcasts are Archived here for later viewing*

| **Tuesday, March 3rd** | |
|---|---|
| **Senate Convenes** – Live Broadcast | 12:00 noon |
| **House of Representatives Convenes –** Live Broadcast | 12:00 noon |
| **Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on S.867**<br>- S.867, Data Center Development Act – *third hearing* | 9:00 am<br>207 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Education Subcommittee on S.692**<br>- S.692, Education Scholarship Trust Fund revisions; not intended for homeschool expenses | 10:30 am<br>105 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **House LCI Business and Commerce Subcommittee**<br>- S.163, Cryptocurrency<br>- H.3613, Sales Tax Swipe Fee Fairness – testimony only<br>- H.4614, Chargeback Fairness and Transparency – testimony only | 10:30 am<br>403 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **House Judiciary Tort Reform Ad Hoc Committee**<br>- H.4544, Medical Malpractice<br>- H.4670, Time-Limited Demands | 1:30 pm<br>506 Blatt |
| **House LCI Banking and Insurance Subcommittee**<br>- H.4817, Insurance Rate Reduction & Policyholder Protection | 1.5 hours after House adjournment<br>403 Blatt – Live Broadcast |



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| **House LCI Real Estate Subcommittee**<br>- H.5113, Mobile Home Zoning; Local Government prohibitions | Upon adjournment of the House LCI Banking & Insurance Subcommittee<br>403 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Finance Sales and Income Tax Subcommittee**<br>- Large AGENDA, please review<br>- S.519 and H.4303, Cigarettes for Heating; taxation<br>- H.4137, American Heroes Bingo<br>- S.866, Municipal Tax Relief and Financing Act<br>- Additional Bills | 3:00 pm<br>308 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Finance Property Tax Subcommittee**<br>- Large Agenda – please review<br>- S.508, Monument & Memorial Protection<br>- Additional Bills | 3:00 pm<br>207 Gressette |
| **Senate LCI Subcommittee on S.27**<br>- S.227, Concurrency Programs | 3:00 pm<br>209 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **FULL House Regulations, Administrative Procedures, AI and Cybersecurity Committee**<br>- Large AGENDA, please review --- presentations re:<br>- Technical Foundation<br>- Economic Function of Digital Assets<br>- Public Policy & Regulatory Frameworks | 3:30 pm<br>110 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **Wednesday, March 4th** | |
| **JOINT ASSEMBLY – Election Of Judges and Public Service Commissioners** | 1:00 pm – House Chamber |
| **Senate Convenes** – Live Broadcast | AFTER Joint Assembly |
| **House of Representatives Convenes –** Live Broadcast | 10:00 am |
| **Senate Family and Veterans' Services Child Welfare Subcommittee**<br>- S.540, Child Abuse Definitions; raising a child consistent with born gender is not child abuse | 9:00 am<br>308 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Finance Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee**<br>FY 2026-27 State Agency Budget Requests:<br>- Retirement System Investment Commission<br>- Department of Social Services<br>- Department of Environmental Services | 9:00 am<br>407 Gressette |
| **House Judiciary Criminal Laws Subcommittee**<br>- H.4282, Street Takeovers<br>- H.3034, Police Dogs and Horses | 9:00 am<br>516 Blatt – Live Broadcast |



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| **House LCI Banking and Insurance Subcommittee**<br>- H.4817, Insurance Rate Reduction & Policyholder Protection | 9:00 am<br>403 Blatt |
| **House 3M Military & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee**<br>- H.4974, Prohibits Chinese-Owned land ownership or lease within 25 miles of a Federal Military Installation | 9:00 am<br>427 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **FULL Senate Transportation Committee**<br>- S.831, DOT Modernization Bill<br>- S.371, DMV/Mobile License and IDs<br>- S.222, Utility Terrain Vehicles | 9:30 am<br>105 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee**<br>- S.741, Vaccines Prohibited for Infants under 24 months of age<br>- S.897, Remove religious exemptions from measles vaccine requirements for public school admission | 9:30 am<br>209 Gressette |
| **Thursday, March 5th** | |
| **Senate Convenes** – Live Broadcast | 11:00 am – Live Broadcast |
| **House of Representatives Convenes –** Live Broadcast | 10:00 am – Live Broadcast |
| **House Ways and Means --- Annual Budget Briefing for all House Members** | 9:00 am<br>110 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **FULL House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee**<br>- Large AGENDA, please review --- *pending Subcommittee action*<br>- H.4817, Insurance Rate Reduction & Policyholder Protection<br>- S.163, Cryptocurrency<br>- H.5113, Mobile Home Zoning; Prohibition on local governments<br>- Additional bills | 9:00 am<br>403 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **House 3M Medical and Health Affairs Subcommittee**<br>- H.5164, Hallway Beds in hospitals<br>- H.5013, Fire Marshall – Department of Public Health<br>- H.4639, Reproductive Empowerment & Support through Optimal Restoration (RESTORE) | 9:00 am<br>427 Blatt – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate Judiciary Subcommittee**<br>- H.3021, Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act<br>- S.254, Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act | 9:30 am<br>105 Gressette – Live Broadcast |
| **Senate LCI Regulatory and Local Government Subcommittee**<br>- Large AGENDA, please review --- Numerous Proposed Regulations<br>- R.5424, International Building Code<br>- Additional Proposed Regs re: Plumbing Codes, Electric Codes, Fire Codes and Mechanical Codes | 10:00 am<br>307 Gressette |


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| **FULL Senate Medical Affairs Committee**<br>- Large AGENDA, please review<br>- S.299, Emergency Admissions; Mental Health<br>- Additional Bills | 10:00 am<br>308 Gressette – Live Broadcast |

## State Agency Meetings of Interest

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| **South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office**<br>**State Board of Economic Advisors**<br>• **Thursday, March 26th – Web Conference at 9:00 am**<br>• **Thursday, April 9th – Web Conference at 9:00 am**<br>**Monthly General Fund Revenue Reports** ---- **Forecast Data**<br>**Local Government Finance Reports / Legislative Fiscal Impact Statements** | 9:00 am unless otherwise noted<br>Web Conference<br>Meeting Agenda and Materials<br>BEA Information Page |
| **South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**<br>**Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)**<br>• **Tuesday, May 12th**<br>• **Tuesday, August 11th**<br>• **Tuesday, November 10th** | 10:00 am unless otherwise noted<br>DHHS – 1801 Main Street<br>Columbia, SC 29201<br>- Link for Meeting Materials |

## South Carolina General Assembly

**Session Dates: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – Thursday, May 14, 2026**

The annual session of the South Carolina General Assembly begins on the second Tuesday in January and runs through the second Thursday in May. The Senate and House of Representatives meet in statewide session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week unless otherwise decided by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. The 2026 session is the second year of the 126th biennial session. Any legislation not achieving passage by 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 14th is null and void unless specifically included in the Sine Die Resolution. **2026 is an election year for the Governor, constitutional officers and the House of Representatives.

**Governor:** Henry McMaster (R)
**Lieutenant Governor:** Pamela Evette (R)



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**House/Senate Party Breakdown:**
House: 88 Republicans / 36 Democrats / 0 Independents
Senate: 34 Republicans / 12 Democrats / 0 Independents

**Leadership of the General Assembly:**
President of the Senate: Thomas Alexander (R)
Speaker of the House: Murrell Smith (R)

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