

# HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF AT THE STATEHOUSE

Or, “How To Talk With The People Who Work  
For You!”

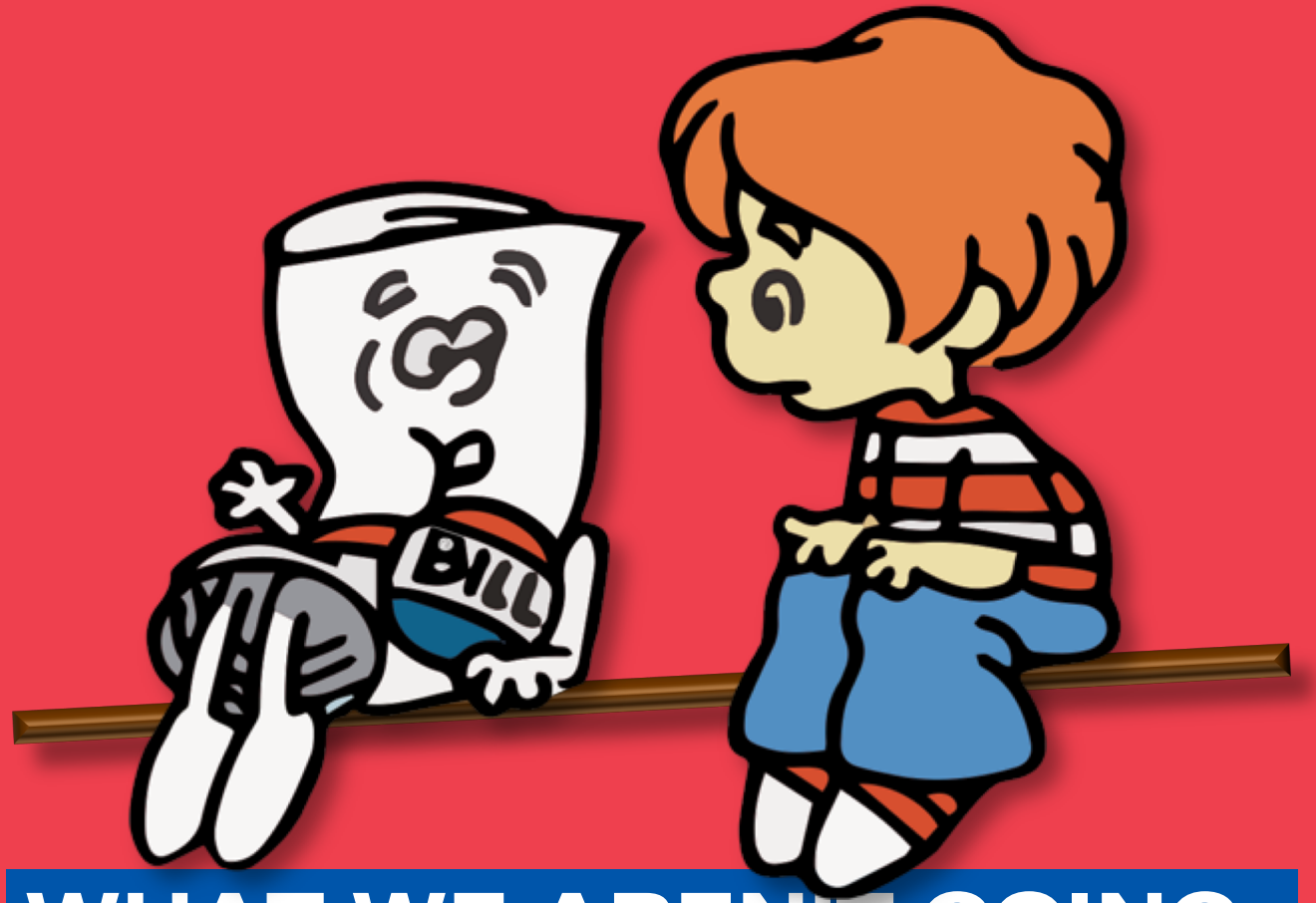
**ACLU**  
South Carolina

# AGENDA

- 10 Minutes: Introductions & What We Know
- 20 Minutes: Presentation
- 10 Minutes: Letter/testimony writing exercise
- 15 Minutes: Share exercise and talk about strategy
- 5 Minutes: Questions and Next Steps

## OUR FOCUS TODAY

We're going to focus on Committees and how to interact with your legislators during the committee process.



## WHAT WE AREN'T GOING TO COVER:

How a bill becomes a law

# THE BASICS

## COMMITTEES

- Committees consider bills about a specific subject
- The majority of the work is done here
- Committees determine whether or not legislation will be debated by the full House or Senate



# THE BASICS

## COMMITTEES

- Members of the public can write letters or emails, attend committee meetings and speak directly with committee members
- Members of the public share opinions, and either...

# THE BASICS

## COMMITTEES

- A bill will die in committee and never see the light of day, or...



# THE BASICS

## COMMITTEES

- A bill will advance from the committee and is on its way to become a law!



## Senate Standing Committees

### Chairmen, Telephone Numbers & Room Assignments

Committee	Chairman	Telephone	Room*
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Paul G. Campbell, Jr.	(803) 212-6230	402
Banking and Insurance	Ronnie W. Cromer	(803) 212-6240	410
Corrections and Penology	Shane R. Martin	(803) 212-6420	211
Education	Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.	(803) 212-6430	213
Ethics	Sean M. Bennett	(803) 212-6410	205
Finance	Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.	(803) 212-6640	111
Fish, Game and Forestry	George E. "Chip" Campsen, III	(803) 212-6340	305
General	Katrina Frye Shealy	(803) 212-6320	303
Interstate Cooperation	Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.	(803) 212-6640	111
Invitations	Tom Davis	(803) 212-6350	404
Judiciary	Luke A. Rankin	(803) 212-6610	101
Labor, Commerce and Industry	Thomas C. Alexander	(803) 212-6220	313
Medical Affairs	Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin, III	(803) 212-6250	412
Rules	A. Shane Massey	(803) 212-6330	311
Transportation	Lawrence K. "Larry" Grooms	(803) 212-6400	203

(\*All room numbers refer to the Gressette Building)

## House Standing Committees

### Chairmen, Telephone Numbers & Room Assignments

Committee	Chairman	Telephone	Room*
Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs	David R. Hiott	(803) 734-3022	411
Education and Public Works	Merita A. "Rita" Allison (Mrs. William Ronald)	(803) 734-3053	429
Ethics	G. Murrell Smith, Jr.	(803) 734-3114	519
Interstate Cooperation	Mark N. Willis	(803) 734-3141	534
Invitations and Memorial Resolutions	Jimmy C. Bales, Ed.D.	(803) 734-3107	505
Judiciary	Peter M. McCoy, Jr.	(803) 734-3120	512
Labor, Commerce and Industry	William E. "Bill" Sandifer, III	(803) 734-3015	407
Legislative Oversight	Wm. Weston J. Newton	(803) 212-6810	228
Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs	Leon Howard	(803) 734-3046	425
Operations and Management	Garry R. Smith	(803) 734-3141	534
Regulations and Admin. Procedures	Chip Huggins	(803) 212-6812	202
Rules	Alan D. Clemmons	(803) 734-3113	519
Ways and Means	G. Murrell Smith, Jr.	(803) 734-3144	525

(\*All room numbers refer to the Blatt Building)

# WHERE TO FIND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

scstatehouse.gov



@SCSenate

@SCHouse



The screenshot displays the official website of the South Carolina Legislature. The header features the title "South Carolina Legislature" and a navigation menu with links to Home, Senate, House, Committee Postings and Reports, Legislative Council, Citizens' Interest, Publications, and a Staff Portal. A central announcement states that the 123rd South Carolina General Assembly will convene on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, with organizational sessions on December 4-5, 2018. The page is divided into sections for the Senate and the House of Representatives, each with a "Chamber Dashboard" listing various resources like calendars, committees, journals, and roll call votes. A "Quick Search" bar is available for finding legislation, bills, or the code of laws. On the left, a sidebar provides links to chamber videos, schedules, archives, and other resources. The right sidebar shows the meeting schedules for both the Senate and the House for the current day and the following day. At the bottom, there are sections for finding legislators by address, viewing legislative voting records, and contacting legislators. The footer contains contact information for the South Carolina Legislative Services Agency and links to a disclaimer, policies, photo credits, and contact us page.

**South Carolina Legislature**

Home Senate House Committee Postings and Reports Legislative Council Citizens' Interest Publications Staff Portal

The 1st regular session of the 123rd South Carolina General Assembly will convene on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.  
The House of Representatives Organizational Session dates are December 4-5, 2018.

**Senate**

- Chamber Dashboard
- Calendars
- Committees
- Journals
- Roll Call Votes
- Senators
- Prefiled Legislation

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- Chamber Dashboard
- Calendars
- Committees
- Journals
- Roll Call Votes
- Representatives
- Prefiled Legislation

**Quick Search**

Search for:

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- ☐ Bill Number
- ☒ Legislation
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Code of Laws
- More...

**Senate Meeting Schedule**

**TODAY, December 5**

- 10:30 am  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee Budget Hearing  
Gressette Room 209  
[Agenda Available](#)
- 12:30 pm  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee Budget Hearing  
Gressette Room 209  
[Agenda Available](#)

**Monday, December 10**

- 10:00 am  
Corrections and Penology Subcommittee  
Gressette Room 209

**House Meeting Schedule**

**TODAY, December 5**

- 10:00 am  
House of Representatives State House, House Chamber
- Immediately upon adjournment of the House  
L.C.I. Full Committee Blatt Room 403  
[Agenda Available](#)
- Immediately upon adjournment of the House  
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee Blatt Room 410  
[Agenda Available](#)

**Find Your Legislators**

Submit your address to find your Senators and Representatives

Address   
City  SC  
Zip

[Find Legislators](#)

**Legislative Voting Record**

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☐ House  
☐ Bill  
 Choose a Legislator

[Get Voting Record](#)

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E-mail your Legislator by selecting the name and clicking Contact Legislator

Choose a Legislator

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## Senate Meeting Schedule



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Chamber
- Immediately upon  
adjournment of the House  
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Blatt Room 403  
[Agenda Available](#)

## Video Archives

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[Gressette Building Meeting Room Layouts](#)

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### Monday, December 10

10:00 am -- Gressette Room 308 -- Corrections and Penology Subcommittee

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 12/04/2018 at 10:47 am

1:00 pm -- Blatt Room 433 -- SC Education Oversight Committee

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 12/03/2018 at 12:12 pm

Scheduled for Live Broadcast on 12/03/2018 at 12:16 pm

Agenda (in PDF format) revised on 12/07/2018 at 01:38 pm

### Tuesday, December 11

1:00 pm -- **CANCELED**

Gressette Room 308 -- Education Lottery Oversight Committee

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 11/16/2018 at 02:49 pm

Meeting canceled on 12/10/2018 at 02:02 pm

### Wednesday, December 12

10:30 am -- Gressette Room 209 -- Health and Human Services Subcommittee Budget Hearing

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 12/06/2018 at 09:46 am

2:00 pm -- Gressette Room 308 -- Joint Education and Finance Study Committee

Agenda Available

Live Broadcast

Live Broadcast - Audio Only

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 11/16/2018 at 11:47 am

Scheduled for Live Broadcast on 11/16/2018 at 01:19 pm

Time changed on 11/29/2018 at 03:03 pm

3:30 pm -- Gressette Room 105 -- Special Subcommittee Meeting Disaster Recovery

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 12/11/2018 at 09:03 am

### Thursday, December 13

3:30 pm -- Gressette Room 105 -- Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Agenda Available

REVISIONS:

Meeting added on 12/05/2018 at 03:15 pm

Agenda (in PDF format) added on 12/06/2018 at 09:00 am





**Senate Finance Committee  
Health & Human Services Subcommittee  
Budget Hearing**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

**10:30 a.m.**

**209 Gressette Building**

Members:

Senator Alexander, Chairman  
Senator Reese  
Senator Verdin  
Senator Nicholson

AGENDA

DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS TO EQUALITY,  
LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE

Get our updates:



Have you voted for your State of Government?



Legislation

# WHEN THE ACLU CALLS

Because the legislative calendars are posted on Friday, there's not a lot of time to plan!

- Read your email for relevant information
- Does it resonate with you?
- Do you feel compelled to share your story or opinion with your elected officials (i.e., your *employees*).



# SHARING YOUR POSITION

## Delivering Testimony

- Check the committee calendars for date, time & location of the meeting
- Write your testimony
  - Consult the “how to” handout
- Dress and behave professionally
- Arrive early
- Sign in
- Relax, and remember that these folks *work for you!*

## Writing Letters

- Find out who your legislators are
  - <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>
- Find their address
- Write your letter
  - Consult the “how to” handout
- Send your letter
  - Follow up with a phone call or email if you don't hear back

4<sup>th</sup> Finger:

- This is an important issue in our state because \_\_\_\_\_.

3<sup>rd</sup> Finger:

- This is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_.

2<sup>nd</sup> Finger:

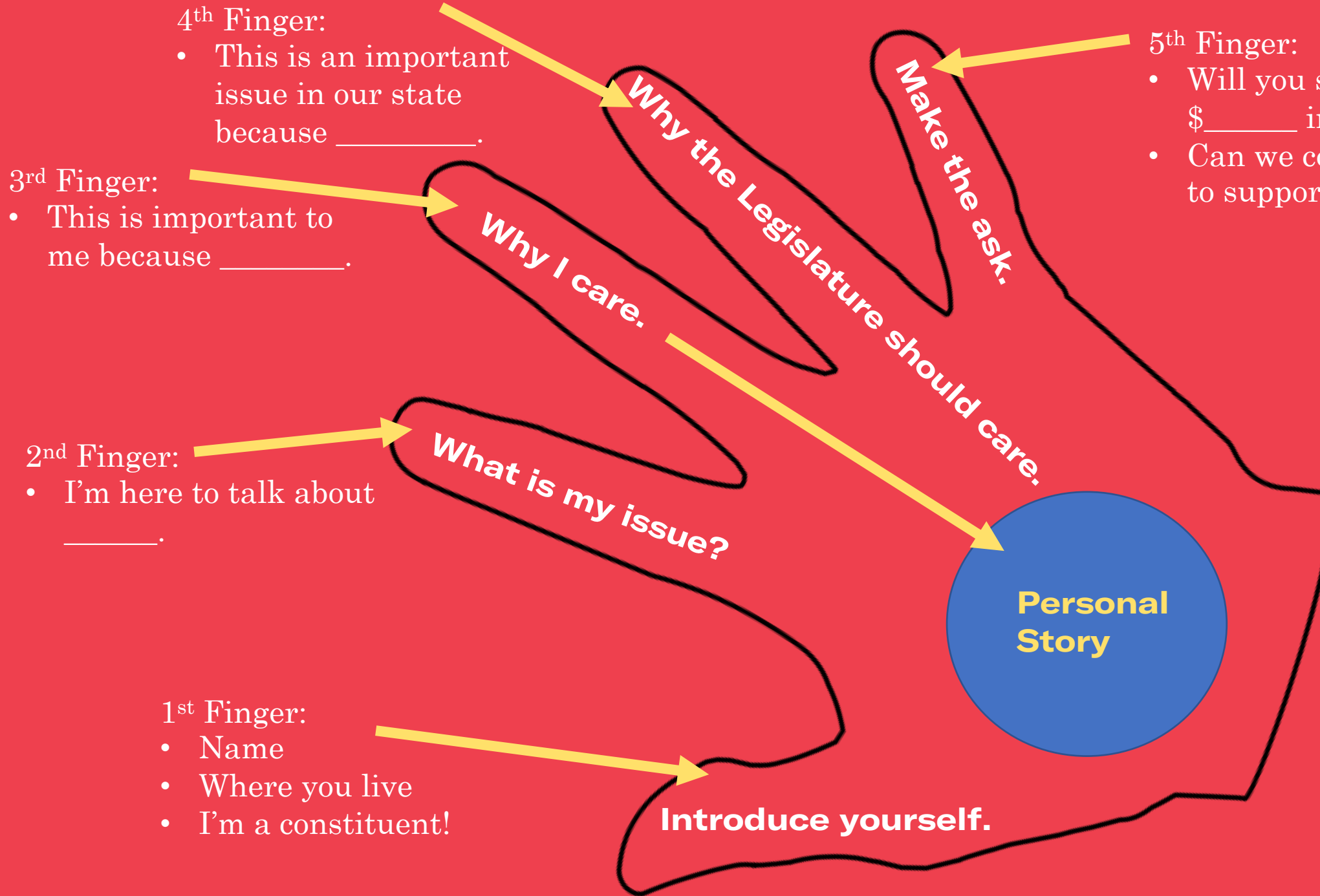
- I'm here to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.

1<sup>st</sup> Finger:

- Name
- Where you live
- I'm a constituent!

5<sup>th</sup> Finger:


- Will you support \$\_\_\_\_\_ in funding?
- Can we count on you to support Bill #\_\_\_\_?




# Full Senate and House Schedules

- You can use links to read bills, track bills, review sponsors and see when a bill will be before the full Senate or House.



- 
- **Chamber Dashboard**
  - Calendars
  - Committees

- 
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  - Committees

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Update](#)

## Chamber Video

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(Audio Only)[House](#)  
(Audio Only)[Video Schedule](#)[Video Archives](#)[How do I...](#)[Quick Search](#)[Find Your Legislators](#)[Contact Your Legislator](#)[Legislation](#)[Track Legislation](#)[Multi-Criteria Search](#)[Research](#)[South Carolina Law](#)[Senate > Calendars](#)

## Senate Calendars

An active link to a Bill ALWAYS goes to the most current version of a Bill. Therefore, linking to a Bill from an old Calendar may provide misleading information.

All Calendars are also available in Microsoft Word format and in PDF format.

[Current Senate Calendar](#)

### 2019 Senate Calendars

A link will be added here each session day in 2019 to provide access to that day's Senate Calendar.

Last Updated: 11/13/18 9:14 AM



CALENDAR  
OF THE  
SENATE  
OF THE  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

[INDEX](#)

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018

Page 1

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

UNCONTESTED LOCAL  
THIRD READING BILL

[S. 1183](#) ([Word](#) version)--Senators Scott, Jackson, McLeod and McElveen: A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT THE RICHLAND COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MAY BY DELEGATION RESOLUTION DEVOLVE THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF RICHLAND COUNTY.  
(Without reference--April 19, 2018)  
(Read the second time--April 20, 2018)  
(Contested by Senator Scott (WV 26.12))

MOTION PERIOD

Page 2

STATEWIDE THIRD READING BILL

[H. 5341](#) ([Word](#) version)--Reps. Lucas, White, Simrill, Rutherford, Murphy, S. Rivers and Davis: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 12-6-40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO STATE INCOME TAX LAWS, SO AS TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR

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## Session 122 - (2017-2018)

[Printer Friendly](#)  
(pdf format)

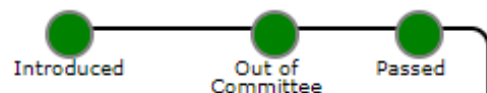
## H 3055 General Bill, By Robinson-Simpson, Clyburn, Gilliard, Mack, King and Henegan

Summary: Stop the School House to Jail House Pipeline Act

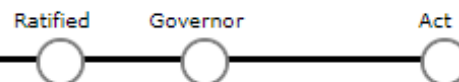
A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO ENACT THE "RESTORATIVE JUVENILE PRACTICES AND APPROACHES ACT" BY CREATING THE "JUVENILE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES STUDY COMMITTEE" TO REVIEW JUVENILE JUSTICE LAWS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING RELATED REFORMS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION, DUTIES, STAFFING, AND DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

The following graphic is a general description of the legislation's status. Users must reference the bill history and the respective journals of the House and Senate for detailed status information.

## SC Senate &gt;&gt;



## SC House &gt;&gt; Prefiled



View full text

View Vote History

View Fiscal Impact

12/15/16	House	Prefiled
12/15/16	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary
01/10/17	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 56)
01/10/17	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 56)
03/22/17	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 50)
03/23/17	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Gilliard
03/23/17		Scrivener's error corrected
03/28/17	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Mack, King, Henegan
03/28/17	House	Amended (House Journal-page 35)
03/28/17	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 35)
03/28/17	House	Roll call Yeas-97 Nays-4 (House Journal-page 39)
03/29/17	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 10)
03/29/17	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 8)
03/29/17	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 8)
04/20/17	Senate	Referred to Subcommittee: Hutto (ch), Malloy, Shealy, Rice, Timmons
05/03/17	Senate	Committee report: Favorable Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 11)
03/20/18	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 41)
03/21/18		Scrivener's error corrected
05/09/18	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 53)
05/10/18	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 139)
05/10/18	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 139)
05/10/18	Senate	Roll call Ayes-42 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 139)

## EXERCISE

Take 10 minutes to practice writing either a letter or testimony on an issue you are passionate about. Some examples of what we're expecting this upcoming session are...

- Fetal Heartbeat Bill
  - Bans abortion as soon as a heartbeat is detected, with exemptions for the life of the mother, fetal anomalies or incest.
- Funding for new voting machines
  - Dedicating funds to replacing our current voting machines with ones that have an auditable paper trail.
- Hate Crimes
  - Adding statutory language to define hate crimes and provides for punishment.

# NEXT STEPS

## Ask #1

- Commit to communicating with your legislators this upcoming session, and follow the ACLU's work at the capital.

## Ask #2

- Commit to sharing what you've learned with a group in your area and encourage participation.

## Ask #3

- Show up at "ACLU Day at the State Capitol" on January 16 for a post-legislative breakfast rally!

# THANK YOU!



Jessica McFadden  
Communications Director  
[jmcfadden@aclusc.org](mailto:jmcfadden@aclusc.org)  
(843) 282-7951



## Chamber Video

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## Senate

### ■ Chamber Dashboard

- Calendars
- Committees
- Journals
- Roll Call Votes
- Senators
- Prefiled Legislation

### South Carolina Law

Ratifications & Acts  
Code of Laws  
Code of Regulations  
Constitution  
State Register



## House of Representatives

### ■ Chamber Dashboard

- Calendars
- Committees
- Journals
- Roll Call Votes
- Representatives
- Prefiled Legislation

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- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Code of Laws

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### Find Your Legislators

Submit your address to find your  
Senators and Representatives

Address   
City , SC  
Zip

### Legislative Voting Record

- ☒ Senate
- ☐ House
- ☐ Bill
- ☐ Choose a Legislator

### Contact Your Legislator

E-mail your Legislator by selecting  
the name and clicking  
Contact Legislator

Choose a Legislator

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Resources and  
Environmental Affairs  
Committee