

From: Sen. Tom Young <tom@tomyoungforsenate.com>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Adjutant General, Memorial Day, and Ethics -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- May 20 to May 26, 2014

Adjutant General, Memorial Day, and Ethics -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- May 20 to May 26, 2014

The State Senate is in regular session with session ending on Thursday, June 5. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this update helpful and informative. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

Memorial Day: Yesterday, I spoke at the Memorial Day ceremony in Aiken at the Aiken County Veterans' Monument. Because a similar ceremony in North Augusta was at the same time, I could not attend the North Augusta event. (I attended the North Augusta Veterans' Day program last November which was at the same time as a similar event in Aiken.) To see the story about yesterday's Aiken event, go [here](#). I hope that you enjoyed your Memorial Day weekend and paused to think about those who gave themselves in the service of our nation and those who risk their lives each day so that we can enjoy the freedom and the blessings we have in the United States.

State Senate News

Ethics and Speaker of the House : Two weeks ago, Circuit Judge Casey Manning ruled that state law only allows the House Ethics Committee to consider alleged ethics violations by one of its members. The judge ruled that the Attorney General cannot prosecute the case against the Speaker of the House unless the House Ethics Committee referred the case to the Attorney General for further investigation. An appeal to the State Supreme Court is scheduled to be heard June 24.

Ethics Reform Status : As I wrote two weeks ago, it is critical for the General Assembly to pass meaningful ethics reform this year. While the case against the Speaker is not directly related to most of the pending ethics reform legislation, the

case keeps the media's attention on the ethics reform bill. The House ethics reform package was passed last week and will be up for consideration in the Senate this week.

Restructuring - Adjutant General : South Carolina is the only state that popularly elects the head of its National Guard (Adjutant General). Last week, the Senate approved a bill allowing the Governor to appoint the Adjutant General. A separate bill for the enabling legislation including the qualifications for the position also passed. Because this change involves a change to the state constitution, voters will have to give final approval. If passed and approved by voters, the Governor would appoint from a pool of qualified military candidates. Current Adjutant General Bob Livingston and members of the National Guard support this proposal. I sponsored or co-sponsored this legislation several times since starting service in the S.C. House of Representatives in 2009.

Epilepsy Drug for Children Approved : Last week, the House and the Senate gave final approval to legislation that could benefit children with severe epilepsy by giving them access by prescription to a marijuana extract called cannabidiol oil. The extract does not include the chemical THC which is associated with the "high" effects of illegal marijuana use. Several Aiken County parents and grandparents contacted me about their children or grandchildren with epilepsy and how this medication offers treatment that is not available from other medications. The State Law Enforcement Division was involved in the drafting the approved legislation. To see the story, go [here](#).

Veterans – Hiring Preference : Last Thursday, the Senate gave final approval to legislation that provides it is not unlawful for employers to give a hiring preference to a veteran or to a veteran's spouse if the veteran has a service-connected permanent and total disability.

Congratulations to Senator Massey! : Last week, the *Washington Post* named Senator Massey, who represents part of Aiken County, to its Top 40 under 40 List. To see the story, go [here](#).

Other State Government News

DSS Director Continues Testimony : Last Wednesday, DSS Director Lillian Koller resumed her testimony before the DSS Oversight Subcommittee that I chair. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly on how best to improve child protective services and foster care services in our state. The subcommittee will meet again next week and then after session ends into the Fall. To see the story from last week's hearing, go [here](#).

News of Local Interest

Aiken County Public Library Summer Reading Program: The annual summer reading program for children through the 5th grade has started at the Aiken County Public Library, the Nancy Carson Library in North Augusta, and other Aiken County library branches. The Program runs through early August. Children who read the

required number of books will receive a medal and a certificate of completion. Reading is essential to doing well in school. Please encourage as many young people as you can to read this summer. For more information, call the Aiken County Public Library at 642- 2020 or go [here](#).

Palmetto Amateur Tournament in Aiken: The 2014 Palmetto Amateur golf tournament will be in Aiken at the Palmetto Golf Club from June 4 to 7. The event is one of the top amateur golf events in the United States. To learn more about the event, go [here](#).

Midland Valley Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year: Congratulations to Representative Roland Smith for recently being named Midland Valley Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year! Rep. Smith will retire at the end of this term having served House District 84 since March 7, 1989.

Commencement Address -- USC Aiken : Aiken resident Cot Campbell delivered the address to graduates on May 8. To see his remarks, go [here](#).

South Carolina Traveler : The latest information about tourism events in our state can be seen by going [here](#).

American Red Cross : The Red Cross has several free telephone apps for your smart phone. One of them is a first aid app and another is an app for a tornado warning from your phone. To learn more, go to your app store on your smart phone or call the local American Red Cross at [641-4152](tel:641-4152).

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Facebook : I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young’s Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/south-carolina-business-network>.

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina’s 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to <http://www.FutureScholar.com/parents>.

Donate Life : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or at DonateLifeSC.org.

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go to <http://www.bucklebuddiessc.org/>. The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430. If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit <http://www.tbredcountry.org>.

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or Aiken County at 642-1532 to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

Tom Young for Senate | PO BOX 651 | Aiken, SC 29802

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