

## **INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE\***

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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### **Legislative – Lawsuit defending DOT Secretary Proviso:**

Today, the SC Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case against the Senate and House regarding the last year's budget proviso delaying the sunset for gubernatorial appointment of the DOT Secretary. Arguments focused on whether the proviso violated the State Constitution's One Subject Rule: *"Every Act or resolution having the force of law shall relate to but one subject, and that shall be expressed in the title."* The suit was brought by the SC Public Interest Foundation (Ned Sloan). Senate attorney Ken Moffitt thought the state's arguments went well. An opinion will be issued at a later date.

### **Ethics Reform – Op-Ed by the League:**

On Monday, the *Greenville News* will run an op-ed from the League of Women Voters explaining how H.3184, the Ethics Reform Bill, does not infringe on any Free Speech rights, as AFP's robo calls claim.

### **DV Task Force – Budget Amendments:**

Today, Rep. Pitts spoke from the well in favor the DV amendments, which passed unanimously: prosecutors (108-0); and judges (107-0). He fielded questions from many members, including Reps. Clary, Putnam, Williams, Merrill, Rutherford, Cobb-Hunter.

Note: Representative Clary interjected a line of questioning about pursuing a **study of judges** regarding their efficacy, accountability, workload, etc., and Rep. Pitts agreed to work with him.

### **HHS/PEBA – Prescription Payer Policy:**

Today, our office received calls from many doctors asking our help to clarify a payer policy instituted by PEBA following a recommendation from the PDAP Council – recall that the recommendation was to require **with exemptions** prescribers' use of the state's prescription history database (referred to as PMP or SCRIPTS). Apparently, PEBA did not include the 5-day exemption that HHS included for Medicaid. With Director Toomey's help, PEBA quickly corrected the confusion and included the 5-day exemption. We instantly received positive feedback from many doctors appreciative of our office's assistance.

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