

Title: **Roadsbillasmallstep forward**

Author:

Size: 17.67 column inches

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



WHAT OTHERS SAY: EDITORIALS FROM ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA

Roads bill a small step forward

It took the entire legislative session, but South Carolina finally has a bill that will fund some needed infrastructure improvements. Unfortunately, the bill overwhelmingly approved by both houses last week does not go far enough.

So, while lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley applaud the funding and changes to the structure of DOT, the state essentially is where it was at the start of this legislative session: in need of a long-term, stable revenue source to bridge a tremendous gap in infrastructure funding.

Yes, the bill will do some short-term good. But it is far from a solution, and we should not let anyone sell it as

such.

At the end of the day, the bill will send \$216 million in recurring revenue to infrastructure. That money will be used to leverage up to \$4.3 billion (including some existing money that will be freed) over 10 years for needed improvements. That's a lot of money, no doubt, but is a bit underwhelming in a state that needs more than \$700 million per year over 20 years.

South Carolina would need more than twice what the Legislature passed just to bring roads and bridges to good condition. . . . Some estimates put the amount approved last week at roughly one tenth of what's needed

over the longer term to bring the state's roads to excellent condition, according to a report in The State newspaper.

– Greenville News

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YES, THE BILL WILL DO SOME SHORT-TERM GOOD. BUT IT IS FAR FROM A SOLUTION, AND WE SHOULD NOT LET ANYONE SELL IT AS SUCH.

Title: **State of grace? Not at the State House**

Author:

Size: 59.05 column inches

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

State of grace? Not at the State House

IT FELT, FOR a too-brief time, like everything truly had changed.

After we were shocked by the horror of a pastor and eight members of his flock massacred in their church, for the sin of being black. After we stared into the face of pure evil — and then were bathed in redeeming grace as we witnessed, in those forgiving family members, deep and abiding faith. After our horror turned into compassion as we realized the faith that unites us is stronger than race or ideology or class or anything else that divides us.

After white South Carolina, inspired by that newly recognized kinship, was horrified anew to realize that out of our ignorance or indifference, we had caused pain to our fellow Christians, and our political leaders responded by removing the Confederate flag — the one the evil killer had wrapped himself in — from the grounds of our State House.

After all of that, we thought we were a new people.

People who understand the politics of South Carolina said they had to act immediately to remove the flag because waiting until January would be too long. This wouldn't last, at least not inside the State House. And a year after the massacre, it seems all too clear that they were right.

It was never realistic to think

there would be policy changes beyond the flag, at least not in the short term. Even the politician who seemed the most deeply moved by the massacre, Gov. Nikki Haley, drew a very bright line between symbolism and tone on the one hand and public policy on the other.

She could have great empathy for the families of the Emanuel innocents; she could condemn a presidential candidate's inflammatory and divisive rhetoric. But in her worldview, expanding Medicaid was simply throwing good money after a bad program. Mourning the death of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who considered expanding Medicaid a top political priority, would never change that.

In her worldview, the most dangerous thing about guns is that there aren't enough people carrying them. Her compassion for people whose loved ones were massacred with a gun that couldn't have been bought but for a loophole in federal gun laws wasn't going to change that. Nor would it change her support for tax cuts that Sen. Pinckney saw as stealing resources that could have helped the poor in other ways.

What did seem realistic following the massacre and the flag removal — a Kumbaya period that was extended by the grace-filled response to the October floods — was that we

might have a different kind of relationships and a different kind of dialogue. Relationships built on a willingness to consider the experiences and expectations and opinions of people

who have very different life experiences than we do. Dialogues that begin with looking afresh at assumptions we never really questioned.

After all, in the days after the Emanuel tragedy, our legislators reached across racial divides and talked and listened to each other in ways most of them never had before.

If that continued into 2016, it was subtle and sporadic at best. If white Republicans recognized that they had pursued policies that disproportionately injured black people, and rejected policies that would have offered a helping hand to those who need it most, they didn't let on. If black Democrats recognized that they had been too quick to assume deliberate racial motives on the part of Republicans, they didn't say so. If white and black, Republican and Democrat recognized that race is not always the motivation for others' actions, if they were willing to listen more openly and try harder to come to agreement on

making South Carolina a better place for us all, it didn't show.

I don't suggest that lawmakers were extra divisive or went out of their way to give or take

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offense. I mean they did not go out of their way to *not* give or take offense. There were no moments of insight, when they understood each other in ways they never imagined they could, no surprising new consensuses. They are no worse than they were a year ago. They are simply no better.

And what of the rest of us? Have we done any better than our leaders? Have we changed? Or have we scurried back to our

safe places, where we have our opinions and assumptions affirmed by people who think like us and look like us and exist in the same echo-chamber as we do?

If we truly are people of faith and of good will, then the challenge remains as it ever has been: to love our neighbors as ourselves. To become people who are willing to apologize when we are wrong — and for-

give when we are wronged. To become people who recognize that we sometimes do harm even when we mean no harm — and that others sometimes mean no injury even when they injure us.

We need to insist our elected leaders do the same — or else replace them with leaders who already have.

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OUR LEADERS ARE NO WORSE THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. THEY ARE SIMPLY NO BETTER. AND WHAT OF THE REST OF US?



Title: **Haley vetoes bill on moped helmets**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 12.09 column inches
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Haley vetoes bill on moped helmets

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley has vetoed a moped safety bill, saying it is government overreach to require reflective vests for night-time driving and helmets for drivers under 21.

People over 18 “should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety,” the Republican governor wrote in her veto message, signed Friday.

Sen. Greg Hembree, R-North Myrtle Beach, said he believes mopeds are the most dangerous vehicles for people to

drive, partly because there are no regulations. He’s been pushing for safety legislation since his 2012 election.

“They’re slower, and you can’t see them as well,” Hembree said Monday about the need for vests. “That’s how they get hit. They get run over at night.”

According to the Department of Public Safety, 50 people died in moped crashes last year — 18 of those in Horry County, which topped the fatality list. The statewide toll was up from 32 moped deaths in 2014 and 24 in 2013. At least 16 moped drivers and/or passengers have died so far this year.

Title: **Gov. Haley vetoes moped safety bill**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 38.13 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Gov. Haley vetoes moped safety bill

BY SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

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According to the Department of Public Safety, 50 people died in moped crashes last year — 18 of those in Horry County, which topped the fatality list. The statewide toll was up from 32 moped deaths in 2014 and 24 in 2013. At least 16 moped drivers and/or passengers have died so far this year.

In her veto letter, Haley said the proposed restric-

tions for mopeds exceed those for motorcycle drivers.

But state law does require anyone under 21 who’s driving or riding on a motorcycle to wear a helmet. The motorcycle advocacy group ABATE — which stands for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments — has long squashed any effort to require helmets for older riders.



Haley

But ABATE spokesman Chad Fuller said the group wanted legislators to add the helmet provision for mopeds.

“We supported them having the same regulations that we as motorcyclists have,” he said. The group, of which Haley has been a member, took no position on the vest issue.

Legislators will decide later this week whether to overturn Haley’s veto.

Rep. Bill Crosby, the main House sponsor, said the bill is not about helmets or vests, but saving people’s lives.

“I wish she would reconsider,” said Crosby, R-North Charleston. “I would think it would sit on her conscience if this doesn’t pass. ... We’ll

continue having people killed.”

He likened the moped restrictions to requiring people in vehicles to wear seat belts.

While a House member, Haley voted against the 2005 law that allowed officers to stop drivers for not wearing a seat belt.

The moped bill would allow officers to charge intoxicated moped drivers with drunken driving.

“Literally, you can be stinking drunk on a moped and can’t be arrested,” said Hembree, formerly the chief prosecutor for Horry and Georgetown counties.

That’s because state law specifically excludes mopeds from the definition of a motor vehicle. Proposals to close that loophole have died repeatedly since 2010. People who lose their license due to a DUI conviction often use a moped to get around. In a state where

public transportation is lacking, legislators didn’t want to prevent people from getting to work.

To solve that sticking point, the bill creates a special moped license. People who lose their regular license, for whatever reason, can get the separate license, starting the point system over. But a moped license could be suspended too.

“If that happens, we’re starting to lose sympathy for you. You’re going to have to be walking,” Hembree said.

The bill would require people to register their mopeds and attach a license plate, which the bill creates as a way to cut down on theft and identify mopeds in crashes. Mopeds would still be exempt from property taxes and insurance.

The bill makes it illegal for mopeds to be driven on highways where the posted speed limit is 55 mph or greater.

Title: **U.S. House races, legislative contests highlight primary**
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
 Size: 38.75 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



U.S. House races, legislative contests highlight primary

BY BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON — A record 3 million people are registered to vote in South Carolina, but don't expect any voting records to be set when voters go to the polls today in the state primary.

There are no statewide races, and in a relatively quiet campaign season, there are primaries in only three of the state's seven congressional districts. Across the state, 39 state legislators faces primary challenges.

A look at today's primary, in which polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.:

Congressional races

Incumbent Republican U.S. Reps. Mark Sanford and Mick Mulvaney face primary challengers today.

Sanford, a former governor, faces state Rep. Jenny Horne, of Summerville, in the Lowcountry's 1st Dis-

trict in the congressional race that has attracted the most attention.

Horne gained nationwide attention last year for her impassioned speech calling for the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in the wake of the shootings of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

In the 5th District along the North Carolina border, Mulvaney, first elected six years ago, faces Ray Craig, of Lake Wylie. In the other race in the 2nd District in the Midlands, Phil Black, of Lexington, meets Arik Bjorn, of Columbia, in the Democratic primary. The winner faces longtime incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson in the fall.

Legislative races

The legislative races to watch are in the Senate, where Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is trying to

oust several of its GOP leaders, while Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster and other Haley allies are working to re-elect them. Those targeted by Haley include Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, of Florence; Luke Rankin, of Conway; and Wes Hayes, of Rock Hill.

Others facing tough challenges include Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, whose opponents include a former member of the state House.

GOP Sen. Lee Bright, of Roebuck, who also faces three challengers, is the only incumbent publicly opposed by the state Chamber of Commerce. Its Good Government Committee is running radio ads against him.

In Charleston, former Democratic Sen. Robert Ford, who was convicted of misconduct in office and ethics violations, is trying to win his seat back from incumbent state Sen. Marlon Kimpson.

Turnout and other matters

Chris Whitmire of the South Carolina Election Commission said the commission doesn't make turnout projections, but notes turnout in past state primaries has ranged from 14 to 27 percent, depending on who and what issues were on the ballot.

The highest election turnout in state history was the presidential election four years ago, in which 1.9 million voters, or 69 percent of registered voters, went to the polls.

More than 1.1 million voters cast ballots earlier this year in the presidential preference primaries in the state, with almost 750,000 of those votes cast in the GOP primary.

Some voters will see driver's license scanners at the polls today. Those devices allow poll workers to quickly identify voters so they don't have to punch in their names and look them up on computer screens.

Title: **Much is same one year after church shooting**
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS AND JONATHAN DREW Associated Press
 Size: 47.43 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Much is same one year after church shooting

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
AND JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — The names of Confederate generals still adorn street signs in Charleston's public housing projects, and a heroic waterfront statue dedicated to the Confederate Defenders of Charleston still faces Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

Just down from the Emanuel AME church — where nine black parishioners studying their Bibles were gunned down one year ago — a statue of Vice President John C. Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery, towers above a park.

After the June 17, 2015, massacre, South Carolina lawmakers did what many people

thought was impossible to achieve and removed the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia.

Across the country, as far away as Alaska, officials moved to strip streets, college dormitories and even lakes of the names of Confederates, secessionists and public figures who championed segregation.

But a year later, little has changed in Charleston, the city where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans first set foot in North America. It was here that the work of plantation slaves made the city one of the wealthiest in the nation before the Civil War. It was here where the bombardment of Fort Sumter threw the nation into that war in 1861.

A section of a street in front of the white stucco Emanuel AME church may have been renamed "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District," but all of Charleston's Confederate commemorations remain intact — and longstanding racial issues endure.

"I think a lot of things happened out of the immediate emotions of how horrific the killings were. That's the human side of folks and the politeness, particularly of

Charleston, that we just had to do something. But then when reality checks us — the question is what is that going to cost us in terms of changing the way we think and do things?" said Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP.

A white man who police said hated blacks and posted photos of himself with the Confederate flag has been charged with killing the nine parishioners.

"It was truly an attack on a race of people," Malcolm Graham, the brother of victim Cynthia Hurd, said of the shootings. "After 400 years, the African-American community still is suffering and dealing with these types of issues relating to race."

So why was there not a push to remove Confederate symbols in Charleston following the church attack?

Bernard Powers, a black College of Charleston history professor, noted that it took a 15-year struggle to get the flag removed from the Statehouse grounds and that it happened only after the slayings.

"People see what it took, and ultimately that flag was removed because nine people were murdered," said Powers, who co-authored a book about the massacre called "We are Charleston." "I think people appreciate how deeply entrenched the reverence is for the Confederacy. For a lot of folks, it is a civil religion."

As soon as South Carolina lawmakers voted to pull down the flag, they shut the door on any other changes.

Gov. Nikki Haley had pushed for the flag to come down but feared that going further would incite fights across the state, so she asked lawmakers to protect all the other flags and monuments while removing the Statehouse flag.

"Our goal was to hold everything together. Let's do what we can, let's be kind and accepting and understand history is just that — it's history," she said.

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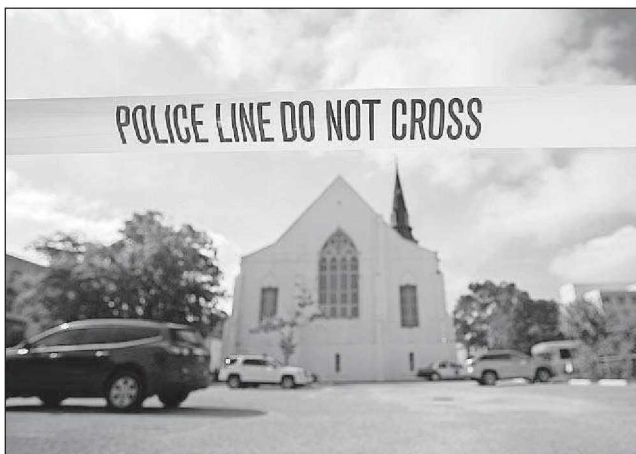


Haley



ONLINE

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AP PHOTO/STEPHEN B. MORTON, FILE

Police tape surrounds the parking lot behind the Emanuel AME Church as FBI forensic experts worked the crime scene, where nine people were shot by Dylann Storm Roof, in Charleston.

Title: **Haley and her allies clash in legislative endorsements**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 23.09 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Haley and her allies clash in legislative endorsements

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — While 39 state legislators face primary challengers Tuesday, the spotlight will be on Republican Senate races that pit GOP Gov. Nikki Haley against many of her longtime allies.

With two years left in her tenure, Haley is spending her time and political capital trying to oust several Republicans she sees as obstacles, notably the state's most powerful lawmaker, Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman of Florence, as well as Sens. Luke Rankin, of Conway, and Wes Hayes, of Rock Hill.

She also opposes state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, of Murrells Inlet, who's in a four-way primary to replace retiring Sen. Ray Cleary.

A Haley political group is backing her opposition campaigns with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of ads. The group — A Great Day SC — is named for the greeting Haley asked all state employees early in her tenure to give when they answer the phone.

As of its last IRS filing in April, A Great Day SC had raised \$515,000 from six donors — one each from New Jersey, Florida, South Carolina, Missouri, Georgia and

Texas. Haley political adviser Tim Pearson, who leads Great

Day, is mum on how much the group has raised and spent since.

"We have gone after what have been some old-guard legislators. It is not personal," Haley said Thursday. "There are certain people who have tried to fight things every step of the way and made it difficult."

Haley's been at odds for years with Leatherman, who also heads the Senate's budget-writing committee and sits on a financial oversight board she chairs. Haley has criticized Rankin, chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, for not backing her version of ethics reform. But Haley's opposition to Hayes, the lead senator on K-12 issues, stunned legislators and political observers.

"I really don't understand it," said Hayes, first elected to the House in 1984 and to the Senate in 1991, noting his support of her education and ethics proposals.

Hayes' supporters include state schools Superintendent Molly Spearman, a Haley ally, who called Hayes a "tireless supporter of public education in our state" with "conservative, commonsense leadership."

Title: **Gov. Haley signs bill banning ticket quotas**
 Author: ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 10.23 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Gov. Haley signs bill banning ticket quotas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — A new law bars South Carolina's law enforcement agencies from setting ticket quotas for officers.

Gov. Nikki Haley signed the ban into law Thursday.

Its sponsor, Democratic Rep. Justin Bamberg, has said quotas pressure officers to stop people for minor offenses. He thinks the law will help repair officers' frayed relationships with residents.

Bamberg also represents

the family of Walter Scott, the black man fatally shot as he ran from a North Charleston police officer last year. He'd been pulled over for a broken third brake light.

The law said officers can't be required to write a certain number of tickets within a specified time frame.

However, officers can be evaluated on their "points of contact." That's defined as their interactions with residents and businesses and involvement in community initiatives.

Title: **Four hopefuls vying for District 81 seat**
 Author: BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND ccleveland@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 38.75 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Four hopefuls vying for District 81 seat

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Four Republicans are running for S.C. House District 81 in next week's primary and all have named repairing the state's infrastructure as an important issue for South Carolina.

Realtor and former Aiken GOP Chairman K.T. Ruthven has said his position of not raising taxes as a major part of his campaign. He said he feels raising the gas tax would "fuel a system that wastes a lot of money and hurt those that can least afford it."

Ruthven has previously called on reform of the State Department of Transportation without a gas tax increase as the approach for the state to repair its crumbling infrastructure. Other issues Ruthven said are a part of his campaign include imposing term limits for state legislators and addressing the local government fund for counties.

He also wants to work on

economic development and bring jobs to the area.

Bart Blackwell, a local businessman in Aiken, said the two issues he's continued to revisit during his campaign are infrastructure and education, specifically bolstering secondary schools and technical school education.

Blackwell believes a better infrastructure will attract more economic development to the state and South Carolinians will need to be prepared to fill those jobs.

On infrastructure, he said the state will need to find a sustainable revenue stream and said he has previously advocated the proposal Gov. Nikki Haley had put forward – a gas tax increase offset with a reduction in the state income tax and also called on reform of the DOT and State Infrastructure Bank.

Jeremy O'Donnell, a financial consultant, said his priority in Columbia will be to fix the roads, improve schools and help local veterans. He said he has a three-part plan to fix

the state's infrastructure that includes DOT reform, gas tax modernization and tax incentives.

O'Donnell said he favors a 5-cent change to the gas tax in order to "force out-of-state motorists to pay their fair share of the bill," and said he plans to use the savings to fund tax reductions for individuals and businesses in the state.

He also added he plans to improve South Carolina schools and shift a large portion of state lottery funds to K-12 education.

Efforts to reach candidate Chris Austin, a local attorney, were unsuccessful as of press time. On the gas tax, Austin has previously said at a State House forum he "can't see increasing any taxes if we don't have to."

Austin said at the forum that money could be found in the state's budget for roads and that the state should set up a continuous and untouchable fund for its infrastructure.

Austin, as well as the other



Ruthven



Blackwell



O'Donnell



Austin

District 81 candidates, also has advocated for term limits for lawmakers. He also has pushed for more transparency in government and supported reform in the state's ethics laws. He has said a bipartisan, independent "centralized agency" should govern ethics.

The District 81 seat is currently held by S.C. Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, who has announced that he will not seek re-election this fall. The primary will b

Christina Cleveland is the county government reporter at the *Aiken Standard*. Follow her on Twitter

Title: **Haley vetoes \$41M rom \$7.5B budget**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 55.95 column inches
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



SC LEGISLATURE

Haley vetoes \$41M from \$7.5B budget

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley struck \$41 million worth of spending from the Legislature's \$7.5 billion budget and thanked legislators Thursday for not attempting to borrow money for college construction.

"We have some major wins this year. The No. 1 win is there was no bond bill," she said.

Last year, Haley's opposition helped defeat proposals to borrow primarily for projects at universities and technical colleges. She publicly warned legislators in January not to try again.

On Thursday, she applauded the more than \$100 million the state budget sends to technical colleges for one-time spending on buildings and equipment and \$30 million added to four-year colleges for recurring expenses.

That's partly why the veto total isn't higher, she said: "They actually did what we said: 'Use the money that's there. Don't go and borrow.'"

Haley's 51 line-item vetoes, issued minutes before her midnight Wednesday deadline, include \$8.7 million of what she calls "old-fashioned pork," such as \$3 million for sports marketing and \$100,000 for a Richland County pool.

Legislators will return to Columbia next week to consider overriding her

vetoes.

She struck several earmarks for museums, including \$3 million toward



Haley

a new Medal of Honor museum — currently located on the USS Yorktown in Charleston Harbor — \$1 million on the Children's Museum of the Upstate, and \$350,000 for the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston. She also struck \$50,000 for the USS Laffey in Charleston Harbor.

Historic sites, museums and cultural centers should be funded by "selling memberships, collecting admissions fees and soliciting philanthropic support," Haley wrote in her veto message. "The wrong way to do it is by earmarking state funds to choose one site over another to support."

However, Haley's pen did not touch \$4 million for the planned International African-American Museum in Charleston.

"I think we're a state that's still healing. We're coming on the anniversary," Haley said, referencing the massacre of nine black parishioners at a historic church in Charleston. "I very much feel a responsibility to hold our state together and make sure we understand the

significance of June 17 and understand we can only grow from that, so I thought that was important that that stay."

Fifteen of her vetoes strike mandates, not money.

She vetoed a budget clause calling for an evaluation of moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to Charleston.

Legislators opted for the study instead of spending anything to display the Confederate flag removed from Statehouse grounds and sent to the museum last summer following the massacre at Emanuel AME Church.

House members, who balked at a proposed \$3.6 million price tag for the flag display and museum expansion, argued its current location in Columbia — through a separate door at the back of the State Museum building — doesn't attract enough visitors and needs to be more self-sufficient.

But Haley argued the study is a "veiled attempt to justify" combining the Relic Room and the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley and is "nothing more than a legislative pet project."

Haley said when she worked with legislators in bringing down the Confederate flag, there was a lot of talk about creating a

"proper, respectful place for it" at the Columbia museum.

"Never in any of those conversations did they talk about moving it to Charleston," she said.

Other struck budget clauses say grass mowing at welcome centers must be "uniform in appearance" and a golf cart entrance to Myrtle Beach State Park must be created at a specific intersection along U.S. Highway 17.

Haley calls those examples of legislators micro-managing agencies.

Vetoes

Highlights from the \$41.1 million Gov. Nikki Haley struck:

- \$300,000 to the Department of Health and Environmental Control for air quality improvements
- \$500,000 to the Department of Social Services for after-school and summer reading programs
- \$1.6 million for unspecified "outreach education" through the Department of Natural Resources
- \$100,000 for unspecified economic development through the Department of Commerce
- \$6.4 million for unspecified "parks, recreational and tourism

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- revitalizations”
 - \$75,000 to the Human Affairs Commission to create more Community Relations Councils
 - **\$200,000 for the planned Osprey Village in Beaufort County for adults with disabilities**
 - \$7 million for the State Aviation Fund for airport infrastructure
 - \$1.6 million to the Department of Natural Resources for the Upper Coastal Waterfowl Project
 - **\$500,000 for the South Carolina Artisans Center in Walterboro**
 - \$3 million to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for sports marketing
 - \$100,000 to develop driving tours of historic African-American sites
 - \$380,000 to the South Carolina Military Museum in Columbia
 - \$3 million toward a new Medal of Honor Museum in Charleston Harbor
- Source: Gov. Nikki Haley's veto messages on the budget package