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**Date:** 1/29/2016 2:25:51 PM  
**Subject:** ChamberBuzz: Everything You Missed at Business Speaks

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January 29, 2016

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## Business Speaks 2016: Roads, Workforce Development & #scbizlicense

We hosted our annual Business Speaks event Tuesday where the business community and the General Assembly had a platform to have a direct discussion about the most pressing #scbiz issues facing our state. **Couldn't make it?** That's okay, check out the highlights from our live tweets below, click through our [Facebook album](#) and make plans to join us next year!

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **On roads:**
- **On education/workforce:**
- **On business licensing reform:**

## CHAMBER COVERAGE:

- The State: [SC Chamber hosts business leaders, lawmakers to share ideas](#)
- Columbia Regional Business Report: [Haley, business, political leaders get behind workforce education bill](#)
- GSA Business: [Trucking group CEO: Roads need more than quick fix](#)
- Nexsen Pruet: [SC Public Policy Update](#)

## #SCBIZ NEWS:

- Columbia Regional Business Report: [10,000 more workers added to S.C. payrolls in December](#)
- The State: [Senate approves Christy Hall to lead SC transportation department](#)
- The Post and Courier: [New details on roads funding bill emerge](#)
- The State: [Nearly a third of S.C. gas tax is paid by out-of-state drivers](#)
- ABC Columbia: [Education at Forefront in SC](#)

We are pleased to [announce](#) a partnership with [e-certify](#) that will allow South Carolina businesses to more efficiently secure the documentation they need to do business internationally. Need a Certificate of Origin? Visit [www.scchamber.net/ecertify](#) to learn more.

**HAPPENING Monday February 1, 2016**

We are partnering with NAM to showcase modern manufacturing in South Carolina and discuss workforce needs. [REGISTER](#) today for our event at Trident Tech!

**February 17-18, 2016**

Join us for a discussion about the future of the South Carolina workforce! [Register](#) today!  
Presented by [Bank of America](#).

**March 22, 2016**

Think your company is the safest place in South Carolina to work? [APPLY](#) now to be honored at this year's Safety Awards. **Deadline is February 1.**

This week, the House passed [H.4145](#), a bill that implements a statewide Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and incentivizes scholarships and apprenticeships to build our workforce throughout the state... This initiative is one of our [Competitiveness Agenda](#) items for the 2016 session and is scored in this year's legislative scorecard.

**SC Chamber President & CEO Ted Pitts said**, "The State Chamber thanks the House for its work on H.4145, which we see as a significant step toward coordinating workforce efforts in the state and closing the skills gap. We are pleased to see the momentum continue to grow for developing our workforce in South Carolina. This remains a top priority for the business community and is a key piece of the State Chamber's Competitiveness Agenda." Read the rest of Ted's statement and our full release on the House passage of H. 4145 [here](#).

**Bills on our radar:**

**[S. 493](#) – Professional Employment Organization Service Agreements**

This bill provides for allowing clients of Professional Employer Organizations (PEOs) to obtain job tax credits offered to small business that create job opportunities in the state. This provision would not only help PEOs in their efforts with small businesses but also

aid those small businesses who wish to expand and create South Carolina jobs.

STATUS: Chamber staff was present at the full Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee where the bill received a favorable report as amended.

#### **H. 4435 - Advanced Manufacturing Instruction Act**

Sponsors: Rep. Gilliard

Summary: This bill would require every school district, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, to provide elective instruction in advanced manufacturing for students in grades 6-12.

Chamber Position: Monitoring

#### **H.3430 – Addressing Unsafe Used Tires**

This legislation prohibits the sale of unsafe used tires, and defines “unsafe,” whereas currently, no regulations exist in South Carolina to help ensure that used tires are indeed safe. This is a safety issue for vehicle drivers, occupants and others on the road. In keeping with our commitment to sustaining a competitive environment for businesses to grow and prosper, while ensuring the safety of our citizens, the Chamber supports the passage of **H.3430** and is actively urging the Senate to do so with no further amendments...

#### **H. 4457 – Magistrate Jurisdiction**

Sponsors: Rep. Huggins

**Summary:** Increases the civil jurisdiction of magistrates from \$7,500 to \$15,000.

**Currently residing in the House Committee on Ways and Means**

Chamber Position: Monitoring

**#TOPTWEET**

**#TOPFACEBOOKPOST**

**#SPREADTHEWORD**

#### **#MemberNews**

- **Tri-County Tech** [named](#) one of top 150 community colleges in the country...
- **Columbia Fireflies** [name](#) manager, unveil uniforms...
- **Greenville Health System** [unveils](#) new ICU...
- **Clemson** [gets grant](#) for textile innovation...

- Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd [elects](#) new shareholders...
- AFL [receives](#) 3 new patents for new technology...
- Benefitfocus [hires](#) new chief technology officer

## #MemberEvents

- **TD Bank** to host “**Bring Change**” **event** today until 4 p.m. at TD’s 1021 Anna Knapp Blvd. office to raise money for the nonprofit East Cooper Community Outreach. Get loose change counted and converted into bills for free. The bank plans to match up to \$2,000 in coins counted and give the money to ECCO.
- **Riverbanks Zoo Free Fridays:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday at **Riverbanks Zoo and Garden**. Residents of Richland and Lexington counties will receive free admission to the Zoo and Garden every Friday during the months of January and February.

*Does your company have news or an event that you'd like featured in next week's Chamber Buzz? Send info to [membernews@scchamber.net](mailto:membernews@scchamber.net)!*

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