

Title: **Shane Massey aims to bring 'positive attention' to Aiken County as majority leader**

Author:

Size: 51.92 square inch

Batesburg-Leesville, SC Circulation: 3651



Shane Massey aims to bring 'positive attention' to Aiken County as majority leader

This past week has been a hectic one for South Carolina Sen. Shane Massey – crazy, even.

It's how he described the days surrounding his election as the new Senate majority leader, a role where he will lead the chamber's Republican caucus.

Before this week, the Edgefield Republican didn't see himself in the position, mentioning how the resignation of former Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harvey Peeler, of Gaffney, came as a surprise.

"Sen. Peeler resigned and there were several senators who asked me to do it, and so I said, 'I'll give it a shot,' so here we are," Massey said. "It's like drinking through a fire hose – it really is – and it seems like the fire hose gets even bigger since it's the middle of a session."

The 40-year-old attorney was elected Wednesday by a "seniority based body," a day after Peeler's resignation.

Swarmed by reporters for an impromptu news conference following the vote, he headed back to the floor with his colleagues to discuss ethics.

Ethics reform, along with tackling a state infrastructure in disrepair, tops his list of goals for the state.

"Those are big issues and those are issues that are not

decided in a day, but I think when you resolve that, it's a big win for the state," Massey said.

Massey said there is a bill in front of senators he said needs to pass. The bill would require independent investigations whenever a senator is facing ethics violations.

It also requires legislators to disclose their income.

He added lawmakers also have "got to come up with a permanent and fiscally responsible plan to fix our roads."

As for what his new role means for Aiken County, Massey – who also represents Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda counties – said he hopes it brings more attention to the area.

"I think it's always good to have someone in a leadership position," he said. "I'm not going to be a 'bring home the bacon' guy. I'm not an earmark and pork guy. ... There's not going to be any of that, but I do think it's going to give us more attention. My goal is for that to be positive attention, to bring more people in from local and statewide government."

He was gracious when asked about the compliments he's received from state Republicans and being described as a "rising star" in the state's Republican party by The State

newspaper of Columbia.

He then shifted to how Republican senators have given him a chance in the role as a young senator who sits in the back row.

"I'm 40 years old. I'm the third youngest (in the body). I think it really says something about Republican senators that they were willing to let me have a chance to do this," Massey said. "I appreciate that and I think that adds a little more pressure, because I would've not been the traditional choice for the job. I think the caucus is changing and the Republican senators are changing some."

Massey hopes his age will have an impact on different age groups in the state, but said him being in the position means more than that.

"Hopefully, younger people will see an invitation to give us a look, but it's just not about age," Massey said. "It does matter that somebody younger is in the position and I'm going to work hard at it, and I think that is rewarding, as well, but a lot of it is about the ideas and the tone that we use to present those ideas."

For Massey, he said he's also going to do his part. The senator said he will try to be involved and inclusive. He also wants to see lawmakers work-

ing together.

"We're all on the same team, and so one of the things I'd like to do is develop a better relationship with House Republicans and the governor (Nikki Haley) and try to advance the ball," he said. "The governor has her area and that's different from the legislative area. The House is different, and the Senate is different, but I'd like to see us be on the same team more than we have been."

With weeks left in the session, part of it will be taken up by the budget, according to Massey. He also has to get through the election season, where he faces Republican

John Pettigrew.

A graduate of Clemson University and USC School of Law, the husband and father of two said he never aspired to be majority leader since first being elected to Senate in 2007.

"This, in many cases, is a no-win position because you have the burden and expectation of leadership and getting things done," said Massey, who has complimented Peeler on his 11 years in the role. "It's so different because you have so many factions that you have to get on the same page, but I like challenges and I like solving problems and trying to solve problems in conservative ways." (Courtesy of Aikenstandard.com)

Title: **Want to graduate college debt free? each in a rural S.C. area**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 59.83 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Want to graduate college debt free? Teach in a rural S.C. area

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
COLUMBIA, SC

The teacher shortage in poor, rural districts in South Carolina is so bad, the state is considering offering would-be instructors a way to graduate from college debt free.

The catch? They have to spend eight years in the state's neediest districts, where turnover is the worst and the closest Wal-Mart can be up to 45 minutes away. There's another, perhaps even bigger, hurdle with Gov. Nikki Haley's proposal: The state doesn't have enough teachers interested in its current \$5 million loan-forgiveness program.

"We're in deep trouble," said Melanie Barton, director of South Carolina's Education Oversight

Committee. "We used to go to Ohio and Pennsylvania a lot to get teachers. Now those states don't have surpluses."

The teacher shortage is nationwide. In South Carolina, colleges are graduating about 2,000 fewer teachers than needed. Many college students don't want to become teachers and the ones that do typically don't want to work in remote places. States are offering

to wipe away college loans or increase salaries, but the incentives

haven't enticed enough teachers.

In Indiana, the Legislature recently passed the "Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship," rewarding students who commit to teaching five years in any public school with up to \$30,000 off their college tuition. But the program is limited to 200 students yearly who graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class.

House Speaker Brian Bosma, a Republican who sponsored the measure, called the program an

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TEACHING

"innovative way to encourage high school students."

"In today's economy, we realize our top-performing students have many college and career options," he said.

California faces one of the nation's most severe teacher shortages: Enrollment in college education programs has dropped more than 70 percent over the last decade, according to the Learning Policy Institute.

A bill to reinstate a program slashed during the recession offers loan forgiveness to graduates who spend four years in a disadvantaged or rural area teaching a subject where there is an identified shortage. But to get to pre-recession levels, California districts will need to hire 60,000 new teachers.

"You really can't afford to be a teacher if you owe \$20,000-\$25,000 in student loan debt," said bill sponsor Sen. Fran Pavley, a Democrat, adding Cali-

fornia's high cost of living in many cities makes being a teacher even more challenging.

A state task force in Idaho, on the other hand, determined it would be more effective to increase average teacher salaries, said Blake Youde, spokesman for the Idaho State Board of Education.

Under the South Carolina governor's proposal, students could get \$30,000 worth of student loans erased by working in one of 20 districts where teacher turnover ranged from 11 percent to 34 percent last year.

"There's nothing worse for a child to see teachers come and go, because it makes them feel it's not worth teaching in their school," said Haley, who grew up in Bamberg, a town of 3,500 people. The teachers will "become part of the community, so it may not have a movie theater and

may not have a restaurant, but it has a community they fall in love with, and that's what we're going to focus on."

The existing Teacher Loan Program, created in 1984, offers less money - up to \$20,000 for tuition - but the loan is erased in as few as three years if the graduate teaches a hard-to-fill subject, such as science, in a "critical" school. If the job doesn't fit both criteria, the loan's forgiven in five years.

And that doesn't require teaching in a rural district, since high poverty rates mean 70 percent of schools statewide are "critical." Yet, since 2013, a drop in applicants has left the program unable to spend the \$5 million legislators provided in the budget.

Thelma Sojourner, superintendent of Denmark-Olar schools, said she's optimistic about the new rural teacher proposal. Her district of 700 students, nearly all of them

living in poverty, posted a teacher-turnover rate last year of 20 percent.

She said she is lucky to keep a teacher for three years.

"Their eyes are always looking to see, 'How can I get to a larger district with more to offer?' If the opportunity comes, they take off," said Sojourner, a Denmark native who's worked in the district for 45 years, the last six as superintendent. "If they are a good teacher, look at how many lives they can touch in seven or eight years. It would make a tremendous difference in terms of student performance."

Haley asked legislators to put \$13.5 million into the rural initiative. The South Carolina House instead put \$8.2 million in its budget toward the plan and an additional \$9 million to poor districts to be used as one-time teacher signing or performance bonuses. The



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Senate hasn't taken up the plan yet.

In South Carolina, first-year teachers make just slightly more than graduates' average debt of \$29,000.

"Money isn't everything," said Jane Turner, director of South Carolina's Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement. "But if you've got a student loan to pay back, you have

to look at starting pay.

That's why we're looking at ways for people to become teachers without incurring a lot of debt."

The Associated Press tried unsuccessfully to talk to teachers in the current loan forgiveness program. Messages left with multiple district officials were not returned.

Fourth-grade teacher Lori Clarke, who went back to

college from the business world to become a teacher, got \$45,000 worth of loans forgiven through the state's separate Career Changers program.

Those loans were erased in three years of working in a high-poverty school in the Columbia area. She ended up staying for 11.

"You kind of fall in love with it, where they need you so much," said Clarke, who

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Title: **College, debt-free? Teach in rural SC**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 130.04 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

College, debt-free? Teach in rural SC

State considering plan to recruit instructors to areas where teachers are scarce

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

The teacher shortage in poor, rural districts in South Carolina is so bad, the state is considering offering would-be instructors a way to graduate from college debt free.

The catch? They have to spend eight years in the state's neediest districts, where turnover is the worst and the closest Wal-Mart can be up to 45 minutes away. There's another, perhaps even bigger, hurdle with Gov. Nikki Haley's proposal: The state doesn't have enough teachers interested in its current \$5 million loan-forgiveness program.

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SEE TEACHERS, 6A

IN SOUTH CAROLINA, COLLEGES ARE GRADUATING ABOUT 2,000 FEWER TEACHERS THAN NEEDED.

FROM PAGE 3A

TEACHERS

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Associated Press Writer Christine Armario in Los Angeles contributed to this report.



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International teacher Mimi Dabajo, from the Phillipines, at work in Lexington 3.

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TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

International teachers have helped fill gaps in S.C.'s classrooms for years, especially in rural districts. Lexington 3 hired three international teachers in 2015, two at Batesburg-Leesville High. Rayon Grant, from Jamaica, is in the science department.

Title: **Newmonument honors 'unsung heroes'**
 Author: BY ANGELA NICHOLAS For TheSun News
 Size: 113.46 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



New monument honors 'unsung heroes'

BY ANGELA NICHOLAS

For The Sun News

The men and ships recognized through historical research as having suffered the highest rate of casualties of any service during World War II now have a monument in Myrtle Beach honoring them.

Merchant mariners, politicians and residents gathered at Warbird Park off Farrow Parkway near The Market Common for the unveiling of the monument for the merchant mariners, a group that operates as an auxiliary of the U.S. Navy during wartime.

Mariner chapter member Clarence Newcomer said the first wartime role of a merchant mariner

occurred in 1775 predating the U.S. Navy.

"Merchant marines have engaged in every conflict of America since the War of 1812," Newcomer said. "And they are still delivering supplies today wherever and whenever needed."

The John T. Schmidt South Carolina Palmetto Mariner Chapter made up of American merchant mariner veterans hosted the ceremony. Newcomer commended John T. "Tom" Schmidt, Jr., the son of the mariner chapter's late founder and president of the organization, saying, "Jack would be so proud of his family and the

foundation that made this possible today."

The crowd that attended the memorial unveiling, included 102-year-old Ralph Ashby, who served on Liberty ships.

Accompanied by his sister-in-law and caregiver Dorothy Jurczenia, the two made the trek from Little River to attend the event so Ashby could "pay my respects."

Ashby's memories of being part of a "group of civilians who were never honored as GIs" was clear, and when it was time to stand beside the other merchant mariners, he did so with no assistance,

SEE MARINES, 5A

Merchant mariners monument unveiled Friday in Warbird Park

Mariners served as an auxiliary to the U.S. Navy

During WWII the civilian group suffered the highest loss of life of any service

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MARINES

removing his hat in reverence.

Originally from Worcester, Mass., Ashby served from June 1942 until the end of WWII on six ships. He recalled his first trip to Algeria in North Africa on the Liberty ship named the Lou Gehrig after the famous baseball player. The ship carried a couple of airplanes and other supplies, which generally amounted to 15 tons of supplies per soldier per year at the front.

Although he was unaware

of the mariner chapter until he heard about the monument unveiling, Ashby said he was honored to be part of a ceremony recognizing the merchant mariners who served their country.

Serving on primarily unarmed ships, merchant mariners suffered high casualties in all wars, perhaps the highest in WWII. Records compiled by the U.S. Merchant Marine organization shows that 243,000 individuals served with 9,521 killed and some

12,000 wounded, or 1 in 26 merchant mariners killed or wounded.

Rep. Alan Clemmons read a letter from Gov. Nikki Haley recognizing the merchant mariners as "unsung heroes" who have "been there throughout history."

Haley's letter recognized the high level of casualties and noted that for decades, merchant mariners did not receive the same benefits as other service members. She said the monument will stand as a "visual reminder

of the dedicated service of the Merchant Marines."

Gathering around the monument that was funded through donations, WWII and Korean War merchant mariners helped unveil the monument dedicated in memory of all who served "lest we forget."

WWII Navy veteran Jack Platt of Myrtle Beach said the memorial is "long overdue."

Platt, who was a friend of the late John Schmidt, served in the Philippines

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from 1944 to 1945, and was there during the surrender. He remembers the Liberty ships being in the harbor alongside the Navy ships.

“They sailed there and had no weapons but they went out again and again,”

Platt said. “Without them bringing us food and supplies we would have been in desperate straits. Without them ... we would not have won the war.”

The local mariner chapter meets the third Friday of

every month – except July and August – at Veterans Café.

Veterans and the children of veterans are welcome to attend and join the chapter, which is working to bring attention to the lack of benefits provided merchant

mariners. For information, contact Tom Schmidt at 919-880-0043 or by email at tom@schmidtautoservices.com.

Angela Nicholas can be reached at aknicholas28@gmail.com.

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MERCHANT MARINES HAVE ENGAGED IN EVERY CONFLICT OF AMERICA SINCE THE WAR OF 1812, AND THEY ARE STILL DELIVERING SUPPLIES TODAY WHEREVER AND WHENEVER NEEDED.

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JANET BLACKMON MORGAN jblackmon@thesunnews.com

Ralph Ashby (right) served as a merchant mariner in World War II. The Little River resident attends the unveiling of the John T. Schmidt Palmetto Mariners Chapter American Merchant Marines Veterans monument on Friday at Warbird Park near The Market Common.

Title: **Permits for seismic testing still pursued**
 Author: BY VERA BERGENGRUEN vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com
 Size: 152.05 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



ATLANTIC DRILLING

Permits for seismic testing still pursued

Activists who opposed drilling off the Atlantic Coast now are lining up against seismic testing

5 permits are being considered for an area spanning Delaware to Florida

Opponents say airguns would irreversibly damage marine life, ocean economy

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN

vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com

WASHINGTON

Despite the Obama administration's recent decision to scrap its offshore drilling plans for the southeast Atlantic coast, eight permits for seismic testing are still being pursued in an area of ocean twice the size of California, stretching from Delaware to Florida.

The same coastal communities and environmental activists in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia who galvanized around offshore drilling are just as opposed to airgun blasting off their coast, which they say would harm not only important marine life but also the fishing and tourism industries.

Seismic airguns are used to explore the reserves of oil and gas deep beneath the ocean floor. They are towed behind ships, shooting loud blasts of compressed air deep into the seabed and reflecting information about the buried oil and gas deposits.

These blasts can be repeated every 10 seconds for days to weeks at a time.

"If you're not going to drill, if that's been off the table, what are they doing? Why would we want to take a chance of harm-

ing our ocean life? So the companies that do the testing can make millions and the petroleum industry can have it in their back pocket for later?" asked Frank Knapp, president of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

Exploration requests by eight companies are being processed, and none has been withdrawn following the drilling decision, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management confirmed to McClatchy. The seismic testing permits are expected to be released sometime in April, followed by a 30-day comment period.

The Interior Department received more than 1 million comments on the proposed draft on offshore drilling leases, most from coastal communities big and small down the coast, from Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Beaufort in South Carolina to Savannah in Georgia.

"The only reason to do seismic is to drill. These communities know that," said Sierra Weaver, a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. "While folks on the coast would like nothing more than to move on to enjoying the beaches and fishing grounds they worked so hard to protect, the battle isn't over until these permits for seismic blasting are off the table."

Environmental groups and wildlife advocates say the airguns are so loud that they can do irreversible damage by disrupting, injuring and even killing marine life.

The Department of the Interior's own estimates say this seismic blasting in the Atlantic could injure as many as 138,000 whales and dolphins.

"As scientists, these loud, sharp blasts of noise are really concerning," said Ingrid Biedron, a marine scientist at the environmental group Oceana. "They're so loud that they can travel up to 2,500 miles, the distance from D.C. to Las Vegas."

She said the practice could be especially harmful to endangered species off the coasts of the Southeastern states, such as

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North Atlantic whales, of which fewer than 500 are left.

"Noise from airguns could disrupt the communication that's essential for their survival," she said in an interview. "Their critical habitat includes the entire coast of South Carolina down to Florida. They are so endangered that even the loss of two animals could tip the population towards extinction."

New maps released by Oceana last week show the overlap between the five areas in the Atlantic currently considered by applications for seismic airgun blasting with known habitats for endangered species such as the loggerhead turtle, scalloped hammerhead shark and North Atlantic whale.

Some studies show that seismic airgun noise can reduce fish species — including tuna, marlin, swordfish, snapper and sea bass — by 40 to 80 percent, Bierdon said.

This concern has been voiced by leaders of coastal communities, who have made the economic side of the argument in statements to the federal government. In a 2014 letter to Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, former Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley said the Interior Department "ignores the economic impacts the proposed seismic testing will have on fisheries and the fishermen who rely on the oceans for their livelihood."

Even putting the environmental concerns aside, many lawmakers submitted letters to the Interior Department saying the coastal states would not benefit from the testing.

"When seismic testing is paid for by the energy companies and only shared with BOEM and not the states, it means that

South Carolina would be on the outside looking in," Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., said in a letter last year, writing that he had "initially been intrigued" by the possibilities of seismic testing.

"To me it makes no sense to do testing that does not allow states and regions affected to then take the information and determine whether extraction of oil and gas reserves in question make worthwhile the environmental, tourism and other risks associated," Sanford wrote.

Erik Milito, group director of upstream and industry operations for the American Petroleum Institute, an advocacy organization for the oil and gas industry, told McClatchy in an email that the market for the data is "in limbo" precisely because of the decision not to allow drilling in the Atlantic.

"Had the lease sale gone on as planned, data that industry collected would have gone cost-free to the government. Now the seismic companies, should they get the permits issued, will need to determine if they think there will be a market for the data over the longer term, or if the better investment is in other parts of the world," he said.

Regardless of the Obama administration's decision, "the government and the industry both say they need new Atlantic seismic data to update decades-old resource estimates," Milito said.

The last seismic data from the Atlantic dates to 1988, and it was gathered with now-outdated technology.

In the Gulf of Mexico, modern seismic equipment discovered vast oil reservoirs hidden beneath salt deposits, sparking the hope that similar

discoveries could be found if seismic surveys are allowed in the Atlantic.

This view is supported by a coalition of nine coastal governors, including South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who say that exploring offshore could bring would thousands of jobs and billions in revenue to their states.

The group supports seismic testing because updated data is "necessary for policymakers to make informed decisions" about energy policy, even if the Atlantic doesn't see drilling until the next administration's plan in 2022.

"As (Haley) has worked with members of the congressional delegation and the General Assembly on this critical economic development issue, she's also been clear: Exploring offshore for energy is critical to our future because it means jobs, energy independence from other countries and security for our state," Haley's press secretary, Chaney Adams, told McClatchy on Tuesday in a statement.

For many opponents, there's a simple answer to the seismic exploration question: With Atlantic drilling off the table for the next five years anyway, just wait for better technology.

"The science of testing for below ground oil and gas reserves is rapidly transitioning to lesser and lesser harmful methods," Knapp said. "And if we wait 10 years we're going to say, 'What the heck were we exploding that stuff underwater for? We didn't have to do that.'"

Vera Bergengruen:
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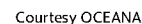
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DAVE MARTIN AP

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Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Overlap of proposed seismic airgun blasting areas and Essential Fish Habitat and Critical Habitat in the Atlantic.

Title: **S.C. Gov. Haley: Transgender bathroom bill unnecessary**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN The (Columbia) State
 Size: 22.47 square inch
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S.C. Gov. Haley: Transgender bathroom bill unnecessary

BY ANDREW SHAIN

The (Columbia) State

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday that a bill that would limit what bathrooms transgender people can choose is unnecessary because South Carolinians already are respectful to people from different backgrounds.

"When we look at our situation, we're not hearing of anybody's religious freedoms that are being violated," she told reporters. "Like it or not, South Carolina is doing really well when it comes to respect and when it comes to kindness and when it comes to acceptance. For people to imply it's not, I beg to differ."

The Lexington Republican cited the peaceful reaction after shootings in North Charleston and Charleston last year that involved white gunmen killing unarmed African-Americans.

Even though the bill sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, deals with rights of people based on their gender identity, Haley said religious-freedom advocates see people using the bathroom opposite from their birth gender as a violation of their beliefs.

The governor said South Carolina's 17-year-old state law protecting religious freedoms already covers banning transgender men

and women from using bathrooms of their choice.

"We don't think we need to do anything further to require people to feel like their religious liberties are weakened at this point," she said.

Several states have passed or are considering anti-gay laws, which has led to some outcry by businesses.

Most notable are North Carolina, which banned local laws protecting employment and housing rights based on sexual orientation and identity, and Mississippi, which passed a law allowing businesses to refuse service to customers based on the owners' religious beliefs.

"While other states are having this battle, this is not a battle that we've seen is needed in South Carolina," Haley said. "And it's not something that we see that citizens are asking for in South Carolina."

Haley questioned whether Bright's proposal, introduced Wednesday, would win passage in the Senate before the May 1 deadline for a bill to crossover to the S.C. House.

"Nothing is going to happen with the bill this year," she said.

The N.C. Legislature passed its anti-gay bill in less than a day last month during a special session.

Title: **Haley: McMaster fumbled ethics bill**
 Author: BYANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 38.44 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



'NO GOOD EXCUSE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TODAY'

Haley: McMaster fumbled ethics bill

Governor unloads in Facebook post after requirement that lawmakers disclose their income is thrown out

McMaster, who presides over Senate, said he had to follow law

Lieutenant governor said decision pained him because he backs ethics law changes

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley criticized one of her closest allies, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, Thursday after he threw out a key portion of an ethics-law reform bill under debate in the S.C. Senate.

"It is amazing the level elected officials will go to avoid disclosing who pays them. Never did we think

that this Lt. Governor would help the Senate kill income disclosures," the Lexington Republican wrote in a Facebook post. "There is no good excuse for what happened today — and how incredibly sad we are for our state."

McMaster, a Columbia Republican who presides over the Senate, was asked to rule on a motion by

state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, concerning an amendment that required lawmakers to share more information about where they earn money — a cornerstone of ethics reforms, one of Haley's top legislative priorities.

The Senate amendment replaced a House ethics bill. However, the amendment contained items not

in the House bill, includ-

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ETHICS

ing income disclosure. McMaster said that left him no option but to follow the law and punt the measure.

McMaster said the decision pained him, adding he supports more transparency. The former S.C. attorney general was appointed by Haley to co-chair an ethics-reform task force in 2012. The Senate amendment addressed some of the issues raised

by that task force, he said Thursday.

"We ran into a little bump today," McMaster said. "The session is not over." He said the Senate could try to take up other ethics bills the House has approved.

McMaster said Haley visited him Thursday during the Senate session to ask him to consider ruling against challenges to the Senate amendment.

"She said how important the bill was and what kind of opportunity we had to make changes," McMaster said.

The lieutenant governor said he and Haley, whom he has supported since losing the GOP primary to her in 2010, have a good relationship. "This is just another day at the State House," he said.

Democrats called out Haley on Thursday, saying she was a hypocrite. They

noted she faced ethics charges in 2012 for failing to disclose some of her income while she was a state representative. Haley was cleared of any wrongdoing by the House Ethics Committee.

"Bless her heart. It seems to me that Governor Hypocrite Haley has a bad case of short-term memory loss," said Malloy, also a target of Haley's critical Facebook post.



Haley



McMaster

Title: **SC ChefAmbassadors to cook at JamesBeard Housein NYC**
 Author: BY SUSANARDIS sardis@thestate.com;@foodsusan
 Size: 28.52 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



SC Chef Ambassadors to cook at James Beard House in NYC

BY SUSAN ARDIS
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South Carolina chefs will be making an impression in New York City on August 23 when the 2016 Chef Ambassadors prepare two meals at the James Beard House.

In a news release, Governor Nikki Haley said, "We're proud of South Carolina's unique culinary history and culture, and we couldn't be more excited that our four Chef Ambassadors have the chance to showcase for the entire country their award-winning work."

The chefs, **Ramone Dickerson** of Wing City and 2Fat2Fly in Columbia; **Teryi Youngblood**, of Passerelle Bistro in Greenville; **Orchid Paulmeier**, of One Hot Mama's at Hilton Head Island; and **Forrest Parker**, of Old Village Post House in Mt. Pleasant, will prepare a private lunch and a public dinner. The chefs will incorporate as many Certified SC Grown products



MICHAEL HRIZUK SCPRT

S.C. Chef Ambassadors, from right, Ramone Dickerson, Teryi Youngblood, Orchid Paulmeier and Forrest Parker will cook at the James Beard House in New York this fall.

into their five-course menus as possible and will showcase the state's rich agriculture, deep-rooted culinary history and diverse goods.

The James Beard House is known for celebrating, nurturing and preserving America's culinary heritage and future and it is considered an honor to be able to cook there.

The South Carolina Chef Ambassador program is the brainchild of Haley and Chef Brandon Velie,

of Juniper in Ridge Spring, and was developed to bring continued awareness to South Carolina's world-class epicurean offerings and culinary talent, while also highlighting the state's unique and varied travel destinations – those best known and those off the beaten path.

The program is managed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Title: **Transgender bathroom bill not needed, Haley says**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 44.17 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Transgender bathroom bill not needed, Haley says

BY ANDREW SHAIN
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S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday that a proposed law to limit the bathrooms that transgender people can use is not needed.

Haley said her office has not received any complaints

about the issue, adding South Carolinians are respectful to people of different backgrounds.

"I don't believe it's necessary," the Lexington Republican told reporters. "There's not one instance that I'm

aware of.

"When we look at our situation, we're not hearing of anybody's religious liberties that are being violated, and we're again not hearing any citizens that are being violated

in terms of freedoms," she said. "Like it or not, South Carolina is doing really well when it comes to respect and when it comes to kindness

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TRANSGENDER

and when it comes to acceptance. For people to imply it's not, I beg to differ."

Meanwhile, the state's main business group lashed out at the chief sponsor of the transgender-bathroom bill.

The S.C. Chamber of Commerce will campaign actively against Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg Republican seeking a third term this year, chamber president Ted Pitts said Thursday. The chamber had concerns about Bright's Senate performance before he introduced his transgender bill, Pitts said. Bright has three GOP primary challengers.

"Sen. Bright is trying to create a political crisis that doesn't exist to save his political career," said Pitts, a former chief of staff to Haley. "Meanwhile, our state has real

issues we need to address, including crumbling roads and a (workforce) skills gap. We'll be working on electing serious senators next year who will be focused on addressing the state's infrastructure and workforce needs, and limiting government's role in our lives."

In discussing her opinion of the transgender-bathroom bill, Haley mentioned an S.C. religious-freedom law, passed in 1999, that allows business owners to exercise their beliefs. That differs from Bright's bill, which deals with the rights of people based on their gender identity.

Haley said religious-freedom advocates see transgender people using the bathroom opposite from their birth gender as a violation of their rights. "They very much see this as something that goes

against their religious beliefs."

However, Bright said his proposal, which will have a Senate hearing Wednesday, is "totally different from a religious-freedom bill."

"It's a public-safety issue," Bright said, referring to concerns that male predators could enter women's restrooms.

Transgender advocates have said those fears are a myth. Every day, transgender men and women use public restrooms with no problems or disruptions, they add.

Several states have passed or are considering anti-gay laws, leading to some outcries from businesses. North Carolina has passed HB2, banning local laws protecting employment and housing rights based on sexual orientation and identity, and Mississippi has passed a

law allowing businesses to refuse service to customers based on the business owners' religious beliefs.

"This is not a battle that we've seen is needed in South Carolina," Haley said. "It's not something that we see that citizens are asking for."

Haley also questioned whether Bright's proposal, introduced Wednesday, could win passage in the Senate before the May 1 deadline for a bill to cross over to the S.C. House for consideration. "Nothing is going to happen with the bill this year."

Bright, whose bill added three new co-sponsors, said meeting the crossover deadline will be difficult, but he expects support for his bill to grow. The N.C. Legislature passed its anti-gay bill in less than a day during a special session last month.

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