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To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: watching the house // spending campaign cash on colleagues, family // FOIA exemptions

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Hi Katherine,

The 2015-2016 legislative session ends tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:00 p.m. We thought you could use a quick overview of the most important issues as we come down to the wire.

Note: According to the *sine die* resolution, anything already in conference committee by the end of session (5:00pm tomorrow) can be heard when the General Assembly reconvenes later this summer. However, the *sine die* resolution can be amended to include anything additional the legislature chooses until the end of session tomorrow.

Roads

The Senate amended [S.1258 \(the bond/roads bill\)](#) with [one of the worst DOT restructuring approaches](#) we've seen yet. In a nutshell, the governor would appoint the DOT commissioners, who would go for approval to their respective congressional delegations, then the Joint Transportation Review Commission, then the Senate. Shockingly, the House concurred with the Senate amendment, meaning the bill now goes to the governor's desk.

Income disclosure/electioneering

This reform-in-name-only bill ([H.3186](#)) was amended by the House to include [a flatly unconstitutional electioneering provision](#) that would regulate political speech and require issue advocacy non-profits to disclose their donors if they mention the name of an official running for election within a certain time frame before an election. The Senate non-concurred with the House amendment (non-concurrence sends the bill to a conference committee to work out the differences rather than straight to ratification and the governor's desk), and so the bill is now in conference committee.

Legislative self-policing powers

[Another weak ethics reform bill, H.3184](#) appears to eliminate lawmakers' power to police their own ethics violations, while in most respects allowing the practice to continue. The Senate non-concurred on the House amendment and the bill is currently in conference. The conference committee is adopting the House language in almost everything and could conceivably present a conference report to the General Assembly before the end of session.

Committee testimony under oath

This bill would permit legislative committees to [require committee testimony to be under oath](#), with possible fines and/or jail time for “false, materially misleading, or materially incomplete” testimony. An alarming infringement on constitutional freedoms of speech and petition, [H.5368](#) was recommitted to the Judiciary committee yesterday, effectively killing the bill.

Shortening session

This bill is [barely a reform](#), as it shortens session by a mere three weeks and includes plenty of loopholes. The House passed the bill, but attached an amendment allowing the presiding officers to convene either chamber during the “eliminated” three weeks, for the purposes of conference reports, consideration of the budget, etc. This additional loophole pulls what few teeth remained in this bill. [S.267](#) goes back to the Senate, which can either concur or amend further. In the latter case, if the House non-concurs with the Senate amendment, the bill would go to conference.

CWP Reciprocity

[H.3799](#) is a simple [CWP reciprocity bill](#), allowing holders of North Carolina and Georgia CWPs to carry in South Carolina. It is currently on special order in the Senate and has received second reading. If given third reading, it will return to the House for further amendment or concurrence with a Senate amendment. If the House amends, the Senate can either concur or insist on their amendment, sending it to conference. At this point, it appears unlikely the bill will pass.

—The Policy Council

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