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To: Kevin L. BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov

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Subject: UCC Update: 2019 Agenda and First Bills Filed

2019 UCC agenda released; First bills are prefiled

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Weds, Jan 3: 7:30
am

Anderson Chamber
[Toast n Topics
Legislative Breakfast](#)

Fri, Jan 4: 8:30 am
Greer Chamber
Legislative Committee

Tues, Jan 8: Noon
General Assembly
Session Begins

Weds, Jan 9: 11 am
Governor McMaster
Swearing-In
Ceremony

Fri, Jan 11: 8 am
Greenville Chamber
Business Advocacy
Committee

Fri, Jan 28: noon
Spartanburg
Chamber
Government Affairs
Committee

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2019 Legislative Agenda, Committee Assignments, and Pre-Filed Legislation

Quote of the Week: "I wanted you to hear the Easley trains that come through 20 or 30 times a day..."

-- Rep. Neal Collins, @collins_neal
in his "Pre-file in 60 sec or less" videos on Twitter

Legislative Agenda Released

The Upstate Chamber Coalition released its 2019 policy agenda, focused on increased teacher pay, state pension reform, tax reform, and ensuring all Upstate residents may participate in our economic growth. The agenda outlines the priorities of the Upstate business community at the state and federal levels.

The Coalition's top state priority for 2019 is increasing teacher pay to the Southeastern average. This was a state priority nearly 15 years ago, but after achieving the goal, state teacher pay has slipped in comparison to our neighbors. Coming in a close second is the need for the state to finish the job in reforming the state pension system to ease the tax burden on business and ensure benefits are available for people currently in the system.

You can [read the entire agenda here](#). And you can read the Greenville Chamber's [2019 Policy Agenda and Advocacy Guide by clicking here](#). That guide has

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the UCC agenda, as well as tips for advocating for your issues and a guide to Upstate elected officials.

Upstate House Committee Assignments

So, we lied to you. Earlier this month, we boldly said there wouldn't be any major changes to the House leadership. Eight hours after we wrote that, Speaker Lucas reassigned Ways and Means Chairman Brian White (R-Anderson) to the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee. That means there is new leadership for the powerful House budget writing committee. So, our apologies for completely mucking up that prediction.

In the meantime, there were a ton of changes to the Upstate delegation's committee assignments. If you're engaged in the process, it's worth checking out who has responsibility over what areas. [Find out everyone's committee assignment in the House here.](#)

Pre-filed Legislation

The Senate and the House pre-filed legislation to kick-start the legislative process before they officially return to session on January 8th. For some legislators, this is their Super Bowl and one of the few times they can really make their voiced heard (a few filed more than 30 bills each). In the mix are many of the usual suspects: many rehashing bills that wouldn't pass last year, a bunch of bills scrapping Daylight Savings Time, bills righting some wrong a legislator experienced in the off-session, and various state and federal Constitutional amendments...

(We joked a bit above about Rep. Neal Collins' non-sequitur about trains in his video, but [all of his videos are worth watching.](#))

There were a few major filings to kick-off coalition priorities: teacher pay, Angel Investor tax credit extension, pension reform, and some lawsuit abuse reform measures. There were also a number of very anti-business measures filed that we'll fight in January. If you need to avoid your family for an hour next week and are interested in reading through the 650 or so

bills yourself, you can find the [Senate bills here](#) and the [House bills here](#).

Farewell to Our Intern...

On December 14th, we said goodbye to Stephanie Tutunjian, our great fall intern from Clemson University. Stephanie filled in during a transitional time with staff at the Coalition. We wish Stephanie the best of luck, and she's looking for a job when she graduates from Clemson in May (hint... hint..)

In Case You Missed It...

[Congress Passes Historic Criminal Justice Reform](#)
[Pro-Medical Marijuana Lobbies Spend \\$95K at Statehouse](#)

[After Defeat, James Smith Ponders Next Move](#)

[American Launches Daily Flights to Miami from GSP](#)

[How the Interest Rate Hike May Affect Your Wallet](#)

As we wind down 2018 and celebrate Christmas, we'd like to thank each of you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Special thanks to the Business Advocacy Partners below who contribute and support the Coalition's work all year. If you would like to be an Advocacy Partner in 2019, please [let us know](#). We're planning a big 2019 with new ways for you to get involved and new ways for your to promote both your business and the Upstate business community. Stay tuned!

Jason & Madison

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