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Subject: Sprinting to the Finish Line

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## Sprinting Toward the Finish Line

Dear Friends:

Next week the 120th regular legislative session comes to an end; we'll return later in June to finalize the state budget. With adjournment looming, the race is on to beat the end-of-session deadline. Here's your top-line summary of legislative activity.

**Road  
Funding  
Falters**  
SC needs  
money to  
fix its  
roads, but

District to ask county voters to approve a one-cent sales tax increase for school construction is now in the hands of a conference committee. We should know next week whether compromise legislation gains approval. If it does, Aiken County residents would vote to approve any proposed tax.

### **Student Bus**

#### **Safety**

Drivers who race by stopped school busses are hard to catch. The House gave final approval

to [H.5014](#) allowing a school bus to be

### **No Cursive**

Another Senator blocked a bill that would require all public elementary schools to teach cursive writing and memorization of multiplication tables. He stated legislators should not write education standards.

### **Low Country Research University**

The House resurrected an attempt to create a research university in Charleston by tacking an amendment onto a bill that allows colleges to bypass multiple layers of state approvals for certain construction projects. The move is an attempt to establish a research university at the College of Charleston. The research university proposal goes to the Senate.

### **Uncle Preston's Law**

The House amended, approved, and sent to the Senate a bill aimed at helping seniors and disabled individuals remain in home settings rather than moving to nursing homes or other assisted living facilities. The legislation ([H. 4520](#)) allows a relative to claim the favorable four percent assessment ratio on a home so long as the additional property is used to provide a home, rent free, for a family member who is over the age of sixty-five or is permanently and totally disabled

### **Jaidon's Law**

The Senate unanimously approved legislation that would make it more difficult to return children to their drug-abusing parents by requiring the state's child-welfare agency and judges to consider whether those parents still are using drugs. The amended measure heads back to the House where it has already passed.

### **Military Assistance**

SC is proving once again it's military-friendly. The House amended [S.825](#) and sent it back to the Senate, a bill that includes provisions specifically authorizing

hiring preference for veterans and their

universities.

### More Military Help

The House returned [S.999](#) to the Senate legislation allowing for a ninety day extension on the expiration of a driver's license for military personnel deployed outside the state.

### SC POW Medal

The House approved [S.1173](#) creating a South Carolina Prisoner of War 'POW' Medal that the Governor may present on behalf of the people

of South Carolina to current and former

residents of the state who have been held as a prisoner of war in the course of their military service. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in House District 86. If I can be of assistance to you, or if you have ideas on issues you want me to share with the rest of the General Assembly, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### Hunting Deer Near a Residence

The House adopted the conference committee report on [S.876](#) that modifies the current prohibition on hunting deer within three hundred yards of a residence without the permission of the homeowner and occupant. The restriction does not apply when the hunter is elevated at least ten feet above the ground.

### Gov. Gets Solar Bill

A compromise solar energy bill is going to Gov. Haley for consideration after the state Senate took final action on the once controversial legislation. The bill is intended to open SC to the expansion of solar energy. Utilities, conservation groups and pro-solar organizations favor the bill.

### Ethics Deadline

House-Senate conferees are working to settle differences in two versions of the

Ethics Act ([H.3945](#)). Let's l

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South Carolina General

Assembly

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### Photo of the Week

We thanked Rep. Roland Smith for his 26 years of dedicated service to SC. Aiken County legislators joined Roland's son, Rep. Garry Smith, in the presentation of a House Resolution while Roland's wife, Peggy, and other family members stood with him. Roland, thank you for your dedicated service to the people of South Carolina!

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