

From: Rep. Bill Taylor <bill@taylorschouse.com>
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Subject: Curtailing Common Core

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Curtailing Common Core and more...

Dear Friends:

There are two legislative weeks left before the "Crossover" deadline - the date when legislation must reach the Senate to be considered in the normal course of business. That means busy times for the General Assembly and this week was no exception. Here's your 'news digest' of this week's major activity.

Top Story - Curtailing Common Core

The House Education K-12 sub-committee unanimously approved amending ([H.3893](#)) removing SC from the Smarter Balanced (Common Core) consortium and creating a new state assessments and standards for students that are more appropriate for SC. House Education Committee Chairman Phil Owens explained...

"We will not accept federal mandates, we will not accept federal directions or federal suggestions of reading literature, of approaches to math, English language arts or social studies or the reinventing of history to match what the federal government considers history. I don't have a problem with a national student assessment if that assessment equals or exceeds the level of standards we already have in South Carolina. The way we arrive at those standards, the way we teach to those standards and the curriculum we select for those standards should be done by the state of South Carolina for the students of South Carolina."

The amended legislation will be considered by the full House Education Committee next week. It directs the State Department of Education to begin review of English/Language Arts and mathematics standards ahead of the normal schedule. SC would be removed from the Smarter Balanced (Common Core) consortium, and instead use other assessments designed to measure college and career readiness -- such as [ACT/WorkKeys](#) - assessments favored by many teachers and administrators.

Article V Convention of States

A House panel heard powerful testimony favoring the Article V Convention of States legislation - a way to rein in our out-of-control federal government. Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides that if two-thirds of the states submit an application to Congress, it must call a Convention of States for the purpose of proposing amendments. A Convention of States can only propose amendments, and cannot change the Constitution by itself. Any amendment approved by the convention would still require ratification by 38 states. Amending the Constitution is not something to be taken lightly, and

this is a difficult process designed by our Founding Fathers. Nevertheless, as dissatisfaction with the federal government increases in all segments of our population, it is time we take back our federal government.

Learn more via these links:

- [Testimony from Thursday's House hearing](#). On right - Click on House Judiciary Committee - Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee April 3 9:00 am
- [Article V News & FAQ's \(Click Here\)](#)
- [Convention of States Project \(Click Here\)](#)

A Message to Those who Object to an
Article V Convention of States

"CBD" and Children's Seizures

The House approved an extremely limited use of a non-psychoactive cannabidiol, known as CBD oil. The marijuana-derived medicinal oil is to be used in a supervised medical setting for children with severe epilepsy.

Emma's Law Passes House

The House unanimously approved a strong anti-DUI law that is intended to keep DUI offenders off the roads if they try to drink and drive. 'Emma's Law' was named for Emma Longstreet, a 6-year-old girl from Lexington County who was killed by a repeat offender drunk driver. The legislation requires ignition interlock devices inside the vehicles of anyone convicted of DUI if that person recorded a blood-alcohol level of .15 or higher during their arrest. With interlock, if the driver has been drinking, the car won't start. This bill will now go to a House-Senate Conference Committee to finalize language before going to the Governor for her signature.

Sex Ed in Public Schools

The House Education Committee advanced legislation that updates SC's sex education curriculum. It requires schools to teach "medically accurate" health information and teachers would have to be certified to teach sex education.

Cursive Writing

The House Education Committee also advanced a bill that would require students to learn cursive writing and memorize multiplication tables by the fifth grade. It's labeled the '[Back to Basics Education Act](#)'.

Visiting Students

It was a delight to host 3rd graders from Wagener's Busbee Elementary School during their visit to the Statehouse Wednesday. A special treat for me was to introduce them to the House of Representatives and pose for a picture on the Statehouse steps. Our Kids - Our Future.

In the State Senate...

DSS & Child Deaths

In one year 76 children in the care of the state Department of Social Services have died. The agency is under scrutiny by a special Senate panel. The Chairman of the probe, Sen. Tom Young, of Aiken, has introduced legislation ([S.1163](#)) that tries to improve how the agency reports child deaths.

Easing Gambling Laws

All forms of gambling are technically illegal in SC besides the state lottery and charity raffles. The bill ([S.779](#)) that would alter the anti-gaming law to allow friendly card and dice games reached the state Senate floor this week.

Around Aiken County...

School Choice is Working in SC

I joined others this afternoon as a Catholic charity serving children with disabilities awarded its first scholarship in this area. Marcus Ray received the scholarship to attend St. Mary Help of Christians School in Aiken. The "St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship Funding Organization" and "Advance Carolina" are a special type of non-for-profit, and serves as a scholarship provider (or "SFOs") in South Carolina's new tax credit funded grant program for special needs students. These groups issue scholarships for students enrolling at private

K-12 schools that offer special services for challenged children. I was one of many legislators who championed the 'school choice' program for several years and authorized it in the 2013-14 state budget.

Good \$\$\$ News...

Jobs First

SC's unemployment rate has significantly decreased to 5.7% in February; that's down from 6.4 in January. It's now at a six year low.

BMW's Great News!

BMW will expand its plant in Spartanburg County with a \$1 billion investment, which is expected to create 800 new jobs.

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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Photos of the Week

My 'State House to the School House' tour continues.

Today I visited 3rd graders at New Ellenton's Greendale Elementary. Last Friday I attended J.D. Lever. Third graders study state government. This is my contribution to provide a more personal experience and answer their many questions. Our Kids - Our Future.

J.D. Lever

Greendale