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All SC communities urged to join SC Day of Service

Community volunteers needed to mobilize for statewide event May 21

The Leadership South Carolina Class of 2016 joined by SC Lt. Governor Henry McMaster recently announced a statewide Day of Service on May 21 to support and celebrate the spirit of South Carolina.

According to a proclamation by South Carolina Governor Nikki R. Haley, "the Leadership South Carolina Class of 2016 is establishing an annual South Carolina Day of Service on the third Saturday of May to support and celebrate the generous spirit of our state by encouraging our residents to give back to their communities in a simple but meaningful way..."

In the light of "unparalleled tragedies and events" recently experienced in the state, the report states, "South Carolinians came together providing support and assistance to each other. This effort will continue to unite the citizens of our state with this designated day of celebration."

South Carolina Day of Service will enable South Carolinians to:

- Unite to celebrate community service
- Give back to their community in a meaningful and simple way
- Fulfill unmet community challenges and needs

through activities, such as checking on neighbors, picking up litter, beautification projects, or repairing a building. The list is limitless

-Act as one voice for activities and unmet needs.

This event celebrates South Carolina and is an opportunity for residents to renew their own personal commitment to community through service to others and engage in conversations to advance community goals.

The Governor's Proclamation lauds the spirit of South Carolinians and warrants the South Carolina day of Service as follows:

"Whereas, in the wake of natural or manmade disasters, the people of South Carolina have a tradition or joining together with compassion, faith, grace, and courage--neighbors helping neighbors in times of need; and

Whereas, sustained efforts to fulfill unmet community challenges such as checking on neighbors, delivering meals, picking up litter, beautifying a neighborhood, mentoring a child, or repairing a building will continue to foster unity among the residents of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the Leadership South Carolina Class of 2016 is

establishing an annual South Carolina Day of Service on the third Saturday of May to support and celebrate the generous spirit of our state by encouraging our residents to give back to their communities in a simple but meaningful way; and

Whereas, the 2016 inaugural South Carolina day of Service provides a wonderful opportunity to volunteer as an individual, group, school, or business to help make the Palmetto State an even better place to live.

Now, Therefore, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2016, as SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF SERVICE throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to roll up their sleeves, lend a hand, and work together to make a difference in our neighborhoods, communities, and state."

For more information visit - www.serveSC.com; or contact Patrick Cobb, AARP South Carolina, member of the class of 2016 Leadership South Carolina at pcobb@aarp.org; or at 803-261-0304.

Press & Banner
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Title: **Moving forward**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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AT THE STATEHOUSE

Moving forward

Bills borrowing for schools, roads meet crossover deadline

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Bills to borrow money to repair South Carolina's crumbling roads and public schools are among those clearing today's crossover deadline, while measures not likely to make it include those strengthening penalties for killing a K-9.

Under House and Senate rules, bills that advance from one chamber to the other after May 1 require a two-thirds vote to even be considered. That's rarely possible for measures that are at all controversial.

Because this is an election year, bills that don't become law this session officially die. Continuing debate on a bill next year would require reintroducing it and restarting the hearing process.

The session ends June 2.

School bonds

South Carolina could borrow up to \$200 million annually to repair and replace deteriorating K-12 public schools under legislation sent Wednesday to the Senate.

The measure, approved 98-5 by the House, is meant to partly address the state Supreme Court's 2014 ruling that the Legislature must do more to provide educational opportunities in poor, rural school districts.

Borrowing would be more than a year away. The bill first requires a statewide evaluation of districts' infrastructure needs. Legislators would then receive a priority list of projects approved by the State Board of Education, to be updated yearly.

Fixing roads

The Senate voted 34-4 Wednesday to approve a bill that borrows \$2.2 billion to pay for highway construction.

If enacted, the proposal would free up other money the Department of Transportation can use to replace bridges and pave roads, allowing for \$4 billion total worth of work over 10 years, said Secretary Christy Hall.

The borrowing would be funded with \$200 million annually — over 15 years — from vehicle sales taxes and certain fees.

Senators praised the plan as a way to jump-start improvements but caution it's not a long-term solution.

After nearly two years of debate, a separate road-funding measure has been reduced to a government restructuring bill. Gov. Nikki Haley wants full control of the DOT, now overseen by both a secretary appointed by the governor and a commission appointed by legislators. A panel of senators and House members is trying to work out a compromise on the chambers' differing versions of reform.

Traffic tickets-no quotas

A bill barring law enforcement agencies from setting traffic ticket quotas crossed Wednesday to the Senate.

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Title: **Moving forward**
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FORWARD

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Rep. Justin Bamberg, its sponsor, said quotas pressures officers to stop people for minor offenses.

Bamberg, a Democrat, also represents the family of Walter Scott, the black man fatally shot as he ran from a North Charleston officer, charged with his murder. Scott was pulled over for a broken third brake light. His family says he likely fled because he feared going to jail for unpaid child support.

As passed unanimously by the House, Bamberg's bill bars agencies from requiring officers to write a certain number of tickets. But it allows officers to be evaluated based on their "points of contact," defined as their interactions with residents and involvement in community initiatives.

Transgender bathrooms

A bill requiring people to use public bathrooms corresponding to their biological sex has yet to get a vote, despite drawing national

attention.

A Senate panel took testimony, mostly from opponents, over two days earlier this month. Opposing Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said Wednesday the bill's dead after "two hearings and a flush."

Opponents said the unenforceable measure stokes misguided fears and endorses restroom vigilantism against transgender people, while supporters contend it's about protecting the privacy and safety of women and children.

Its sponsor, GOP Sen. Lee Bright, said he will attempt to attach the proposal to the state budget. But the chance of that happening appears slim.

The measure's opponents include Haley and state business leaders.

K-9 deaths

While a bill increasing penalties for people who kill or torture a police dog advanced Thursday to the Senate floor, that didn't allow time to meet the crossover deadline.



Title: Restroom bills' fate contrasts Carolinas
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Restroom bills' fate contrasts Carolinas

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - With the defeat of the bathroom bill in the South Carolina Senate, some are wondering if the state is now more progressive than its northern neighbor, which remains vexed by the law North Carolina lawmakers passed earlier this year.

Jeff Ayers, executive director of

South Carolina Equality Coalition, which advocates lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender rights issues, said at the start of the year there were 11 anti-LGBT bills filed in the South Carolina Legislature. With a month left in the legislative session, he said, one of those bills made it to full committee and none have advanced to the floor.

"South Carolina will be one of the only states in the deep South that has stopped all the LGBT bills at the committee level, where other states have advanced them to the other chamber and voted on them," he said. "So I

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Bill

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think on that point, we are more progressive. I think hearts and minds are changing on LGBT issues."

Sen. Joel Lourie, a Columbia Democrat who opposed the bill calling it discriminatory, said the removal of the Confederate flag last year from the Statehouse grounds as well as the failure of the bathroom bill make the state more progressive.

"I think you've seen South Carolina in the last year take two strong positions against intolerance," he said, "one by removing the Confederate flag and two by the governor and business community and many members of the state Senate standing up against the bathroom bill."

Those actions, he said, speak to the future of South Carolina.

"We are more open-minded and progressive perhaps than people have viewed us in the past," he said.

The bill by Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, would bar people from using public bathrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms that do not correspond with the sex listed on their birth certificates and would prevent local governments from passing laws allowing such use.

The legislation is similar to a recently enacted North Carolina law that has spawned controversy, protests and a move to repeal the law. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory issued an executive order several weeks ago addressing some provisions in the law though leaving unchanged the most talked about part that requires people to use bathrooms of their sex at birth.

Ted Pitts, CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, which opposed Bright's bill, said while he would not apply social labels to the state, some business members have compared the differences of

what has happened in South Carolina and North Carolina on the issue.

"We have talked to members who have moved from looking at North Carolina to looking at South Carolina because they have seen the governor's comments, they've seen how the Senate has responded and told Sen. Bright, 'No thanks, we've got real issues we need to work on, work-force issues, ethics

reform, infrastructure issues, and we're not going to let you waste the last month of the Senate's session on a problem that doesn't exist.'"

Phil Noble, president of the South Carolina New Democrats, said he thinks the state is more progressive and is changing.

"It's changing faster than a lot of us realize," he said. "We in South Carolina are better than we think we are."

Noble said the state is second in the nation in new residents and is No. 1 in terms of foreign capital in-

vestment. The state's response to the shooting deaths of eight black parishioners and their pastor, Sen. Clementa Pinckney, was a turning point, he said.

"We are a different state than we were 50 years ago," he said. "This is no oasis of racial brotherhood but we have turned the page."

Sen. Marlon Kimpson, a Charleston Democrat who opposed the bathroom bill, said state lawmakers have made some right decisions but that doesn't make the state progressive.

The bills requiring body cameras for police, the first legislation of its kind in the nation, and removing the Confederate flag were more reactionary to horrific events, he said. He has filed legislation to increase the minimum wage, which was rejected, he said.

And while it's true the Senate stopped the bathroom bill, senators' responses came after watching what North Carolina



Title: **Restroom bills' fate contrasts Carolinas**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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went through with a similar bill, a backlash that has included protests, petitions, canceled concerts and lost jobs.

"If it was filed in South Carolina first, who knows what would have happened," he said. "I would like to say we're more progressive on social issues, but I'm not ready to draw that conclusion."

The Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT civil rights group, in January released its scorecard on how states com-

pare on equality laws and policies and rated South Carolina and North Carolina in the bottom tier, which it labels as "high priority to achieve basic equality."

Cathryn Oakley, senior legislative counsel for the organization, said there is a contrast between how South Carolina and North Carolina have dealt with the bathroom bill issue.

North Carolina's governor has continued to defend the law while South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley

said quickly that she wasn't interested in it, Oakley noted. South Carolina senators took time to talk to people about the proposal, whereas North Carolina lawmakers passed the law in an emergency session.

"So I do think there is a comparison there that has something to it," she said.

Last year, the HRC issued an index measuring equality in 400 municipalities in the nation, including South Carolina and North Carolina.

The scorecard included

41 criteria, including non-discrimination laws, municipality's employment policies, including transgender-inclusive insurance coverage and other policies relating to equal treatment of LGBT city employees. The national average was 56 and South Carolina's cities averaged 33. North Carolina's averaged 49, according to the organization.

Title: **Time to bring end to ticket quotas**
 Author:
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■ WHAT OTHERS SAY

Time to bring end to ticket quotas

The following is the opinion of the newspaper represented and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Index-Journal.

Ticket quotas should have no place in police departments. They set arbitrary requirements for officers, and signal the public that police are out to get them.

An S.C. House bill introduced by Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, would stop the unpopular practice — and would protect whistle-blowers who file complaints against agencies where quotas are required.

The problem is that, even if Bamberg's bill becomes law, some police departments have unwritten rules about quotas: Officers are expected to give out three citations — or four, or 10 — during each shift. And if they don't, their superior officers take note.

So even in some departments where there are no formal quotas and no officer is written up for failing to write enough citations, officers are pressured to do just that — write citations.

In some cases, those citations are believed to be one way to deter crime. Stop people for little crimes before they move on to big ones.

In some cases, tickets are an important source of income for the department — especially in small towns. One carefully placed speed trap can go a long way to filling funding gaps.

But clearly officers should be stopping drivers because they have done something wrong, not for profit. And by setting a minimum number of citations, police can feel pressured to make stops that they don't think are necessary.

Lawyers for former North Charleston Police Officer Michael Slager have said he was trying to fulfill his department-mandated quota of three traffic stops every shift for minor violations when he pulled over Walter Scott last year. Scott fled, and Slager shot him in the back, killing him. He was dismissed from the NCPD and charged with murder.

Fortunately, Rep. Bamberg believes that his bill has broad support. It won the support of the House Judiciary Committee. Both chambers of the General Assembly at large should pass the bill, and Gov. Nikki Haley should sign it. That would send a signal to the public that the police are pulling them over for the right reasons, not to fill money-raising quotas.

Then police departments should pledge to their constituents that they will abide by the spirit of the new law.

And if an officer is pressured by unwritten quotas, he should file a complaint and do his part to stop a misguided tactic that undermines respect for law enforcement.

— April 26, *The Post and Courier*

Title: **Confederate flag will fly at The Citadel, for now**
 Author: BY VERABERGENGRUEN vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com
 Size: 52.7 square inch
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Confederate flag will fly at The Citadel, for now

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN

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WASHINGTON

The Confederate flag will continue to fly at The Citadel for the time being, after a U.S. House committee rejected an amendment to a defense budget Thursday.

The House Armed Services Committee rejected a measure, championed by U.S. Rep. Jim

Clyburn, D-Columbia, that would have forced The Citadel to choose between displaying the flag and

federal money for its Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

"I am greatly disappointed that a majority of Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee have voted to keep the Confederate battle flag flying in a place of worship at The Citadel," Clyburn

said in a statement. "Americans' tax dollars should not be directed to institutions where it is flown."

The amendment, proposed by U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., would have barred the Defense Department from giving federal money to ROTC programs at any school that flies the Confederate flag.

The Citadel, a public military college in Charleston, is the only school

that fits that description. It has displayed a Confederate flag in its Summerall Chapel since 1939.

"It is not appropriate to fly (the flag) over institutions that train our next generation of military officers, and it is bizarre to allow the flag to fly above an academy when the military services do not allow

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the same flag to be displayed in service members' rooms," Smith said. "They should have voted to take it down instead of dodging the issue."

Last summer, the flag was removed from the S.C. State House in the aftermath of the racially motivated slaying of nine African-American parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who was on Capitol Hill Thursday to testify about the potential transfer of Guantanamo detainees to a Navy brig outside Charleston, said the state did not need Congress to interfere in the flag debate.

"They could very easily move the Confederate flag to the museum, which is right next door to where it's being housed now,"

Haley told reporters.

"But they would have to do that through the same ways that we did it at the State House. As South Carolinians we handled that ourselves in South Carolina, so I don't think we need to go through a D.C. plan to do that. I

think that's a matter of South Carolinians making that decision."

Haley said the process should go through the state Legislature, which would have to make an exception for the college to a state law called the Heritage Act.

"What I told the cadets is that if this is a concern, they need to contact their legislators," the Republican governor said.

"They would need to open the Heritage Act just for that specific facility and handle it accordingly. But right now we haven't

seen any action."

Last summer, the Citadel Board of Visitors voted 9-3 to remove the flag.

However, leaders of the GOP-controlled S.C. Legislature said Thursday they had no desire to open up the Heritage Act.

"The Heritage Act continues to be the law of the state," House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, told The Greenville News. "And until it is changed, we plan on complying with the Heritage Act. That's really all I will say about it."

Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, said legislative leaders, including Lucas, have said they are not interested in amending the Heritage Act.

"There's a thousand battles that could be fought with every community park or square, or cornerstone or building or monument," he said. "We

would fight those battles ad infinitum. No, I don't think it should be amended."

However, Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, said the Heritage Act needs to be revisited "if it precludes The Citadel from removing the Confederate flag," he said, "if it precludes the town of Greenwood from changing its monuments, if it precludes Columbia from changing streets named after Confederates."

In his response to the failure of Smith's amendment Thursday, Clyburn said he wasn't going to stop fighting to remove the flag.

"In the coming weeks and months, I plan to give House Republicans additional opportunities to do the right thing," he said.

The Greenville News,
 Andrea Cwieka contributed

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Clyburn



LEONARD ORTIZ MCT

Cadets stand at attention at The Citadel military college.

Title: **Haley: Road bill fails with no reform**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Haley: Road bill fails with no reform

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - Gov. Nikki Haley says lawmakers need to pass reforms to the state's highway department or a bill that would produce about \$3 billion for work on roads and bridges would be "throwing money away."

The comments from Haley's office to *The Greenville News* are the first public indicators of the governor's position on the Senate's road-fund-

ing bill since it was passed earlier this week.

"Throwing money at a system that's broken is throwing money away," said Chaney Adams, Haley's press secretary, in a statement. "We need to reform the DOT so that we get rid of the political horse trading and instead have a state plan that focuses on needs like traffic, safety and economic development. Until that happens, we're wasting taxpayer

dollars."

Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Larry Grooms said he believes if reforms don't come with funding, Haley will veto the bill.

"I am confident that if we have the reforms passed out of the Senate and the House, and the funding component, that the governor would sign the bill," he said.

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Road bill

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The devil remains in the details.

Both bodies have passed governance reform measures and are awaiting on negotiations to reconcile differences.

Both the Senate and the House would allow the governor to appoint highway commissioners. Currently most are elected by legislative delegations. Both want all of the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank projects to come to the DOT board for final approval.

But the House wants highway commissioners and the state transportation secretary to be subject to a confirmation vote by the House and Senate in a joint assembly, an idea that has rankled senators who maintain confirmations are the Senate's sole jurisdiction. The House also wants to move DOT's chief internal auditor under the state auditor's office to increase the internal auditor's independence.

House and Senate negotiators agreed this week that the issues of funding and reform must be approved together before either can pass the Legislature. Senate conservatives, including Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, have been reluctant to vote for road funding without reforms

in place to the agencies spending the money, the state Department of Transportation and the Infrastructure Bank.

Both bodies have passed roads funding bills, the House last year and the Senate this year. But both bills essentially have been scrapped and the late-session focus has come down to governance reforms and whether lawmakers will pay for about \$400 million on roads through the budget or \$3 billion through the more ambitious Senate plan that would use bonds.

The Senate road-funding plan passed earlier this week has been assigned to the House Ways

and Means Committee, where it will be debated while the Senate begins debate on its version of the budget.

The plan is for the House and Senate ultimately to negotiate one package that will include reforms and funding.

The Senate road-funding plan would finish all three phases of widening and improving the Upstate's Interstate 385, Columbia's "Malfunction Junction" and eliminate every load-restricted bridge in the state within 10 years.

The bill would use money from the sales tax on vehicles and state Department of Motor Vehicle fees to send to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which would then issue bonds to raise at least \$2.2 billion. That money, in turn, would be used on specific projects already underway by the state Department of Transportation, which would then use money freed up by the new money to pay for even more bridge and

paving projects.

There would be no tax or fee increases as the result of the bill.

The bill would hand DOT \$1.5 billion from the bond money, which would use \$200 million from its interstate program, to complete all interstate projects started from Act 98, including Phase 3 of I-85 to the North Carolina border and Malfunction Junction, the massive project to fix the convergence of I-20 and I-26 in Columbia that has plagued motorists for decades.

Another \$700 from the bill would be used to complete work improving 22 load-restricted bridges in 14 counties as well as 51 structurally deficient bridges in 21 counties along interstates and major primary routes.

That would free up additional millions now planned for bridge work that would be spent on secondary road bridges and on resurfacing statewide.

Title: **Don't detain terrorists in SC, Haley tells US House panel**
 Author: BY VERA BERGENGRUEN vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com
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'IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE'

Don't detain terrorists in SC, Haley tells US House panel

S.C. governor testifies before a U.S. House Homeland Security subcommittee

Pentagon has scouted Charleston as possible site to transfer Guantanamo detainees

Haley, S.C. delegation slam Obama for ignoring opposition from state leaders

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN

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WASHINGTON

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley came to Washington on Thursday with two clear messages – keep Guantanamo detainees out of South Carolina, and if you need extra money to keep the Cuban prison open, I'll help you find it.

"You could pay the state of South Carolina to host these terrorists, and we wouldn't take them. For any amount of money," the Republican governor

said in her testimony before a House Homeland Security subcommittee on the local impact of transferring prisoners from Guantanamo Bay.

In February, President Barack Obama released his plan to shutter the prison, including transferring 30 to 60 detainees, many of whom never have

been charged with a crime, to an unidentified high-security U.S. prison

from Guantanamo.

Haley told the committee Pentagon officials reached out last summer to tell her they were scouting the U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Hanahan as a possible site to transfer the detainees. The facility is five miles from North Charleston.

"Imagine my surprise," she said. "Not only was it against federal law ... but why would anyone want to put terrorists in Char-

leston?"

Democrat Obama said his plan would save U.S. taxpayers more than \$300 million over its first 10 years and as much as \$1.7 billion over two decades. But Republican Haley said saving federal dollars does

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GITMO FROM PAGE 3A

the world."

Haley also said she was "tremendously concerned" about the impact on S.C. business relations, citing the plants that international manufacturing

giants Boeing, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo have in the Charleston area.

"How am I to tell these companies that they will be sharing an address with the most heinous and dangerous terrorists on Earth?" she asked. "The

truth is I can't. And I won't."

The governor said the administration's main stated reason for shuttering the Cuban facility – the belief that the prison is used as propaganda tool

for recruitment by terrorist organizations – won't be solved by transferring its inmates.

"Terrorists do not need a jail to hate us," she said. "They hate us all on their own."

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan,

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R-S.C., who sits on the subcommittee and introduced the governor at Thursday's hearing, introduced a resolution in February to authorize a lawsuit against the Obama Administration if it transfers detainees from Guantanamo.

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by the president, also prohibits transferring the prisoners to the United States, and next year's bill, being drafted by Congress, keeps the same language.

On Thursday, Duncan said he was baffled that the overwhelmingly negative response from South Carolinians and their leaders did not halt the administration's proposal.

"That should be the end of the discussion," Duncan said. "The fact that the Obama Administration hasn't even had conversations with state leaders shows an alarming level of arrogance from the White House."

Like Haley, Duncan said he has been fielding calls from anxious constituents.

"I haven't had anybody contact me saying, 'You need to chill out,'" Duncan said. "If you polled people in South Carolina they'd say, 'Heck no.' I think the administration ought to listen to the states, the governor, the Legislature, the delegation – we're all saying no."

Haley became a nationally recognized figure after leading South Carolina through the aftermath of a slaying of nine black parishioners by a white supremacist at a Charleston church last summer. She said keeping accused homegrown terrorist and shooter Dylann Roof at a secure S.C. facility did not mean the state wants to handle more.

"The idea that you would bring additional terrorists ... and put them in South Carolina, put them in Charleston, what we call the Holy City, it just doesn't make sense," she told reporters after the hearing.

The state's GOP delegation in Washington has been vocal in its opposi-

tion to the president's proposal for months.

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott visited the Cuban prison last year, and Sen. Lindsey Graham has called the president's proposal to close Guantanamo "gibberish." U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson cosponsored an amendment that requires the next president to provide detailed plans for the future of the facility and its detainees.

The Pentagon also surveyed 12 other domestic sites for "Guantanamo North," including the Disciplinary Barracks in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the country's highest-security prison, the Federal Correctional Complex in Florence, Colo., which has been dubbed the "Alcatraz of the Rockies."

Human rights groups also oppose transferring Guantanamo prisoners to the United States but for different reasons.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch long have said transferring detainees could worsen their existing conditions.

U.S. plans to hold accused terrorists indefinitely, without charge or trial, is the real problem, Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth wrote in a letter to the president last year. Transferring those prisoners to U.S. prisons would just "entrench a system of indefinite detention on U.S. soil that may be used by future administrations."

Closing the prison was one of Obama's main campaign promises in 2008, but once he entered office it was quickly eclipsed by more pressing issues. The facility was opened in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks as a way to keep suspected terrorists off the battlefield.

Obama has reduced the number of detainees at Guantanamo from 241 to 80 during his time in office. The most recent transfer occurred on April 16, when nine prisoners were sent to Saudi Arabia. Nine detainees have died in custody.

“

**YOU GO AND PUT
THESE TERRORISTS
IN SOUTH
CAROLINA, YOU'VE
JUST CREATED A
MAGNET.**

Gov. Nikki Haley

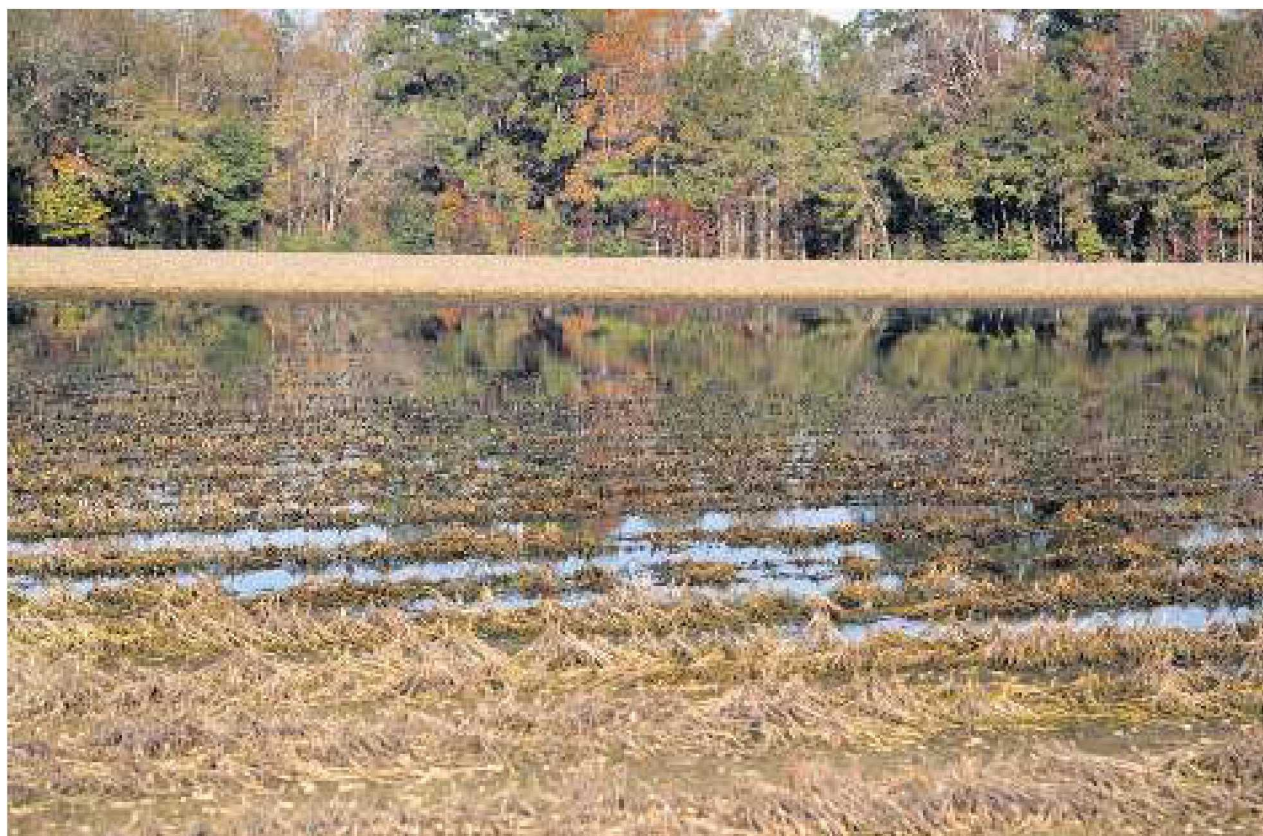
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TONG WU McClatchy

Gov. Nikki Haley testifies Thursday at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on Capitol Hill.

Title: **Senate passes \$40M aid bill for flood-devastated farmers**
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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Water still covered a large portion of a peanut crop at the Hutto family farm in Holly Hill in December.

Senate passes \$40M aid bill for flood-devastated farmers

Associated Press

The Senate has approved a bill providing \$40 million to South Carolina farmers devastated by last fall's flooding. Senators voted 33-3

Thursday on legislation allowing farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for up to \$100,000 in grants covering up to 20 percent of crop losses. The amended bill returns to the House, which passed its version 95-6.

Agriculture officials say October's rains wiped out \$330 million worth of crops at harvest time. Farmers lost an additional \$45 million because they couldn't plant winter crops in bogs. Supporters say the bill aims to help

family farms survive until the next harvest. Gov. Nikki Haley has threatened to veto the bill, saying while she feels badly for farmers, she feels badly for small businesses too, and farmers shouldn't be treated differently.

Title: **Gov. Haley condemns transfer of prisoners from Gitmo**
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Gov. Haley condemns transfer of prisoners from Gitmo

MARY ORNDORFF TROYAN

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

WASHINGTON - Relocating terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. would create a new domestic target for terrorists and probably wouldn't save taxpayer dollars, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told Congress Thursday.

President Obama for years has wanted to close the military prison in Cuba and move those detainees to the U.S. The U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston is one of the sites under consideration, over objections from Haley and other South Carolina officials.

Haley told members of the homeland security subcommittee on oversight and management efficiency that Obama's goal — to eliminate Guantanamo Bay as a propaganda tool for terrorists — is futile.

"This line of thinking is giving these terrorists too much credit and too much validity," she said. "Terrorists do not need a jail to hate us. They hate us on their own."

Current law prevents Obama from moving the detainees to U.S. soil. But since his first presidential campaign, Obama has argued that the facility's controversial past and the murky legal status of some detainees damage the United States' reputation.

In February, he released a plan that said 13 unnamed sites in the U.S. were under consideration.

Haley told Congress that Charleston — or any domestic site — is unacceptable, even if the federal government paid South Carolina for the inconvenience.

"There is no amount of money... that can justify those detainees coming to South Carolina," Haley said.

Haley said tourism and economic development would suffer, her citizens would be fearful, and local law enforcement would be burdened with extra security requirements to prepare for an incident or protests.

"You're just putting another target on Charleston, South Carolina," Haley said.

See HALEY, Page 4A

Title: **Gov. Haley condemns transfer of prisoners from Gitmo**
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Haley

Continued from Page 1A

Haley said Defense Department cost estimates for upgrading security at a new prison site and operating it aren't reliable. The Pentagon estimates it would cost \$290 million to \$475 million to renovate an existing state or federal prison to hold the terrorist detainees, and that annual operating costs would be lower than at Guantanamo Bay.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, has introduced legislation that would let Congress sue any executive branch official who orders a detainee transfer to the U.S.

"The fact that we even have to entertain the possibility of a lawless action from the executive branch is a travesty," Duncan said.

Witnesses at Thursday's hearing include Oakland County, Mich., Sheriff Michael Bouchard; Todd Thompson, county attorney in Leavenworth County, Kansas; and Ken Gude, a national security fellow at the Center for American Progress.

Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., said moving detainees to the U.S. will be a burden on local law enforcement.

"What if the base requires evacuation; what if detainees require transportation to medical facilities; and what additional resources are needed for such

transfers?" Perry said.

The top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, said closing the prison in Cuba is a "national security imperative" and that U.S. facilities are up to the task for safely housing the detainees.

"Some of the most dangerous terrorists the world has ever known are incarcerated at U.S. maximum super prisons such as the Supermax facility in Colorado," Thompson said. "No one — terrorist or any criminal — has ever escaped from the Supermax prison."

Guantanamo Bay, located on the eastern edge of Cuba on land held by the United States under a 113-year-old lease, has housed prisoners taken captive in the war on terror since 2002. Some human rights organizations refer to the facility as a "legal black hole."

Transferring the detainees to the U.S. wouldn't necessarily change their legal status. A previous legal opinion from the Pentagon found that the 2001 legislation authorizing the global war on terror allows them to be held as combatants as long as hostilities continue.

The shut-down plan Obama endorsed in February also includes a process for transferring more detainees, reviewing the threat posed by detainees ineligible for transfer, and identifying those eligible for military trials.

Contributing: USA TODAY



Gov. Nikki
Haley

Title: **Reliable Sprinkler growth will lead to 100 new jobs**
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Reliable Sprinkler growth will lead to 100 new jobs

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When the construction was finished on Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co.'s 302,000-square-foot Pickens County plant in 2003, owners Kevin, F.J. and Michael Fee drove their cars into the empty building and started popping wheelies and cutting donuts.

They were happy to have a new home for their fire sprinkler manufacturing business, after moving from cramped quarters in Mount Vernon, New York.

Then reality hit.

"I looked at my brother and I said, what are we thinking about?" Kevin Fee said Thursday.

That was a lot of space to try to fill with equipment and workers.

In the 12 years and one day since they broke ground on the facility and became the first tenant of the Pickens County Commerce Park, they have found themselves cramped for space again.

This time, instead of moving to another state, they're expanding their existing plant by another 150,000 square feet, investing \$23.1 million and creating 100 jobs in the process.

"Today, they have a tremendous problem, a great opportunity for us, because they are bursting at the seams," Pickens County Council Chairman Jennifer Willis said. "And we are here to support them."

The expansion was made possible by a 32-acre land grant approved by County Council moments before the project was announced. The land grant nearly doubles the size of Reliable's footprint.

It was the largest economic development announcement, by square footage, in Pickens County since the company announced 15 years ago that it would move to the commerce park off U.S. 123 near Liberty.

The expansion will take 12-14 months to complete, and the new facility is expected to be fully operational by January 2018, according to Kevin Fee, the company's president and CEO.

"That extra piece of land is critical for our growth and development," Fee said.

The council also approved a fee in lieu of taxes agreement with the company.

Fee said the expansion "guarantees" the company's growth, because demand for fire sprinklers continues to grow as new buildings are built. Reliable, which sells about 20 percent of its product in international markets, is looking to add several new product lines with its expansion, he said.

Pickens County residents make up about 75 percent of the plant's workforce, he said, crediting the quality of workers as well as the support of the county in giving Reliable the best "home field advantage" among its competitors.

Jon Baggett of the state Department of Commerce said his department has announced more than 580 economic development projects since 2011. This is the second one during that time in Pickens County, the first since 2013.

"By staying here in Pickens, Reliable has made a statement that they are committed to Pickens County and the state of South Carolina," Baggett said. "And we look forward to continuing our longstanding thriving relationship with Reliable."

No other state officials were at the announcement at the offices of Alliance Pickens, the county's economic development arm, but Gov. Nikki Haley sent a statement.

"It's always exciting to see one of our very own companies find success and continue to invest in our state and its people," she said. "Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co.'s \$23 million investment, and the 100 jobs it will create in Pickens County, speaks volumes about the state of manufacturing in South Carolina and the world-class workforce present in every part of our state."

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PAUL BROWN

Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. is expanding its Liberty operations to create 100 new jobs, bringing its total employment to 700. Bill Kirkpatrick, Reliable vice president for manufacturing, goes over renderings of the expansion project.