

**INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE\***

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

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**Legislative – Parolee Residence Bill:**

Below is feedback from Senator S. Martin on his bill, S.338, the Public Notification of Transitional Residential Programs for Paroled Prison Inmates Bill:

- He has worked with Corrections and “our people” on this bill for two years.
- In 2014, the bill passed in the Senate 40-0 (S.1234).
- The bill came about because of a situation with the nonprofit JumpStart Ministries in 2014 – Below is a news article.
- He believes these parolees have served their time, and the goal of the bill is to make sure they don’t have a target on their back.
- He has asked for us to email him our questions or concerns.

**Legislative – Emergency Reentry Bill:**

Today, staff met with EMD and various lobbyists representing Retailers, Truckers, and Wal-Mart regarding a bill that would require EMD to create a certification system for expedited reentry to areas with curfews. With all stakeholders at the table, we were able to agree on an amendment that alleviated our office’s concerns. This bill has crossed over, and we expect it to receive a Senate hearing soon. Other states (mainly FL and NC) have also recently implemented a similar system.

**Legislative – Ratification:**

Today, the General Assembly ratified the following bills to Governor Haley for signature:

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| 1. R174, S.339   | Notification in Mammogram Reports to Patients (“Hope’s Law”)               |
| 2. R175, S.780   | Permits for Releasing or Stocking Sterile Grass Carp                       |
| 3. R176, S.863   | Reapportionment of School Districts in Richland County                     |
| 4. R177, S.1013  | Real Estate Broker Chapter Reorganization                                  |
| 5. R178, S.1016  | Eye Care Consumer Protection Law   |
| 6. R179, S.1238  | Public Meetings in Florence County School District Two                     |
| 7. R180, S.1272  | Department of Education Carry Forward Funds for Students with Disabilities |
| 8. R181, H.3036  | Declaring January 17 <sup>th</sup> of Each Year as “Eartha Kitt Day”       |
| 9. R182, H.4717  | South Carolina Farm Aid Fund   |
| 10. R183, H.5100 | Oral Surgeon Emergency Medical Care  |

These bills must be delivered no later than midnight Tuesday, May 17, 2016. If you have any information for me to include in the ratification log, please send to me as soon as possible.

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*\*This document is a transitory and temporary record created for short-term internal purposes that includes informal materials that do not record decisions.*

## **Roebuck residents concerned about halfway housing in their neighborhoods – Meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Roebuck Fire Department**

By FELICIA KITZMILLER [felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com](mailto:felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com)

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Roebuck residents are concerned about felons being released to transitional housing in their neighborhoods through the nonprofit JumpStart Ministries.

Residents, elected representatives and correction officials are scheduled to meet 6 p.m. Thursday at the Roebuck Fire Department.

JumpStart Ministries currently offers eight transitional homes in Spartanburg County, including two in a trailer park. According to the website, JumpStart acquired a nineunit trailer park with the potential to house 21 people, but only two of the trailers are currently occupied.

According to online records from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, five registered felons live in three homes within a quarter mile of complaining residents.

One of the felons is convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, and another is convicted of assault and intent to commit criminal sexual conduct. Two more felons have been convicted of criminal sexual conduct with a minor – in one case the victim was less than 16 years old and in the second case the victim was less than 11 years old. The convictions for a fifth person are not listed on the registry website. The release dates for two of the registered felons was in 2013, one was in 2002, and the other two do not list a release date.

Norma Goettmann, 73, said she lives less than 100 feet from one of those trailers and only found out there were convicted felons living next door after a conversation with another neighbor. With a disabled husband and two children living in her home, Goettmann said she feels scared and deceived.

"They are sneaking these pedophiles, these felons in," she said. "They chose their behavior, and we are lawabiding citizens and we are being dumped on."

She said Roebuck is a quiet community where she's always felt safe to let the children of her home play outside, but now they are not allowed to go in the woods near their home and have been cautioned never to talk to anyone they don't know.

Goettmann and another neighbor, Katherine Allen, said they haven't had any problems from the new residents of the trailer park yet, but they worry about the potential.

“There are very small children getting on and off the buses only yards away from those trailers,” Allen said.

Stephanie Givens, communications director for the S.C. Department of Corrections, said the state does not monitor the JumpStart program and has no information on the number of participants or their outcomes.

“We play absolutely no role in the transitional housing program,” she said.

According to its website, JumpStart Ministries is a Christian-based program designed to reduce recidivism among convicts. The group was started by Tim Terry, who was convicted of manslaughter in the death of his wife in 1987. While in jail, Terry sold drugs until he experienced a transformation during a prison ministry program at McCormick Correctional Institute.

When he was released in 2002, Terry became active in other ministries, eventually starting JumpStart. JumpStart offers classes in 12 South Carolina prisons beginning two years before an inmate's release. Graduates of JumpStart's inprison programs are eligible for transitional housing assistance for up to one year after release.

Contacted by phone Wednesday, Terry deferred questions until Thursday night's meeting.

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