

Title: **Haley's veto kills bill keeping teacher evaluations private**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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LEGISLATURE

Haley's veto kills bill keeping teacher evaluations private

BY SEANNA ADCOX

 Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley's veto has killed legislation exempting teacher evaluations from public disclosure, but the Republican governor said she will support a better-written bill next year.

Haley said she recognizes the bill's intent is to promote a more candid evaluation process, but she said it is too broad. The one-sentence measure exempts educator evaluations with "personally identi-



Haley

fiable information" from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Haley said that allows school districts to withhold any record related to an evaluation, including information on teacher misconduct that should be publicly available, she wrote in her veto message signed Friday.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kenny Bingham, said he supports the veto, as he didn't intend to create a potential loophole.

"We're working on language now to fix it," he said.

The House voted unanimously Tuesday to sustain Haley's veto, after Bingham

took the podium to make the rare request that they do so. It marked Haley's first successful veto this year.

Bingham, R-Cayce, said he introduced the bill as a precaution after the state Department of Education introduced a new evaluation process.

"It's designed to be more critical and more specific - to drill down more on teachers in an effort to help them," he said. "At the same time there was concern that people can take that out of context. If it's FOIA-able, principals are less likely to note any deficiencies for

the public record, which defeats the purpose of an evaluation."

The House passed the bill unanimously last year. The Senate passed it 35-1 two weeks ago.

Haley said she's working with Bingham and state Superintendent Molly Spearman on legislation that will protect teachers' privacy while allowing "reasonable public access." Legislators can't consider it until next year. This year's regular legislative session ends Thursday.

Bingham said a clause in the 2016-17 state budget covers teachers for the upcoming school year.

Title: **Military tax break hits roadblock in Senate**
 Author: JIM HILLEY THE ITEM
 Size: 19.68 column inches
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Military tax break hits roadblock in Senate

JIM HILLEY
 THE ITEM

An attempt by state Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, to have the South Carolina Senate approve the second reading of a bill providing income tax deduction for military retirees was thwarted Tuesday.

An objection to the bill by Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, keeps it on the contested bills calendar making its passage this year “virtually impossible,” McElveen said.

The final day of the 2016 General Assembly will be Thursday, though a session is likely to be called after the June 14 primary election to override any vetoes issued by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Proponents of the military retirement deduction say it gives members of the military an incentive to stay in the Palmetto State after retirement, providing a boost to the economy. Areas such as Sumter County, home of Shaw Air Force Base, would benefit from the bill, McElveen said.

“Most of these retirees go on to other careers,” McElveen said. “They make the work force

so much more work ready.”

McElveen said 26 states already have some sort of legislation to exempt military retirement income from state income tax. The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, would allow military retirees younger than 65 to deduct the first \$15,000 of military retirement income from their taxable income in South Carolina, while retirees 65 or older could deduct as much as \$30,000.

Malloy said the state income tax system already provides for those who have military retirement income. People with income such as retirement effectively pay less in taxes than the poor already, he said. Malloy also said the bill would benefit some areas of the state which are already doing well, but would do nothing for poor and rural areas such as Darlington County, which he represents. Military retirees already have many advantages other people in the state do not have, Malloy said.

“They have health insurance,” he said. “There are hundreds of thousands of people here who have to go without.”

Title: **House speaker slams Haley in roads speech**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 95.48 column inches
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House speaker slams Haley in roads speech

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - House Speaker Jay Lucas took to the floor Tuesday to vent his frustration at Gov. Nikki Haley and the Senate over the lack of progress on a roads bill, accusing the governor of being silent on the issue at a critical time.

His comments came as the Senate once again tied itself up in knots on the issue, unable to bring a House-amended Senate road-funding bill up for debate. Senate leaders and each party's caucus met into the night trying to find a compromise with just two days left in this year's session.

Lucas lashed the governor for not publicly pushing the Senate to reach agreement on the bill that also reforms the governance of the state Department of Transportation.

He said he tried meeting with the governor Tuesday but was unsuccessful.

"The governor is silent, and her silence is deafening across this state," he told the House, drawing a reaction of approval from many House members. "Obviously, she believes her time is better spent endorsing opponents of sitting General Assembly members rather than demand the senators across the hall do their job and pass a roads bill."

Lucas was referring to Haley's travel this week to endorse opponents of two key senators, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman and Senate Ethics Committee Chairman Luke Rankin. Lucas' comments repeatedly drew standing ovations from House members.

"Gov. Haley has actually used the bully pulpit to her advantage throughout this process," Lucas said. "But in the 11th hour, when we should be minutes away from reaching a compromise, her silence proves that she lacks concern for

good public policy, public policy that directly impacts the safety of our citizens and the sustainability of our economy."

Chaney Adams, Haley's press secretary, said the governor's views on roads are no secret.

"The House and Senate leadership know full well where the governor stands on the roads bill," said. "Sometimes the best way to get something done in Columbia is to elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves."

Lucas also was critical of the Senate.

"The Senate is the real roadblock for road repairs," Lucas said. "We have two legislative days left. And if a roads bill is not passed by the end of this session, it is not this body's fault. It is the fault of the Senate and the governor. They will have failed millions of South Carolinians who demanded we get this task done."

The Senate held onto a House-passed roads bill for a year before passing its own version and then abandoning that

for a bill that would provide \$216 million in recurring funds to enable borrowing \$2.3 billion through bonds.

The House took that bill and amended it with DOT reform provisions and sent it back to the Senate.

But the Senate remains divided over the package, with Democrats unhappy about granting the governor sole authority to appoint the state's highway commissioners and Republicans refusing to pass funding without reform.

The divide reflects a fundamental difference of philosophies, with Republicans saying the issue of reform is a major one among their constituents and

Democrats saying their constituents only talk about getting their roads fixed.

As the Senate was poised to approve a bill to forgive debt at South Carolina State University, Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey told the Senate he doesn't want a vote on that bill, backed by Democrats, to come until the Senate first takes up the House-amended road-funding bill. Massey said it has long been known that reform and funding would have to be passed together.

"I don't really care about the vehicle," he told the Senate. "I do care that it gets done because I think, in many respects, the credibility of self-government is on

the line as to whether we can address the most basic needs facing South Carolina."

That sparked cries from one Democrat that Republicans were holding the S.C. State bill "hostage," while another warned that Republicans were "playing with fire."

Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Camden Democrat, said he did not want to give one person the power over a \$2 billion agency. Massey said the commissioners would ensure that more than just one person has power over the agency.

"I think you have two or three people who have control over \$25 billion," he said of the budget.

Sen. Darrell Jackson, a Columbia Democrat, proposed the reforms take place beginning with the next governor. But Massey said that would be a slap at Haley, which he had no interest in. And even if the reforms passed, Haley, he said, would only be able to appoint one of the commissioners before her terms ends.

"You won't get the money without the reform," Massey told Jackson.

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Columbia is to elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves."

CHANEY ADAMS

HALEY'S PRESS SECRETARY

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RUDOLPH BELL

Rep. Bruce Bannister of Greenville, left, House majority leader, confers with Rep. Jay Lucas of Hartsville, speaker of the House, during a fundraiser recently for Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville.

Title: **Haley's veto kills bill to make teacher evaluations private**
Author: SEANNA ADCOX ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Haley's veto kills bill to make teacher evaluations private

SEANNA ADCOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Haley said she recognizes the bill's intent is to promote a more candid evaluation process, but she said it is too broad.

The one-sentence measure exempts educator evaluations with "personally identifiable information" from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

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teacher misconduct that should be publicly available, she wrote in her veto message signed Friday.

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"We're working on language now to fix it," he said.

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"It's designed to be more critical and more specific — to drill down more on

teachers in an effort to help them," he said. "At the same time there was concern that people can take that out of context. If it's FOIA-able, principals are less likely to note any deficiencies for the public record, which defeats the purpose of an evaluation."

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Title: **Haley to endorse GOP primary challengers**

Author:

Size: 6.97 column inches

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LOCAL / STATE

Haley to endorse GOP primary challengers

Gov. Nikki Haley is heading to Florence and Myrtle Beach this week to endorse Republican primary challengers to two longtime state senators. The Republican governor will be at Wholly Smokin' barbecue today to support Florence County GOP Chairman Richard Skipper in his race against Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman. Haley doesn't think Leatherman is financially conservative enough. County Treasurer Dean Fowler is also running. Friday, Haley will be in Myrtle Beach endorsing Scott Pyle at Longbeards Bar N Grill. Pyle is opposing Sen. Luke Rankin, who has clashed with Haley over ethics reform. A PAC run by a Haley strategist is buying TV ads against both incumbents. — AP

Title: **Senate gives final OK to \$7.5 billion budget**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 45.72 column inches
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Senate gives final OK to \$7.5 billion budget

● **USA TODAY** HACKERS COMPROMISE 360 MILLION MYSPACE ACCOUNTS **PAGE 1B**

TIM SMITH

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA - The Senate has given its final approval of a \$7.5 billion General Fund budget that would enable the state to borrow \$2.3 billion for roads, grant state employees a 3.25 percent pay raise and adds \$10 million to the appropriation of local governments.

House and Senate negotiators reached a compromise Saturday, leaving final approval to both chambers.

The Senate on Tuesday voted 36-9 to approve the compromise. That leaves House approval before the budget is sent to Gov. Nikki Haley.

"What we did in the appropriations bill does not fix the roads," Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman told the Senate. "It certainly begins to fix the roads in our state. Next year, I'll be at the forefront, we've got to find a continuing stream of money if we're going to fix the roads in this state."

A bill being negotiated by House and Senate negotiators would send \$216 million from vehicle sales tax revenue and from fees collected by the state Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles to DOT, which could then use them to send to the state Infrastructure Bank to issue \$2.3 billion in bonds. That money in turn could free up other funding, for a total of \$4 billion that could be used over 10 years.

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, took to the podium to object to the idea of borrowing billions when the state had a surplus this year of about \$1.4 billion.

"We've got the largest budget in the history of the state," he said. "We're issuing bonds to borrow money to take care of core government functions, and I heard from this podium we need a reliable source of income, which means next year we're going to be back on the gas tax debate."

Bright called what lawmakers were doing as "deficit spending."

"For us to criticize Washington I think is a little lame because we're doing the same thing," he said.

But Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican, disagreed, saying the state's

constitution prohibits deficit spending and he supports the bond bill concept.

"What I rise to rebut is the notion that we're like Washington, D.C. and that we engage in deficit spending," he said, "We are required by the constitution to spend no more money than we take in, which of course is a constitutional restraint that the federal government isn't under and doesn't abide by."

Davis also said there is a big difference in the debt of the federal government, which he said there is no plan to repay, and that proposed in the road-funding bill, which is amortized by the \$216 million in recurring funding.

Bright said the budget is sending a message "that it's OK to go out and bor-

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INSIDE

House speaker slams Haley over roads 'silence' at critical time. **Page 7A**

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

row when you have surpluses." He wasn't the only senator with a bone to pick over the final budget.

Sen. Harvey Peeler, a Gaffney Republican and former Senate majority leader, took issue with the \$30 million in the budget for beach re-nourishment, the pumping of new sand on beaches where sand has eroded away. The House proposed \$40 million, the Senate \$20 million.

"So does my math work? Our Senate conferees took \$10 million of our state employees' pay and dumped it in the ocean?" Peeler asked Leatherman.

"I don't see it that way," Leatherman replied.

"That's how my constituents would see it, and that's how state employees would see it," Peeler said.

The Senate had originally

proposed a 4 percent raise for employees, while the House proposed 2 percent.

Also taking issue was Sen. Tom Young, an Aiken Republican, who said he was bothered by the failure again of the Legislature to reimburse counties with millions of expenses from a 2014 ice storm.

He said all counties affected by last year's flood have been reimbursed every

penny, but 22 counties are still waiting for the state to cover millions of dollars in ice storm expenses.

The expenses were covered in a supplemental budget, but after state economists forecast no additional surplus, that revenue evaporated. Young said he plans to again ask next year that the expenses be covered.

Title: **Fiberglass company to create 400 jobs**

Author:

Size: 4.80 column inches

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**Fiberglass company
to create 400 jobs**

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina's governor said a Chinese fiberglass manufacturer is expected to create 400 jobs when it opens a manufacturing operation in Richland County.

Gov. Nikki Haley said in

a news release Tuesday that China Jushi also is expected to invest \$300 million in the 80,000-ton production line during the first phase. The plant will be the company's first fiberglass manufacturing operation in the U.S.

The plant will be located in Pineview Industrial Park in Columbia.

Title: **Speaker faults Senate, governor on roads**

Author:

Size: 8.21 column inches

Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Speaker faults Senate, governor on roads

COLUMBIA (AP) — House Speaker Jay Lucas said Gov. Nikki Haley and the Senate will be to blame if legislation intended to start fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads dies this session.

Lucas said Tuesday senators need to pass a bill, and Haley should be demanding it.

Two separate measures could allow for \$2 billion in borrowing over 10 years for highway construction, using

\$200 million annually in existing fees and vehicle taxes. They also make governance changes at the Department of Transportation.

The House agreed to the borrowing after the Senate refused to pass a gas tax increase, with opponents arguing for reform first.

With just two days left in the legislative session, the Senate has yet to vote on either potential compromise.

Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said legislative leaders know Haley's position.

Title: **S.C. Senate approves \$7.5B on state budget**
 Author:
 Size: 8.52 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

S.C. Senate approves \$7.5B on state budget

COLUMBIA (AP) — The South Carolina Legislature's \$7.5 billion spending plan for next fiscal year is one vote from Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Senators voted 36-9 Tuesday to approve the budget compromise reached over the weekend by a panel of Senate and House members.

House approval would send the package to Haley, who has the authority to veto specific items.

Spending she might strike could include the \$40 million of aid to farmers whose crops were wiped out by last October's catastrophic flooding. The Legislature already overrode Haley's veto of legislation setting up how that aid will be distributed. Republican Sen. Tom Young of Aiken complained that negotiations eliminated \$12 million that would have finished reimbursing counties' clean-up expenses from the 2014 ice storm. The biggest chunk would have gone to Aiken County.

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