

Title: **S.C. Senate passes \$7 billion budget; borrowing fight looms**  
 Author: BY JEREMY BORDEN [jborden@postandcourier.com](mailto:jborden@postandcourier.com)  
 Size: 26.97 square inch  
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# S.C. Senate passes \$7 billion budget; borrowing fight looms

BY JEREMY BORDEN  
[jborden@postandcourier.com](mailto:jborden@postandcourier.com)

COLUMBIA — The S.C. Senate passed an initial version of the state's \$7 billion general fund budget Monday after less than three hours of discussion.

The budget still requires another vote to move back to the House for further consideration, and more debate is expected on the funding plan throughout the week. Senators said, however, that they expect more contentious debate on the Senate's \$237 million borrowing plan, a separate measure that Gov. Nikki Haley has promised to veto and the House previously rejected.

Senate leaders touted the budget blueprint as improving education in the Palmetto State. The plan provides for an across-the-board increase of \$100 in state funding for every K-12 student, increasing the student base cost to \$2,200. More money is included for instructional

## Palmetto Politics

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materials, reading coaches and classroom technology. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, told his colleagues that higher education needs are stark and should be addressed immediately.

"The old classroom of yesterday just won't cut it anymore," Leatherman said. The Senate leader is pushing the bond plan to increase funding to dozens of higher education institutions. "I understand some are against borrowing," Leatherman said. "But you can't get something for nothing."

Sen. Clementa Pinckney, D-Ridgeland, who represents a wide swath of the Lowcountry, said he was "blown away" by the short debate. This year, there

was more money to go around, he said, than in tougher economic times.

College of Charleston President Glenn McConnell, a long-time state senator, is also slated to receive an \$8,500 per year increase over the previous president under the Senate plan. Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, criticized the increase, saying a large pay bump after one year on the job was "a pretty good deal." C of C spokesman Mike Robertson explained that the increase was negotiated at the beginning of McConnell's tenure and he received no increase between this year and last. The heads of other state colleges also received raises.

The Senate budget includes \$5 million for Charleston's African American Museum and fully funds the Department of Social Services' request to hire 262 additional employees.

Reach **Jeremy Borden** at 708-5837.

Title: **Legislature must pass meaningful ethics bill**

Author:

Size: 33.17 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

**OTHER VIEWPOINTS**

# Legislature must pass meaningful ethics bill

**Why would legislators fear independent review of complaints?**

If the legislature is to be taken seriously on ethics reform, it first will have to pass a bill that includes a provision for independent review of ethics complaints against legislators.

Unfortunately, there are still legislators who contend that the House and Senate need to “take care of our own,” as Sen. Paul Campbell, R-Berkeley, said. That viewpoint is the biggest impediment to ethics reform.

It ignores that all other elected state officials in South Carolina are required to submit to an independent investigation and judgment of ethics complaints by the state Ethics Commission.

Even under the reform legislation being considered this session, the House and Senate ethics committees would continue to sit in judgment of their colleagues.

That’s because of a constitutional provision that gives legislators the authority to judge the conduct of their colleagues.

But independent investigation would not interfere with that provision. There really is no good reason to stick to an untenable system — one which offers little in the way of public confidence.

Gov. Nikki Haley continues to push for ethics reform, and so do the co-chairmen of her ad hoc ethics reform commission. That

commission, which was chaired by former attorneys general Travis Medlock and Henry McMaster, came up with a solid plan in 2014 for ethics reform. And, notably, major provisions included independent investigation and independent judgment of legislative ethics cases.

That would remove some the collegial aspects of investigations that are now conducted by House and Senate ethics committees. Independent review, for example, would determine whether a complaint should go to the grand jury or to the respective legislative ethics committees.

Independent investigation is essential for any ethics reform bill to have credibility. The refusal, so far, by senators to allow independent review is one of the main reasons that lawmakers lack credibility on the ethics front. Having legislators continue to deal with ethics complaints about their colleagues will never be viewed as anything but “the fox guarding the henhouse.” And correctly so.

If legislators are really interested in finding out what their constituents think about legislative ethics reform, they have the option of putting a constitutional change on the ballot to eliminate the provision for intramural ethics review. Can anyone really doubt how the voters would decide that issue, given a chance?

Title: **Haley's list prompts pushback from GOP lawmakers**  
 Author: By TIM SMITH The Greenville News  
 Size: 20.92 square inch  
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



# Haley's list prompts pushback from GOP lawmakers

By TIM SMITH

The Greenville News

GREENVILLE — Gov. Nikki Haley's listing of 17 Republican lawmakers she praised for standing against tax hikes, pay raises, increased debt and for ethics reform has ignited debate among lawmakers and residents alike about whether the list was accurate or helpful.

Haley posted the list on her Facebook page Saturday morning before telling a state GOP convention that state Republican lawmakers aren't conservative enough.

"This is asking people for help because I can't count on the majority of Republicans to help me," she said on

her Facebook page. "This is not ill will or arrogance. It is about fighting for South Carolina and the hardworking taxpayers who call it home."

Some GOP lawmakers are pushing back, however.

Several GOP legislators took issue with the governor on Haley's Facebook page, and Haley apologized Sunday for her staff counting the absences of two Upstate lawmakers as deliberate "walks" from key votes, when both representatives, Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville and Rep. Joshua Putnam of Piedmont, were at hospitals at the time.

Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was among the 17 legislators listed by Haley.

He said the mistakes over Nanney and Putnam highlight the misunderstandings that can occur with such lists.

Rep. Phyllis Henderson of Greer, who wasn't included on the list, said she doesn't understand why the governor criticized GOP lawmakers.

"As I told somebody, why do we as a party need to worry about the Democrats, because we are tearing each other down," she said.



Haley

Title: **Spending plan would boost embattled DSS**  
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX The Associated Press  
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## IN THE S.C. SENATE

# Spending plan would boost embattled DSS

State leaders propose \$8.5 million to hire 262 workers at the social services agency and raise caseworkers' pay.

By SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Senate on Monday tentatively approved a \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes with little dissent, but that doesn't end this week's floor debate.

The Senate gave a key second reading to the budget on a voice vote less than three hours after opening discussion. Senators postponed discussion on a handful of amendments and allowed for more to be offered as work continues today. Senators must vote one more time on the budget to return it to the House.

"There doesn't seem to be a whole lot of fight over" (the budget), said Senate Judiciary

Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens.

That won't be the case for a \$236 million borrowing package for construction at colleges and National Guard armories. That's part of a separate bill already blocked by opposing senators. A supermajority vote is needed just to debate the proposal, which Gov. Nikki Haley is fighting.

Senate Finance's budget proposal for the fiscal year that starts July 1 includes \$8.5 million to hire 262 employees at the embattled Department of Social Services and provide pay raises of up to 15 percent, matching the budget request the agency's new director made in March. The vast majority of the

new hires would be caseworkers and their assistants. The pay raises of between 5 percent and 15 percent are an effort to stem high turnover in the high-stress jobs.

"This begins to address the shortage of caseworkers and unacceptable high case-loads," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla, chairman of Finance's health and human services subcommittee. "It fully funds the agency's request for the initiative, which is so critical to the safety and well-being of our children."

Please see SPENDING on 4A

## SPENDING

Continued from 3A

Former Director Lillian Koller had told legislators for years she needed no additional money or manpower. But a Senate panel's investigation last year into the agency's failures to protect children in its

care, including deaths, showed some caseworkers were responsible for more than 100 children. After Koller resigned, agency officials agreed they needed more staff.

Other items in the Senate Finance budget proposal:

- Restoring money and du-

ties to the Commission on Higher Education, which the House plan eliminated.

- Transferring an additional \$50 million collected from the state sales taxes on vehicles to the State Infrastructure Bank to borrow money for road construction.

### OTHER ITEMS IN THE SENATE'S PROPOSAL

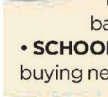
- **STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE:** Like the House budget plan, the Senate proposal provides no across-the-board pay raises to state employees but

does cover increases in their health insurance premiums, which will cost the state \$35 million.

- **K-12 SCHOOLS:** Also like the House plan, it puts about \$100 million more into K-12 schools to increase the so-called base student cost by \$100 per student.

- **SCHOOL BUSES:** It allocates \$29 million for buying new school buses and \$40 million for textbooks and other instructional materials.

- **BODY CAMERAS:** It provides \$3.4 million for police body cameras, which is expected to buy about 2,000 cameras and pay for data storage. There are more than 12,000 state and local officers statewide.





Title: **Larry Martin shows leadership**  
 Author: By Alan Wilson  
 Size: 41.23 square inch  
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# Larry Martin shows leadership

By Alan Wilson

**T**his year, the S.C. Attorney General's Office outlined three key legislative priorities: human trafficking, domestic violence reform and government reform. Our human trafficking bill has already been signed into law, domestic violence reform has passed both the House and the Senate, and a government reform bill has passed the Senate. Many observers have noted that the success of all three is due in large part to the leadership we currently have in individuals such as Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin.

Most South Carolinians know domestic violence reform is something both Chairman Martin and I are very passionate about. It's an issue that continues to plague our state. For months, Chairman Martin, among others, has made domestic violence reform a priority. My hope is that he can work with other senators and House Speaker Jay Lucas and House leadership, including Judiciary Chairman Greg Delleney and Rep. Shannon Erickson, to ensure that a much-needed domestic violence reform package will be sent to Gov. Nikki Haley to sign into law this year.

Some might question my cautious optimism; however, it was recently bolstered by the actions of the General Assembly. The last bill to be ratified before the legislative furlough was an improved human trafficking law. The fact that this law took effect as quickly as it did was because of statesmen like Chairman Martin, Speaker Lucas, and Sens. Wes Hayes and Brad Hutto. One

senator remarked, "It is amazing how quickly the Legislature can act when lives are at risk." As a result, law enforcement and prosecutors now have the tools necessary to combat human trafficking.

Chairman Martin sponsored a bill that recently passed the Senate, which would provide much-needed updates to our State Grand Jury system. Recent events have pointed to the reality that we need various ethics and judicial reform measures to ensure that independent investigations can proceed with public confidence. This bill is a simple fix that codifies procedures which allow other jurisdictions to act more efficiently and effectively.

The language supported and sponsored by Chairman Martin and Sen. Greg Hembree now heads to the House where a companion bill, which has the support of House Speaker Jay Lucas, Judiciary Chairman Greg Delleney, and former State Grand Jury Judge and current State Representative Gary Clary, would allow the Attorney General and the chief of SLED to notify the judiciary of an investigation, instead of requiring a judge to sign off on all grand jury investigations. The bill has safeguards in place to ensure the fairest system possible.

In our state, there are many issues which carry a tremendous impact with-

## GUEST COLUMN



Alan Wilson is the attorney general for the state of South Carolina. A Republican, he was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014.

out great fanfare or notoriety. Among those is the self-authentication of business records. This year, Chairman Martin sponsored a bill that would amend South Carolina's Rules of Evidence to mirror the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Before this law took effect, the state had to spend between \$800 and \$2,000 for a mere five minutes of expert testimony from employees at companies, similar to T-Mobile and Yahoo!, to certify business records, essentially stating that a

document was in fact someone's cell phone or email record. These new changes will save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands, if not, millions of dollars.

I cannot count the number of times Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin has been there to help ensure South Carolina is the safest place possible to live, work and raise a family. In addition to the issues listed above, Chairman Martin's efforts on behalf of the Ashley Hall Bill in 2013 and Emma's Law in 2014 have undoubtedly saved lives and have a greater impact than most realize.

This is why I hope when you see Chairman Martin around the Upstate you will thank him for his leadership on human trafficking, domestic violence and for advocating for various government reforms.

Title: **HALEY'S LEGISLATOR LIST SPURS DEBATE**  
 Author: TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
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# HALEY'S LEGISLATOR LIST SPURS DEBATE

Lawmakers troubled by governor's list of conservatives

**TIM SMITH**

STAFF WRITER

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

**COLUMBIA** — Gov. Nikki Haley's listing of 17 Republican lawmakers she praised for standing against tax hikes, pay raises, increased debt and for ethics reform has ignited debate among lawmakers and citizens alike about whether the list was accurate or helpful.

Only seven of more than 40 Upstate lawmakers made Haley's list, which she posted on her Facebook page Saturday morning prior to telling a state GOP convention that state Republican lawmakers aren't conservative enough.

"This is asking people for help be-

cause I can't count on the majority of Republicans to help me," she said on her Facebook page. "This is not ill will or arrogance. It is about fighting for South Carolina and the hardworking taxpayers who call it home."

Some GOP lawmakers are pushing back, however.

Several GOP legislators took issue with the governor on Haley's Facebook page, and Haley apologized Sunday for her staff counting the absences of two Upstate lawmakers as deliberate

"walks" from key votes, when both were at hospitals at the time.

Haley posted that she would "make that right" with Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville and Rep. Joshua Putnam of Piedmont. Putnam protested what Haley had done, saying in a post that he was with his son who was hospitalized "fighting for his life for two months."

"We have had a problem with legislators 'taking a walk on a vote' which is es-

**See HALEY, Page 4A**

## Haley

Continued from Page 1A

entially allowing a bad bill to pass," Haley posted.

"This is not the case with Rep. Wendy Nanney. She is an exceptional legislator who stays true to values that protect the hardworking taxpayers of the state. You will see us come out in support of her publicly."

She also praised Putnam.

Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was among the 17 legislators listed by Haley.

He told *The Greenville News* he was pleased to be listed but the mistakes over Nanney and Putnam highlight the misunderstandings that can occur with such lists.

"I'm not fond of creating lists," he said. "That's not my way of operating. I have colleagues that I differ with a lot, but they are still my colleagues."

He said he thinks his inclusion has more to do with his effort at cooperating with Haley.

"It's not that I agree all the time with the governor," he said. "Some of us try a little

harder to work with the governor than others. and that's as much as why I am on that list."

Others mentioned by Haley were Sen. Sean Bennett of Summerville, Sen. Chip Campsen of Charleston, Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort, Sen. Mike Fair of Greenville, Sen. Shane Massey of Edgefield, Sen. Harvey Peeler of Gaffney, Sen. Paul Thurmond of Charleston, Sen. Ross Turner of Greenville, Sen. Danny Verdin of Laurens, Sen. Tom Young of Aiken, Rep. Reps. Todd Atwater of Lexington, Rep. Eric Bedingfield of Belton, Rep. Dan Hamilton of Greenville, Rep. Chip Huggins of Columbia, Rep. Rick Quinn of Lexington County and Rep. Tommy Stringer of Greenville.

Rep. Phyllis Henderson of Greer, who wasn't included on the list and heard Haley's speech Saturday, said she doesn't understand why the governor chose to make a list and criticize GOP lawmakers.

"As I told somebody, why do we as a party need to worry about the Democrats because we are tearing each other down," she said.

"We don't need them to do it

because we are accomplishing that on our own. To me, that is not how we're going to win in 2016."

Henderson said she respects the governor "but I don't agree with the tactics."

Sen. John Courson of Columbia, who wasn't listed among the 17, said he didn't hear Haley's speech or see her Facebook page.

He said he has been described as the last follower of Ronald Reagan in the Legislature and has even named his dog after the late president.

"I guess being a Reaganite may not be a conservative in some people's minds," he said. "I do think rhetorical gymnastics, sometimes in particular in the last month of a legislative session, are not helpful."

Sen. Larry Grooms, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, also wasn't on the list.

"Leadership requires understanding what the problems are, understanding why we have the problems and then being able to bring the resources to bear, which is usually people, in order

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to solve those problems," he said.

"It appears the governor has problems in the area of leadership, being able to deploy the necessary people to achieve an objective. That's not personal. That's just a fact."

Grooms said "no one in their right mind could question my conservative credentials."

"Having comments like that at that type of venue (the convention), certainly makes it difficult for some people to agree to work with her on issues," he said.

Rep. Anne Thayer of Anderson posted on Haley's Facebook page that it is "crazy to me how many conservatives are missing from that list. Furthermore I am surprised at some of the people on the list."

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, said he didn't need the governor to dictate his conservative credentials.

"She has been playing footsie with the moderates ever since she became governor," he said. "She's continuing to do it, and we're not going to assist her in it."

He said he believes the governor is purposely trying to anger enough lawmakers so there will be enough votes to override her veto on a road-funding bill with a gas tax increase.

"I'm not taking the bait," he said.

Sen. Shane Martin, a Spartanburg County Republican who Haley said was kept off the list because of his vote on ethics reform, posted that he and Bright are conservative.

"We begged her to veto the last three debt bombs," Martin posted about Haley. "But she signed them into law! She wants to forget that."

Citizens posting on Haley's Facebook page had various opinions about what the governor did, with many thanking her

and others saying it mirrors the divisiveness in national politics.

"We need more unity and less labeling and fingerpointing in Columbia," posted Andrew Williams, who described himself as a friend of the governor.

"No one has the right to say who is and isn't a Republican – you are asking for trouble. This creates ill will. I hate to see this because I truly respect you and appreciate you."

Michelle Pilgrim posted that there are too many leaders who make decisions based on what is best for them, not the state.

"The people are tired of the double talk," she posted. "When I vote Republican, I expect them to vote conservative."

Jerry Scott said he approved of Haley providing voting information.

"But she overstepped her boundaries in suggesting that we villainize the legislators who do not go along with her program," he posted.

Title: **AOL co-founder to visit harleston with \$100K**

Author:

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# AOL co-founder to visit Charleston with \$100K

**E**ight Charleston area startups will be showing their stuff this week as they vie for a big investment from an Internet search pioneer.

The local firms will deliver their best business pitches at a competition Wednesday on board the aircraft carrier **Yorktown** at **Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum** in Mount Pleasant.

They'll all be gunning for a \$100,000 infusion from AOL co-founder **Steve Case**.

Case, who now heads up **Revolution**, a venture capital firm based in Washington, D.C., picked Charleston as one of

the stops on his five-city "**Rise of the Rest Road Trip**." He's also scheduled to visit Atlanta, New Orleans, Raleigh and Richmond.

Case will be making an investment of \$100,000 to a startup in each location, Revolution spokeswoman Meredith Balenske said in an email.

The local startups competing for Case's cash and confidence are: **Bublish, Good Done Great, Eatabit, Bidr, OpenAngler, Dynepic, Echovate** and **Charleston Gourmet Burger**.

"The eight finalists were chosen because each of these startups has the potential to grow, create jobs in Charleston and

disrupt their respective industries," Case said in a statement. "That so many innovative and talented entrepreneurs applied to pitch, from a variety of sectors, is a clear indication that Charleston's vibrant startup community is rising."

Some of the startups have been part of the **Harbor Entrepreneur Center**'s accelerator, said **John Osborne**, co-founder and director of the program.

Two of them, Echovate and Good Done Great, were recent winners in a different startup competition called "**Southern Series**." They'll move on to the ultimate round in Nashville this summer.

Osborne underscored the importance of Charleston giving a good impression through this event, which he said could get

the attention of other investors.

Gov. **Nikki Haley** and S.C. Commerce Secretary **Bobby Hitt** are participating as well. **Patrick Bryant**, a co-founder of the Harbor Entrepreneur Center, will be steering a "fire-side chat" between Haley and Case. Hitt will be a judge for the business pitch competition.

Case's road trip schedule also shows visits to three local businesses: **Levelwing, PeopleMatter** and **Rewind Candles**.



**ALLISON PRANG**  
Technology

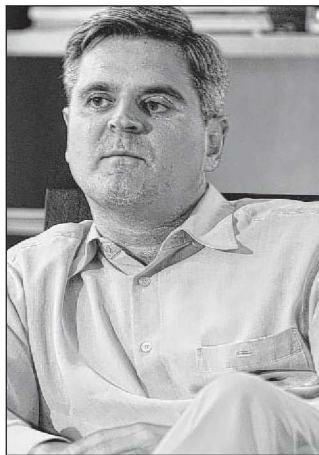


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FILE/AP

**AOL co-founder turned venture capitalist Steve Case is on a road trip to identify and invest in promising young businesses in the Southeast.**

Title: **Crossover week for lawmakers' bills**Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN and JEREMY BORDEN [croldan@postandcourier.com](mailto:croldan@postandcourier.com); [jborden@postandcourier.com](mailto:jborden@postandcourier.com)

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# Crossover week for lawmakers' bills

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN  
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COLUMBIA — For lawmakers' bills, crossover week can mean life or death.

The chaotic few days of voting that precede the final weeks of the legislative session determine which bills will cross over between the House and Senate by the May 1 deadline, and thus, have a chance of making it to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk before the end of the session June 4.

Bills that didn't pass the House or Senate by the deadline have little hope of becoming law this year. It's the first year of a two-year legislative cycle, so lawmakers can try again when

the Legislature reconvenes in January without starting from scratch.

Among the handful of bills the Senate passed last week was the police body camera bill, which languished in committee until a cellphone video surfaced of the fatal shooting April 4 of Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer. Michael Slager has since been fired and charged with murder.

The bill requires that all South Carolina law enforcement officers wear body cameras, and

even with lawmakers rallying behind it after the Scott shooting, backers had to allay colleagues' concerns Wednesday that it infringed on privacy rights.

"It took a lot of hard work and focus to advance the bill out of the Senate before crossover," said a sponsor, Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston. "Timing was short given where we were with the calendar, and we had to work extra hard to make the bill advance."

The Senate also approved, on a tight 22-20 vote, a 1.1-percent fee on cellphone bills that would help subsidize rural landlines.

The money would go into the Universal Service Fund, which was created in 1997 to help low-income homes get phone service. Currently, the \$31 million-a-year fund is paid for solely by landline customers, and proponents say it's only fair to make cellphone users chip in.

Lastly, the Senate passed a bill that aims to protect children of suspected abuse or neglect that was sponsored by the three members of the Senate's DSS Oversight Subcommittee: Sens. Tom Young, R-Aiken; Joel Lourié, D-Columbia; and Katrina

Shealy, R-Lexington.

The bill allows for the release of prior medical records, without the consent of the parent or legal guardian, to a doctor examining a child because of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. Shealy said the bill is needed because a parent or guardian abusing a child is unlikely to willingly release the records.

"Being able to access medical records is crucial to determine whether a child has been abused or not," Shealy said. "We're trying to protect children."

Across the hall, the House took up "Certificate of Need," sending a bill to the Senate that would end the complex tangle of health care regulations.

Ending the law would mean hospitals could expand and build new health care facilities without the state's permission. Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Charleston, said he knows big hospital chains that support the law will lobby the Senate to retain Certificate of Need.

"(Certificate of Need) restricts the amount of doctors or hospitals in a particular area," Merrill said. "That's why I oppose it, because I think if a hospital

wants to invest right next to another hospital, they should be able to do it."

The House also passed a consumer protection bill by Rep. Gary Simrill, R-Rock Hill, that aims to keep Palmetto State's drivers from being sold an "unmounted, unsafe" used tire. The bill has several definitions for an "unsafe" tire.

One bill that didn't make the cut was sponsored by Charleston Republican Rep. Chip Limehouse and would have barred using Islamic or Shariah law as a basis for defense in a South Carolina courthouse. Limehouse has said he planned to change the bill to include all foreign laws to avoid a court challenge, but the bill never got out of committee.

"The nature of the legislative process is slow, slow, slow," Limehouse said. "I'm disappointed that it didn't become a law this year, but it's not uncommon for a piece of legislation to be introduced and have it take two or three legislative sessions before it becomes a law."

**Thad Moore** contributed to this report. Reach **Cynthia Roldan** at 708-5891.

Title: **Crossover week for lawmakers' bills**

Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN and JEREMY BORDEN crolدان@postandcourier.com; jborden@postandcourier.com

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**With just a few weeks remaining until the end of the legislative session, lawmakers rushed last week to make the deadline for bills to cross over between the House and Senate, giving them a chance to become law this year.**

AP PHOTO/MARY ANN CHASTAIN

Title: **Haley blasts GOP in legislature**  
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## ■ SC SQUABBLE

# Haley blasts GOP in legislature

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley has launched a new offensive against state lawmakers, using the podium at the South Carolina Republican Party Convention to blast GOP lawmakers as insufficiently conservative on taxes, debt and other issues.

Her specific complaints were last year's failed proposal for a legislative pay raise and

this year's pitch for a \$500 million bond issue for public projects, along with pending proposals to raise gas taxes to pay for road construction. Haley said all three pursuits violate Republican principles.

"At a time when presidential candidates are going to be coming through South Carolina, how do we hold our head

up when all year, I've been fighting with my own Republicans," she said. "I've been fighting my own people. These are the people who are supposed to be with me. These are the people who are supposed to be moving South Carolina forward, and every day I've been fighting my own Republicans."

Delegates cheered her address, but some lawmakers in attendance were visibly perturbed during the speech.

Afterward, one Republican House leader said he didn't want to respond in kind. "The mudslinging is not who I am, so it's better for me not to

say anything that adds to the divide," said Assistant Majority Whip Samuel Rivers Jr., who represents parts of Berkeley and Charleston counties.

State Republican Chairman Matt Moore said he was not aware of the content of Haley's speech. He disputed that the relationship between the governor and lawmakers is something negative for the party. "I think the governor very clearly laid down some markers," Moore said. "I don't think it's personal, as some people want to make it."

See **HALEY**, page 4A

## HALEY

*Continued from 1A*

Haley, who cruised to a second term last year, has feuded with the legislature before, much like her predecessor, Mark Sanford. But her speech Saturday marked a new level of aggressiveness in trying to use her public profile to pressure lawmakers, and it stood out at a party convention that otherwise had a rollicking atmosphere as Republicans celebrated their total takeover of state government and heard from multiple 2016 presi-

dential hopefuls.

Haley successfully blocked a \$12,000 legislative pay raise last year. She declared victory Saturday on quashing a bond issue proposal, as well. On transportation, lawmakers and the administration still are debating tax policies to pay for road improvements. Haley has said she would back a gas tax hike alongside a corresponding income tax cut, with resulting revenues paying for infrastructure. Haley said the plans that legislative

leaders have pushed contain too much in new gas taxes and not enough in tax cuts. Haley singled out 17 senators and representatives and lawmakers who she said voted with her on all three issues. She didn't name any other Republican lawmakers, but noted that the GOP holds 105 seats combined in the two chambers.

She told the convention that she's made the same pitch in private meetings with the House Republican Caucus and Senate Republican Caucus, but even in

recounting those meetings, she chastised her fellow elected officials. "I like the people who are in the Legislature. They're good people. They're my friends," she said. "I told them what it meant to be Republican. I told them what I knew you wanted from us. I told them we were not a party that looked after our own pay raises. We are not a party that raised debt. We are not a party that raised taxes."

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An Associated Press analysis earlier this year found that Haley, despite her criticism of the bond deal, has used her power on the state's Budget and Control Board to approve bond debt to pay for small projects such as plumbing upgrades and roof repair. That would seem to violate her statements that debt should be used only for major capital investments.

Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey on Saturday stood by Haley's remarks. He said Haley's approval of other debt involved projects only at college campuses, with the debt supported by future tuition payments. That, he said, is more fiscally responsible debt than general obligation bonds backed only by general state tax revenue.

Rivers, the House leader who was not among the 17 lawmakers Haley praised, said, "We want our governor to succeed. ... Until we can work together — the House, the Senate and the governor — we won't get anything done."



**NIKKI  
HALEY**



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# At GOP confab, Haley blasts legislative Republicans

## Lawmakers lack conservative ideas, she says

**BILL BARROW**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley has launched a new offensive against state lawmakers, using the podium at the South Carolina Republican Party Convention to blast GOP lawmakers as insufficiently conservative on taxes, debt and other issues.

Her specific complaints were last year's failed proposal for a legislative pay raise and this year's pitch for a \$500 million bond issue for public projects, along with pending proposals to raise gas taxes to pay for road construction. Haley said all three pursuits violate Republican principles.

"At a time when presidential candidates are going to be coming through South Carolina, how do we hold our head up when all year, I've been fighting with my own Republicans," she said. "I've been fighting my own people. These are the people who are supposed to be with me. These are the people who are supposed to be moving South Carolina forward, and every day I've been fighting my own Republicans."

Delegates cheered her address, but some lawmakers in attendance were visibly perturbed during the speech.

Afterward, one Republican House leader said he didn't want to respond in

kind. "The mudslinging is not who I am, so it's better for me not to say anything that adds to the divide," said Assistant Majority Whip Samuel Rivers Jr., who represents parts of Berkeley and Charleston counties.

State Republican Chairman Matt Moore said he was not aware of the content of Haley's speech. He disputed that the relationship between the governor and lawmakers is something negative for the party. "I think the governor very clearly laid down some markers," Moore said. "I don't think it's personal, as some people want to make it."

Haley, who cruised to a second term last year, has feuded with the legislature before, much like her predecessor, Mark Sanford. But her speech Saturday marked a new level of aggressiveness in trying to use her public profile to pressure lawmakers, and it stood out at a party convention that otherwise had a rollicking atmosphere as Republicans celebrated their total takeover of state government and heard from multiple 2016 presidential hopefuls.

Haley successfully blocked a \$12,000 legislative pay raise last year. She declared victory Saturday on quashing a bond

issue proposal, as well. On transportation, lawmakers and the administration still are debating tax policies to pay for road improvements. Haley has said she would back a gas tax hike alongside a corresponding income tax cut, with resulting revenues paying for infrastructure. Haley says the plans that legislative leaders have pushed contain too much in new gas taxes and not enough in tax cuts.

Haley singled out 17 senators and representatives and lawmakers who she said voted with her on all three issues. She didn't name any other Republican lawmakers, but noted that the GOP holds 105 seats combined in the two chambers.

She told the convention that she's made the same pitch in private meetings with the House Republican Caucus and Senate Republican Caucus, but even in recounting those meetings, she chastised her fellow elected officials. "I like the people who are in the Legislature. They're good people. They're my friends," she said. "I told them what it meant to be Republican. I told them what I knew you



Gov. Nikki Haley

wanted from us. I told them we were not a party that looked after our own pay raises. We are not a party that raised debt. We are not a party that raised taxes."

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