

Title: **Report from your Representative**

Author:

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Report from your Representative

Dear Friends:

The Last Week of the Two Year Session

Sine Die (Latin meaning "without a fixed day") Adjournment fell on Thursday June 2, 2016 at 5:00pm and marked the end of this year's general legislative session. For a bill to have become law this year, it would have needed to pass both legislative chambers by Sine Die.

The House and Senate will now work over the next week and a half in "Conference Committee" to reach final agreements on bills that passed both chambers but still need the differences between them consolidated into a final version that is acceptable to each body. At that point both chambers will come back to vote on the conference reports. The Governor will have 5 days to issue any vetoes and we will meet one last time to sustain or override any vetoes.

Roads Bill Passes

While we passed many significant pieces of legislation this past week, the most anticipated was a bill to begin funding the needed repairs to our dangerous roads and bridges.

On Tuesday afternoon, Speaker Jay Lucas took the floor to call out the Senate for their lack of action. Soon afterwards, the Senate passed a roads bill, and Wednesday af-

ternoon my House colleagues and I took swift action to give it final passage. After two years and hundreds of hours of work, the bill now goes to Governor Haley for her signature.

Three Key Components of Road Funding Bill:

1. We significantly reformed the Department of Transportation. Before allocating any additional dollars to SCDOT, I joined my conservative colleagues in demanding that the agency be reformed. The Roads Bill is also a reform bill and significantly changes how SCDOT is managed and governed.
2. We allocated over \$4 billion in state dollars which must be used to repair our dangerous roads and 399 dilapidated bridges.
3. This was all done without raising taxes.

As always, I will keep you apprised once all conference committees have finished their work and we are able to review any vetoes from Governor Haley.

Session Shortening Bill Passes

This marks the last year that the South Carolina legislature will end in June. Beginning in 2017, the legislative session will be a month shorter than it has historically been,

ultimately saving the state \$350,000 and forcing more efficiency in lawmaking. The measure was strongly approved by both chambers.

Scouting Heroism Honored

I was pleased to honor Scout Scott Wills, in the State House for his bravery and heroism in saving three young Tiger Cub Scouts from drowning while fishing. Scott was present with his mom, dad, and family and received a long standing ovation from the members of the SC House of Representatives. It is great to see such unselfish acts of bravery in our young people and I know the values of scouting have contributed greatly to Scott's character.

Eagle Scout Honored

I sure was pleased to get an invitation to Scout Dwight Hawfield's Eagle Scout Ceremony, held at Leesville United Methodist Church. Dwight is an outstanding young man who's grandmother taught my children piano when they were young. It was my honor to present Dwight with a House Certificate commending him on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ridge Road Community Meeting

It was great to be invited to attend the Ridge Road Com-

munity Club's monthly meeting. There was a good crowd present and we had delicious hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by Sherri and Berta. We also celebrated lots of birthdays and enjoyed cake and ice-cream. Afterwards, I had the chance to speak about the Legislation Session and Legislative process. Thanks to all who have given their time and effort to keep this great community club going!

High School Graduations

It was my pleasure to see so many fine young ladies and men graduate from our area high schools these past two weeks. I was privileged to give the commencement address at one of those schools. Hearing these students' achievements and speeches gives me great hope for our future leaders. Congratulations to all graduates on a job well done!!

I want you to know that I am deeply honored to be of service and always appreciate your support. You can reach me by calling my office in Batesburg-Leesville, my State House office in Columbia, or my personal cell phone at 803-315-4621.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Representative,
 Ralph Shealy Kennedy

Title: **Don't let Haley fool you into voting for 'novice' Pyle over experienced Rankin**

Author: BY JAMES IRVIN JR.

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Don't let Haley fool you into voting for 'novice' Pyle over experienced Rankin

BY JAMES IRVIN JR.

The race for S.C. Senate seat 33, currently held by Sen. Luke Rankin, is being challenged by outside money influences in pushing to oust Rankin with a controllable novice.

Gov. Nikki Haley has joined the fray with her new PAC fund. The governor and her two outside PAC money bosses cannot control Rankin's independence and so they are pushing someone they likely will control.

And that person is the novice Scott Pyle.

Pyle, if he is miraculously elected, will not be beholden to the people, but to the money bosses and Gov. Haley. The question I have is why would Pyle, a very wealthy businessman, want to take up the challenge to run for state senate?

Can he, with a single office staff, handle the concerns, problems and gripes of thousands of constituents in the district, like Rankin has been able to do? Is Pyle aware that one senator can hold up legislation

he may be pushing?

As a new senator, will he know where to go to get bills drafted and then passed?

Is Pyle willing to give up three, maybe four days a week to travel to Columbia at the expense of his lucrative business?

Lastly, it will take Pyle the entire half session of the S.C. Senate (2 years) to understand its operations and protocols.

So why is Pyle doing this? Yep. It maybe for the bosses, and possibly for his own business interests.

A few years ago, the Tea Party supported challengers such as the novice Pyle, only to be disappointed because after being elected, the challengers joined the party's loyalist and cronies, angering Tea Party members.

Pyle can be such a candidate.

There are cable ads, paid for by outside PAC groups, amounting to more than \$100,000, postulating erroneous and false legislative votes by Sen Rankin while the

outside bosses are praising the novice Pyle as a conservative businessman who understands the economy.

How is this brilliant piece of advice going to help the novice get legislation passed by the Democrats in the Senate?

Does anyone care if the novice Pyle is what the ad says he is? I don't.

The novice Pyle has 4 nicely-paid outside consultants telling him what to do, as he, the novice, knows very little about the issues troubling the citizens of District 33 but does seem to know how to collect money from outside sources helping his campaign.

The caveat the voters must know is to be aware whom you are voting to represent your interests and not those of the bosses.

Vote for an independent voice uncontrolled by the self interest money bosses and Gov. Haley.

Remember to pull the level for Rankin on June 14.

The writer is from Myrtle Beach.