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Subject: Sharia Law in South Carolina?

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Sharia Law in South Carolina and Legislative Update

Dear Friends:

Thank you for subscribing to my legislative newsletter. It's my objective to report to you weekly on the significant issues at the SC Statehouse. I try to make these reports brief (your time is precious) while often providing a link to legislation, articles or videos so if you want more information it's easy to find with a quick click. Three weeks into this year's legislative session and the pace of activity is picking up.

Sharia Law Banned!

The House passed a bill blocking foreign laws, including Islamic Sharia law, from being used in SC courts. Sharia law is the legal and political system mandated in the Koran and other Islamic texts that relegates women and non-Muslims to a lesser status, and grants men enormous authority over wives, daughters and sons. It allows for the primitive treatment of women and non-Muslims, and allows fierce punishment - sometimes, honor killings - for refusing to comply with Sharia mandates. If approved by the Senate, the bill would prevent a court from enforcing foreign law including, but not limited to, Sharia Law. The bill ([H.3521](#)) passed 68 to 42 mostly along party lines. ([Breitbart News Story](#))

Bill to Register Syrian Refugees Passes Senate Committee

Republicans on a state Senate committee advanced a bill that requires refugees to register with SC so they can be monitored. It also bans any state agencies from spending money to benefit refugees without legislative approval. In a rare appearance at the Statehouse, two SC Congressmen, Mick Mulvaney and Jeff Duncan, told state senators they think the federal government does not do enough to check the backgrounds of refugees from war-torn countries like Syria. The main purpose of the US Government is to Keep America Safe. ([State Newspaper](#))

Education Reform Package Introduced

Eight separate pieces of legislation were introduced this week aimed at transforming SC's public education delivery system. These bills were crafted based on the findings of the House Education

Policy and Review Task Force brought on by the Abbeville Supreme Court decision. That group found that the best way to achieve improvement in K-12 education is not to reactively give schools more money and hope for a quick fix, but to open doors so, as House Speaker Jay Lucas says, "our students receive a 21st century education." The eight bills address teacher retention, promote realistic expectations for graduates and put in place proactive measures to keep our education system competitive. ([Learn More](#))

Bills included in House Education Reform package

[H. 4783](#) - Redefine the expectations of a South Carolina high school graduate

[H. 4781](#) - Recreate the Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council to allow the business community to work with K-12 and higher education to ensure our students are college and career ready

[H. 4780](#) - Eliminate outdated statutes to promote efficiency and cut unnecessary expenses.

[H. 4779](#) - Create the Office of Transformation under the SC Department of Education

[H. 4776](#) - Establish a process for struggling and poor school districts to petition the state for facility infrastructure needs

[H. 4778](#) - Call for uniformity in school accreditation

[H. 4782](#) - Determine what incentives could entice new teachers to live and work in rural, lower income districts

[H. 4777](#) - Allow the state to take control if a school district is failing financially

Providing a Stable Workforce in SC

Legislation was passed by the House calling for a collaborative and comprehensive effort to strengthen South Carolina's workforce. The bill ([H.4145](#)) would streamline workforce programs across the state. The Coordinating Council for Workforce Development would work with training providers, job seekers and companies that need trained workers to fill the 60,000 job openings that are not being filled. Our technical colleges are perfectly positioned to partner with businesses to make certain job-seekers get the skills they need to get these jobs.

State of Nuclear in SC

Savannah River Site executives and the leaders of public utilities came to the Statehouse for the first annual "State of Nuclear in South Carolina" briefing. Legislators were reminded the ways SC is so nuclear-friendly. As example, SRS is an economic engine with a \$2.6 billion annual economic impact and how the Savannah River National Laboratory is leading innovation for national security and clean energy.

Statehouse News in Brief...

Farm Aid: A proposal that would offer grants to farmers whose insurance did not fully cover their crop losses during the historic October floods cleared a House budget panel. The legislation creates a statewide Farm Aid Board to review the cases of farmers and approve grants that could assist in next year's planting. State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said the proposed bill would not be a bailout for farmers, but is meant to simply help them survive financially.

Drop Out Age: A House education panel voted against a proposal to raise SC's high school dropout age. Opponents questioned if the requirement was enforceable and if it would actually improve student academics.

SC State University: SC State University is asking legislators for help by forgiving some of the school's debt as it works toward getting off probation this summer. Leaders from the financially plagued school want the state to forgive a \$12 million loan made in 2014 to bail-out the school. At this point, Legislators did not accept or reject the idea.

The Power of People Shapes the Political Process

Washington DC is broken and will not be fixed by the ruling elite. Last week I wrote at length about the best way to curtail federal government overreach - a "Convention of States", as outlined in Article V of the US Constitution. This week a national video was released in which I explain how the grassroots initiative that's sweeping South Carolina is driving the initiative.

I'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need assistance navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[Click Here](#)

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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Photos of the Week

It was my privilege to join the citizens of Salley last evening in honoring J.D. Bledsoe who retired as Salley's longtime police chief. I presented Chief Bledsoe with recognition from the House of Representatives for his lifelong devotion to public safety. Chief Bledsoe pinned the gold badge on the new Chief, Jarrod Goldman, a native of Salley, as Mayor Bob Salley looks on.

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