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**Do you support Gov. Haley's
decision to veto the S.C. Farm Bill?**

Please vote in this poll.

» Yes
» No

VOTE ONLINE: Visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MorningNews or scnow.com to vote. Look for results — and a new question — in this space on Wednesday!



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148 State passes bill banning abortion after 19 weeks

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it, but wants to look at the details once it reaches her.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to

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Abortion

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provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher. Abortion opponents have also passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, called the dilation and evacuation method.

The sponsor of South Carolina's bill, Rep. Wendy Nanney, said she's hopeful the law is a step to eventually "get rid of abortion altogether."

"I firmly believe life begins at conception and anything we can do to protect human life I'm all for," said Nanney, R-Greenville.

The South Carolina House approved the compromise 79-29. The Senate approved it 36-9 in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

That "fetal anomaly" exception was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate, where Democrats had blocked the legislation for years.

Sen. Brad Hutto, a leading opponent, still believes it should be the woman's choice. But he called the compromise he's worked on since last year "the best we can get." As it initially passed the House, the bill gave an exception only for the mother's life.

Only four of the 16 states to pass the restrictions since 2010 allow a legal abortion if a doctor determines the child will be stillborn or die upon birth. South Carolina legislators borrowed the wording for that exception from Georgia, where state court blocked enforcement of Georgia's 20-week ban in 2012.

The South Carolina bill, like most of the similar laws, contains no exceptions for rape or incest.

Supporters believe a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents argue such later-term abortions involve wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong, and politicians should play no role in the difficult decision.

"They are wanted pregnancies, but they find out there is a terrible abnormality," Rep. James Smith, a Democrat, said Tuesday. "Wouldn't it be interesting if we take dollar-for-dollar the money we're going to spend litigating unconstitutional bills and put it into something that makes a difference in South Carolina?"

On average, fewer than 30 abortions yearly are performed at 20 weeks gestation or beyond, according to data since 1990 from the state's public health agency.

The ban would affect only hospitals. None of the three abortion clinics in South Carolina provide

abortions beyond 15 weeks. Most of the women are white, married and older than 24, according to the agency.

A doctor who performs an illegal abortion under the bill would face up to three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Greg Delleney said the law "prevents infanticide," noting it ties the fetus' age to conception, rather than a woman's monthly cycle, so the ban refers to what doctors generally consider a gestational age of 22 weeks.

The nonprofit Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion laws, knows of only one person ever charged under the bans. In 2011, an Idaho woman was arrested after giving herself an abortion with pills she bought online. That charge ultimately resulted in Idaho's law being struck down last year by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The same court struck Arizona's law in 2013.

Without citing a reason, the U.S. Supreme Court declined in January 2014 to hear an appeal from Arizona — which had banned abortion at 18 weeks past fertilization.

Earlier Tuesday, a House subcommittee advanced a bill opponents say would essentially ban abortion past 13 weeks. It would make it a felony for a doctor to abort a fetus through "dismemberment" in the womb, punishable by at least a \$5,000 fine and/or five years in prison.

It has virtually no chance of passing this year.

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148 Seeking approval



PHOTOS BY JAKE CROUSE/MORNING NEWS
Stan McKenzie of McKenzie Farms and Nursery surveys a strawberry patch in his field near Olanta. McKenzie said his strawberries survived the floods last October, but some of his other plants like soybeans were devastated.

Pee Dee farmers push for aid bill despite Haley veto

BY JAKE CROUSE

Morning News
jcrouse@florencenews.com

OLANTA — Nailed to the back of a shed at McKenzie Farms and Nursery near Olanta is a sign that reads, "Don't criticize the farmer with your mouth full."

"That's what I'd tell Nikki Haley," says Stan McKenzie, owner of McKenzie Farms and Nursery.

McKenzie is one of many farm-

ers across the Pee Dee who lost crops last October when historic floods struck the state. When Governor Nikki Haley vetoed the

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House vote
to override
veto on
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Farms

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Palmetto Farm Aid Bill on Monday, he felt like she didn't have his back.

The S.C. House voted overwhelming Tuesday to override the veto. The Senate is expected to vote today.

"It wouldn't have hurt her at all to help farmers with some of the state's excess funds," McKenzie said.

He runs a farm with a diversified crop rotation, but McKenzie says he knows farmers who grow only one or two mass-produced crops, like corn, cotton or soybeans, and faced devastating losses.

"I lost \$2,000-\$3,000 on soybeans alone in the floods," he said. "Imagine how much farmers who only produce soybeans must have lost."

A large group of these farmers from around the state went to the state Capitol on Tuesday to encour-

age legislators to override) Haley's veto. Cullen Bry-
ant, a farmer from Dillon,
was one of them. Bryant's
farm was spared much of
the flooding, but some of
his crops still suffered from
torrential rains brought by
the same storm system.

"The quality of my cotton
was so bad that it would

have cost me money to
harvest it at market value
then," he said.

Though Bryant felt that
Haley might be misin-
formed about the situation
of the agriculture business
in light of the floods, he
said the focus of the trip to
the state Capitol was not
on her.

"We didn't go there to
have a negative attitude,"
he said. "Rather, we went
there to encourage support
of the bill. We talked with
our legislators to let them
know we appreciate them
and would like their con-
tinued support."

Bryant estimates that
nearly 100 farmers showed
up to make their case for
the bill, and by midafter-
noon, the House had ruled
in favor of the override by a
112-2 margin.

According to the most
recent Census of Agricul-
ture, Florence County is
home to over 600 farms
that account for nearly 150
square miles of cropland,
almost 20 percent of all
land in the county. Marvin
Russ of Russ Brothers Farm
and Old Plantation Syrup
in Coward doesn't know if
area farmers will be able to
use that land to support lo-
cal markets without some
financial aid.

"I don't think [the market
for local produce] will be
there this year," he said. "I
don't see any way to over-
come the damage."

Michael Miller, president
of the Florence Chamber
of Commerce, which sup-
ports small businesses that
Haley says are not being

given the same treatment,
supports "some relief" for
state farmers.

"Their loss has cost many
other small businesses in-
directly, from suppliers to
retail sales," he said. "Help
would have a positive ef-
fect, one way or another, for
many of our small business
in these communities."

Haley and her support-
ers argue not only that
the farm bill would be "an
unprecedented bailout,"
but that it would be ex-
cessive because farmers
already receive federally
subsidized crop insurance.
McKenzie says that sounds
easy enough, but in reality,
it can be a nightmare.

"One winter, my cabbage
field failed to produce, and
I went to the USDA build-
ing in Columbia a few
weeks after to file a claim,"
he said. "The USDA told
me I was too late to claim
and I ended up losing my
crop."

Bryant is hopeful that

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this legislation will ensure that no farmer will have to risk that outcome due to the floods.

"We still have the Senate to go, but we are hopeful after the House's decision," he said.

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Rows of cabbage line the back of a field at McKenzie Farms and Nursery near Olanda.



JAKE CROUSE/MORNING NEWS

Stan McKenzie of McKenzie Farms and Nursery uncovers some of his strawberries in his field outside Olanda. He was one of many farmers who were affected by the floods last October, though he says others had it worse.



Press & Banner
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148 Dixie team wins forestry clinic honors

By Henry E. Green

A Dixie High School team was recognized Monday night at the meeting of the Abbeville County Forest Landowners Association for winning first place in the recent Woodland Clinic.

The clinic measures skills related to forestry.

Dixie member Branson McClain was presented with an award for scoring the highest overall of students from Abbeville County in the competition in the Woodland Clinic.

He received a plaque, and a \$100 scholarship to assist him in attending the national FFA convention in October in Indianapolis.

Also Monday night, State Rep. Craig Gagnon gave a brief report on happenings in the General Assembly, and Gary Peters, a representative of the National Wild Turkey Federation spoke.

"We have wild turkeys in every county in South Carolina," said .

Wild turkeys like to eat insects. "The Number One summer food-bugs," he noted.

On the other hand, the habitat of the wild turkey is in some places threatened by various factors.

"Every thing likes to eat a turkey," said

Wild hogs can be bad for wild turkeys, because they like

to root up the earth and eat turkey nests.

The coyote, meanwhile, is a major predator, and likes to eat just about anything.

Gagnon, meanwhile, noted how a farm bill had been introduced by a legislator named Brian White, a native of Abbeville County who graduated from Dixie High School.

The bill is intended to help farmers hurt by the devastating floods of last October, but Governor Nikki Haley vetoed it.

Gagnon believes the veto will be overturned. "Our farmers need it," he said.