

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.

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

ciary 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 state-wide.



Title: **Malfunction Junction? Call it Carolina Crossroads**
 Author:
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Malfunction Junction? Call it Carolina Crossroads

It's all about branding on South Carolina roads these days.

Some state senators call a proposed state gas-tax hike to help pay to fix highways a "fee increase."

And now the S.C. Department of Transportation has adopted a new moniker for Columbia's most notorious rush-hour bottleneck: the intersection of I-26, I-20 and I-126.

So, **Malfunction Junction** is not the most positive, hopeful name (and it's likely many readers

have called the area other words that can't be mentioned in a family publication).

So DOT is now calling the corridor "**Carolina Crossroads**."

To *The Buzz*, that sounds like the name of **Darius Rucker's** next country album. But agency officials say they needed to give the intersection of highways a new, and nicer, name while developing public plans for a fix.

"It's the crossroads for travel, commerce and commuters," DOT program manager **Brian**

Klauck said.

The name was not a one-man job scrawled on the back of a cocktail napkin.

S.C. DOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the state's consultant on the project, HDR, collaborated to come up with Carolina Crossroads, he said.

No word on rejected names, but using the interstate numbers was out since that "would have been quite a mouthful," Klauck said.

(For what it's worth, our suggestion would have been "I-Sore" in honor of the three interstates.)

The state will spend three years and \$10 million to develop solutions for upgrading Malfunction Junction, er, Carolina Crossroads. They could include additional lanes and ramps, Klauck said.

The first public meeting is 5-7 p.m. May 12 at Se-

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ven Oaks Elementary School in Columbia. (Can't make the meeting? DOT will have information on demand through May 27 at scdotcarolina.com/crossroads.com.)

Klauck insisted folks at his agency call the intersection "Carolina Crossroads," though *The Buzz* suspects there's a jar at DOT for employee to drop quarters if they use the "M" word.

As for the public adopting the new name, "That would be nice," Klauck said.

THE ANONYMOUS SKIES

The race for Volvo's U.S. plant took to the skies

last week with officials from the finalists in South Carolina and Georgia flying to an airport near the automaker's North American headquarters in New Jersey.

S.C. state plane manifests released after the trip listed state Commerce Secretary **Bobby Hitt**, his top deputy and the agency's incentives and legal chiefs among the 11 passengers.

Seven passengers were labeled "confidential."

The Buzz knows at least one of them was Gov. **Nikki Haley**, whose office confirmed she flew on a state plane on the same day.

So we asked the commerce department for the

names of other public officials on the trip.

The agency put the brakes on that request.

A spokesman cited a budget amendment that reads: "(P)assengers flying with an appropriate official of (State Law Enforcement Division) or the Department of Commerce whose confidentiality must, in the opinion of SLED or the department, be protected shall be listed in writing on the flight log as 'Confidential Passenger SLED or the Department of Commerce.'"

We'll take that as score one against the open (records) skies.

A WHITE HOUSE DINNER DATE

Actor **Alan Rickman**

talks kind of like he does in the "Harry Potter" movies, *The Buzz* found out during the White House Correspondents Association dinner last week in Washington.

"I don't like the word self-(pause)-ie," Professor Snape said when a visiting reporter asked for a snapshot. "You will need some ... (pause) ... one else to take the photo ... (pause) ... to."

The Buzz scored a coveted ticket to the annual event, mixing top Washington journalists with movie, TV and sports stars and the president. (A shout out to **Steve Thomas** at the McClatchy DC bureau for the invite.)

About the only South Carolina connection *The*

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Buzz spotted at the dinner was former Maryland Gov. **Martin O'Malley**, who had flown back from the S.C. Democratic Convention earlier Saturday to make the event. (Maybe he regretted coming after becoming the butt of jokes in routines by both President **Barack Obama** and dinner entertainer **Cecily Strong** of "Saturday Night Live.")

The Buzz hovered around the red carpet. We got there after actor **Bradley Cooper** and Cowboys quarterback **Tony Romo** arrived, but we saw actresses **Ashley Judd** and **Jane Fonda**, tennis great **Billie Jean King** and (insert your own description) **Martha Stewart**.



The Buzz

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We sat near actresses **Lucy Lui** and **Connie Britton** during dinner. (And some journalists. But we sit near reporters every day.)

There is a point to having the \$300-a-ticket dinner.

Proceeds go toward scholarships. Among the recipients was **Brandi Montgomery**, a Howard University broadcast journalism major from Hopkins.

When Montgomery was recognized at the dinner, The Buzz is pretty sure we heard her zing a one-liner at O'Malley.

2016 IN S.C.: LARGEST GOP GATHERING YET

South Carolina's largest single-day gathering of announced and potential 2016 Republican presidential candidates takes place Saturday in Greenville.

Depending on how you count 'em, up to 11 White House wannabes are speaking at the **S.C. Freedom Summit** sponsored by Washington-based political advocacy group Citizens United.

Confirmed for Saturday are: retired neurosurgeon **Ben Carson**; Texas Sen. **Ted Cruz**; former Hewlett-Packard chief executive **Carly Fiorina**; Louisiana Gov. **Bobby Jindal**; former Texas Gov. **Rick Perry**; Florida Sen. **Marco Rubio**; former Pennsylvania Sen.

Rick Santorum; and Wisconsin Gov. **Scott Walker**.

Also coming are a pair of other presidential testers: Tennessee Rep. **Marsha Blackburn**; former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations **John Bolton**; and New York real estate mogul **Donald Trump**.

The event at the 2,100-seat Peace Center, meant to allow grassroots activists hear from conservative leaders, is sold out, organizers said.

But there will be plenty of access for those who can't make it.

C-SPAN will air the forum live, and more than 150 media organizations – one for every would-be GOP candidate – have sought credentials.

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THE STATE/FILE PHOTOGRAPH

Yes, traffic has always been bad, the exit ramps too tight and drivers too twitchy. Malfunction Junction in the late 1990s.

Title: **Haley'fightingmyownRepublicans'**
 Author: ByANDREWSHAIN ashain@thestate.com
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GOP CONVENTION

Haley 'fighting my own Republicans'

Governor hits
 GOP legislators
 who haven't
 backed her stances

By ANDREW SHAIN
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Five 2016 presidential prospects were supposed to highlight the S.C. Republican Convention on Saturday, but Gov. Nikki Haley grabbed the spotlight to showcase her heated fight against lawmakers in her own party.

Haley asked state party delegates to vote out S.C. legislators if they back a bond bill and a roads funding plan that did not include an income tax cut.

"That red is not as bright as it used to be," the Lexington Republican said, referring to the party's color theme.

Haley has held little back

GOP

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Republicans?" Haley asked. "These are the people that are supposed to be with me. ... Where's my army?"

House President Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, a York Republican who was not among the GOP lawmakers on Ha-

ley in her criticisms of GOP state lawmakers who failed to back her stances. The former state representative was criticized for telling a Realtors group in March that they needed to take a "good shower" after visiting the State House.

On Saturday, she took the messages that she posts on her Facebook account to an audience of Republican activists gathered in Columbia.

The governor has opposed proposals to issue bonds of up to \$500 million and roads funding plans that raise the state gas tax and other vehicle fees with-

out a large, corresponding income-tax cut. She also protested a plan last year by lawmakers to boost their pay.

Haley listed 17 of 105 Republicans in the Legislature who she said have agreed with her on these three issues.

"At a time where presidential candidates will be coming though South Carolina, how can WE hold our head up when all year I have been fighting my own

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AT THESTATE.COM: See more photos with this story

ley's list of those backing all of her agenda, said Haley chose the best venue to air her grievances against legislators with a convention filled with Republican activists.

"I wish we could find ways to come together to work for the good of the people," Pope said.

With five White House hopefuls speaking at the S.C. Republican convention on Saturday, Haley's speech highlighting her willingness to fight within her party could be perceived as an audition for a job in a Republican ad-

ministration.

She also will get national attention when CBS' morning show plans to air an interview with the governor later this week.

Haley has said repeatedly that she has no plans to leave Columbia before her term

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ends in January 2019. She has not endorsed a 2016 presidential candidate, though she has close ties to early front-runners Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Bush addressed the GOP convention with other four other presidential hopefuls – Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum. Also Saturday, state Republicans re-elected Matt Moore as party chairman for a two-year term. Moore was appointed chairman in 2013 when Chad Connelly resigned to take a post with the National Republican Committee.

Haley's willingness to fight within her own party could be perceived as an audition for a job in a Republican administration.

WHAT THE PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS SAID

Sampling of speeches by the five 2016 Republican presidential hopefuls who appeared at the S.C. GOP convention on Saturday in Columbia:

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush: “Restoring security means we need to be engaging the world in an appropriate way. By the way, to do that, you shouldn’t have any experience in the Obama administration. You shouldn’t be riding shotgun with the guy who pulled us back. So I guess that (Democratic front-runner) Hillary Clinton is not going to be the proper person to bring us back to a stable world. ... She has her fingerprint on all these foreign policy disasters.”

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz: “We need a president who doesn’t serve as an apologist for radical Islamic terrorists. We need a president who says ISIS is the face of evil. ... The single greatest threat to our national security is the threat of the nation of Iran with nuclear weapons. ... Let me give you the very simplest principle of history: If somebody tells you that they want to kill you, believe them.”

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham: “I see a country that’s going to come back stronger; a country with a military that can take on anybody anywhere and crush them; a coun-

try that understands that Israel is not the problem, Israel is the solution; a country where a poor kid in Baltimore has a school worth going to, finally.” (Graham also announced that he will retire from the Air Force next month after 33 years of active and reserve service.)

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry: “We cannot accept one in 10 Americans either being out of work or unemployed or just giving up hope in finding a job. It’s not acceptable for one in five children in the country to live in a family on food stamps. It’s time to revive the American economy and to cut corporate tax rates to bring those jobs we throw away overseas ... back home, (and) bring prosperity to Main Street, not just Wall Street.”

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum: “We understand we need a vision that’s inclusive of those Americans without college degrees that they have the opportunity to rise. ... You’ve got great jobs here in South Carolina manufacturing. ... Those jobs that are family jobs. Those are jobs of small-town America so we can create the vibrant society we need. ... But what about putting vocational education back in our high schools to get our kids the training they need? That’s common sense.”

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JEFF BLAKE/JBLAKE@THESTATE.COM

Gov. Nikki Haley chats at the S.C. Republican Silver Elephant dinner Friday.



Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry poses for pictures at the Republican Convention.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS GILLESPIE/ONLINE@THESTATE.COM

**Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks Saturday during the S.C. Republican Convention
at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.**

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Haley blasts GOP legislators

By **BILL BARROW**
 The 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 GOP Chairman Matt Moore 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," he 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.

Title: **British invasion**
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British invasion

Sir Paul McCartney to perform in Columbia on June 25

By **KIM KIM FOSTER-TOBIN**
 and **AARON RANSELL**

The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — The build-up to the announcement had Columbia guessing as to which huge act would visit the Capital City next.

Big names such as the Rolling Stones, U2 and The Who were being thrown around, but official word was kept quiet up until Gov. Nikki Haley took the stage on the Colonial Life Arena floor Tuesday in a news conference flanked with British flags.

“It is my pleasure to announce that ... ‘Maybe I’m Amazed’ that we got him ... but we did get him,” Haley said to build suspense. “Sir Paul McCartney will be coming as part of his ‘Out There’ Tour on June 25 of this year to Colonial Life Arena.”

Though it will be McCartney’s first visit to the Colonial Life Arena, it won’t be his first visit to Columbia. McCartney played

in Williams-Brice Stadium on May 7, 1993, as part of his “The New World Tour 1993.”

So what did it take to get the legendary McCartney to come back?

Honestly, luck.

“He’s playing a festival in Dover, Del., and somewhere along the line someone decided to add some more shows,” Allen Corbett, vice president of AEG Live said. “The build-up was available, and you have to be a certain proximity from city A and city B.”

Corbett, whose father was also a promoter, said drawing such a big star to Columbia was special.

“To have someone of this caliber coming to what I consider my hometown, I got a few goosebumps. It’s always great to walk around a sold-out show and see people just having a great night all night long.”

The capacity for the Colonial Life Arena is about 18,000, but Corbett estimates that when taking into account seating and sight-lines, around 12,000 tickets will be sold for the McCartney concert.

It is currently McCartney’s only planned stop in the Southeast.

Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday at the arena’s box office and through LMC-tix.com.

“To have someone of this caliber coming to what I consider my hometown, I got a few goosebumps.”

Allen Corbett, vice president of AEG Live

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Gov. Nikki Haley gets her photograph taken with a cutout of Paul McCartney during the announcement Tuesday that the former Beatle will be performing at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on June 25.