

Title: **Senate votes to oust SC State board of trustees**
 Author: By Andrew Shain The State
 Size: 8.52 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Senate votes to oust SC State board of trustees

By Andrew Shain

The State

COLUMBIA — The state Senate gave key approval to a bill late in the week to oust S.C. State University's trustees.

The move comes after years of financial turmoil at the Orangeburg school, the state's only historically black public college.

Senators amended a House-approved version of a bill to remove the 10-member board. The differences between the House and Senate bills will be negotiated in a conference committee after a final perfunctory Senate vote.

The Senate wants the governor and top lawmakers to appoint five temporary trustees to oversee S.C.

State. The House wants the five-member S.C. Budget and Control Board — made up of Gov. Nikki Haley, two legislators and two other elected officials — to name five interim trustees.

Both versions have the temporary board remain in charge of S.C. State until 2018. Lawmakers would appoint a new permanent board after that.

Title: **Union benefits**
Author:
Size: 12.4 square inch
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Union benefits

"The lady doth protest too much me thinks" to quote Shakespeare. Daily I read or hear Gov. Nikki Haley speaking out against the union's attempt to organize at Boeing. Why does she so vehemently oppose a union presence? I do not know.

She doesn't seem to care about enhancing the laborers' lives. No, she cares about the fact that it would make her look bad. Just exactly what is so bad about the union?

Many years ago, while employed as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, I belonged to our union. Our representatives ensured that we were treated fairly.

Until the union stepped in and said that we deserved pay at time and a half for anything over eight hours a day or 40 hours a week, they would work us like a dog one day then limit our hours the next in order to avoid paying overtime.

This is one of the many protections the union provided us.

My experience has been that management can be greedy — their bottom line is production and profitability at the expense of their employees.

I have had connections with the Cocoa Beach area of Florida for decades. My friends in the aerospace industry are thankful for the voice, protection and wages that their union provides.

Just exactly what is so bad about the union?

JANINE HILLEGAS
*Thorpe Constantine Avenue
Johns Island*

Title: **Machinists withdraw request for union vote**
 Author: By Bruce Smith Associated Press
 Size: 40.76 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Machinists withdraw request for union vote

**Attempt to unite
Boeing S.C.
workers on hold**

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON The Machinists union is delaying its attempt to organize Boeing workers in South Carolina, announcing Friday that it's withdrawing a petition to hold a union vote next week because of what it called a toxic atmosphere and political interference.

Almost 3,200 production workers at Boeing facilities in North Charleston, where the aeronautics giant has a 787 assembly plant, were eligible to vote in the election that was set for April 22.

Withdrawing its petition before the National Labor Relations Board means there cannot now be another union vote for at least six months. Boeing employs nearly 7,500 workers in South Carolina.

"We've determined now is not the right time for an election," said Mike Evans, lead organizer for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. "An

atmosphere of threats, harassment and unprecedented political interference has intimidated workers to the point we don't believe a free and fair election is possible."

The union said it had contacted about 1,700 workers but Evans said the home visits were suspended after two organizers were threatened at gunpoint and other workers reported hostile confrontations.

"I hold the Boeing Company, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and their surrogates responsible for creating an atmosphere of state-sanctioned hostility toward unions and union organizers," Evans said.

"The IAM's allegations are ridiculous," responded company spokeswoman Candy Eslinger. "We've taken a very transparent approach to informing our teammates and the community about what it

means to be represented by the IAM. We have provided factual information backed up by data throughout this entire process."

Haley, a strong opponent of unions, had urged Boeing workers to vote against representation.

"We are proud of our loyal workforce, their unmatched work ethic and the strong, direct relationships they have with employers in our state," Haley said in a statement released by her office. "In South Carolina our workers know that we always have their back."

The AP left a message with Haley seeking comment on the union allegations.

Beverly Wyse, vice president and general manager for Boeing South Carolina, issued a statement thanking workers for "their passion, spirit and determination to move forward together."

She added that "we now

have the opportunity to make Boeing South Carolina and our local community an even better place to work and live."

The union, which has filed unfair labor practice complaints, said it will continue efforts to organize Boeing workers. Less than 4 percent of workers in South Carolina are members of unions.

The Machinists have had members in the Charleston area before. The union won the right to represent workers at Vought Aircraft Industries in 2007, a plant that Boeing later bought. Less than two years later, plant workers voted against union representation.

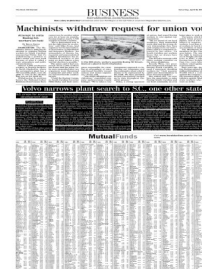
Four years ago, shortly before Boeing opened the \$750 million Dreamliner plant, the NLRB filed a complaint against the company alleging the nonunion plant was in retaliation against Washington state workers who earlier went on strike.



BRUCE SMITH - AP

In this 2013 photo, workers assemble Boeing 787 Dreamliners at a plant in North Charleston.

Title: **Volvo narrows plant search to S.C., one other state**
 Author: By Cassie Cope ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 32.08 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Volvo narrows plant search to S.C., one other state

S.C. preps for economic development deal

By CASSIE COPE
 ccope@thestate.com

South Carolina is one of two states that Volvo is considering for a \$500 million auto plant that would employ up to 4,000.

"For quite some time, I've been under the impression that Volvo has Berkeley County under consideration," state Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, said Friday, confirming a report by Reuters news service. "I've also heard that it's between South Carolina and one other state."

The identity of that other state in the Volvo sweepstakes has not been confirmed. However, most attention has focused on Georgia, where legislators just approved \$25 million for a new worker training center near Savannah.

Typically, manufacturers pit states against each other to secure incentive packages, including tax credits for jobs created, free land and other perks.

A circumstantial case can be made that South Carolina is doing everything it can to attract Volvo.

■ Berkeley County has applied for a permit to fill wetlands and clear land for a manufacturing operation expected to employ 4,000 workers within a decade. State

Commerce Department officials met with conservationists earlier this week, attempting to work out a

deal to expedite development of the site. That deal reportedly would include an agreement to preserve endangered wetlands elsewhere in the state.

■ S.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has revived a plan to borrow for building and infrastructure projects. Leatherman was a key negotiator in bringing Boeing to South Carolina, helping secure \$450 million in incentives for the aircraft manufacturer's first \$750 million investment. Leatherman's proposed bond package could include money for workforce training as well as incentives.

"If the Senate does do a bond bill, it more than likely will include many more economic incentives than the House (budget) wound up with," Limehouse said.

Earlier this session, S.C. House budget writers proposed borrowing nearly \$500 million, including \$111 million for technical schools and workforce training. That proposal, which collapsed under opposition from Gov. Nikki Haley, also included

\$60 million for water and sewer projects for economic development.

Some projects in the bond proposal were scaled back and put in the House version of the state budget that takes effect July 1.

For example, the bond package included \$35 million for an aeronautical training center at Trident Technical College in the Lowcountry. That project, which also could train workers for a car manufacturer, ultimately received \$20 million in the House budget.

"If they can train workers how to build airplanes, I would think that those same workers would be very valuable on an automobile assembly line," Limehouse said.

State Rep. Gary Simrill, the Rock Hill Republican who chairs the House budget panel that decides economic development spending, said the state's "deal-closing fund," used to land large projects, is open-ended, allowing negotiations to take place.

The House approved \$8 million for that fund this year. But senators could put more money into the fund next week as they decide now to recommend spending state dollars.

Title: **Spearman urges students to prepare for ACTs**
 Author:
 Size: 21.39 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Another view

Spearman urges students to prepare for ACTs

By MOLLY SPEARMAN
 S.C. Superintendent of Education

This week state Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman called on teachers, parents and students to prepare for the new, timed ACT tests that will be administered across the State April 28-30:

I am proud of the innovation and collaboration I have seen during my visits to schools throughout South Carolina. We are fostering a culture of teamwork and a love of learning, and I want to encourage everyone to keep up the great work.



Spearman This month, we're administering ACT Aspire to all students in grades three through eight. For students in the 11th grade, they will take a college readiness exam and a work force readiness test: The ACT and WorkKeys. These exams will provide important feedback to teachers and parents in the areas students are strong in, and areas where they need support.

For high school students, WorkKeys will show them if they have the foundational skills that leaders in the business community want from their employees. Gov. Nikki Haley, our Department of

This weekly column features other and sometimes opposing views. All commentaries submitted become the property of The Herald and may be republished in any format.

Commerce, members of the General Assembly and business men and women from around the state have done a wonderful job recruiting industry to South Carolina. We are creating thousands of good-paying jobs. WorkKeys is an indicator of whether our high school students are ready to take on these highly-skilled positions.

I am proud to launch a public service announcement video this week. We have created a Web page with resources for parents and students, and we are using social media to spread awareness about these new tests. I encourage all parents and students to study, work hard, and prepare for these new, timed tests.

I am also taking this opportunity to evaluate the testing requirements in South Carolina. I agree that we need accountability and tests. However, I also believe that it's time to evaluate what kinds of tests we're giving to students – and more importantly – how many, so we can develop a fair system that balances the need for testing with a passion for learning.

Title: **Insurance proposal scuttled**
 Author: By Cassie Cope The State
 Size: 40.14 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Insurance proposal scuttled

Health coverage program plan will re-emerge as standalone legislation

By Cassie Cope

The State

COLUMBIA — Senate budget writers scuttled a proposal Thursday to create a program that would have used federal and state dollars to pay for private health insurance for almost 200,000 South Carolinians.

But the proposal will re-emerge within two weeks as standalone legislation, said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland.

"These are our neighbors," said Lourie. "These are our friends. These are hardworking, taxpaying South Carolinians."

Lourie withdrew his amendment to create the program after it became clear senators did not support debating the proposal as part of the state budget.

Roughly 194,000 South Carolinians, most members of the working poor, could have been insured by the program. Most earn too much to be eligible for subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act but do not make enough to buy their own coverage.

But other senators, including powerful Senate

leader and Senate Finance Committee chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, opposed the way Lourie suggested creating the program.

Leatherman said a far-reaching proposal of the magnitude that Lourie proposed should not be made law as part of the budget. Instead, the proposal should go through the normal vetting process used for standalone legislation, going from introduction to subcommittee to committee to the Senate floor.

Lourie said senators will file legislation that mirrors the budget amendment within the next two weeks.

Previous attempts to expand the federal-state Medicaid insurance program for the poor in South Carolina as part of the federal Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, also have failed.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who opposes expanding Medicaid, said earlier this week that she would fight Lourie's proposal as well.

But Leatherman said the threat of a veto by Haley did not carry as much

weight after the House approved a roads plan Wednesday that the Republican governor had threatened to veto. That plan passed the House 87-20, a large enough margin in the GOP-dominated House to survive a veto.

"I've never been afraid of a veto," Leatherman said after the meeting, adding the House vote sent a "tremendous message."

Lourie's proposal had bipartisan support.

Republican state Sens. Paul Campbell of Berkeley and Ray Cleary of Georgetown sponsored the proposal, along with Democratic state Sen. John Matthews of Orangeburg.

A half-dozen members of the 23-member Senate Finance Committee spoke out in favor of the proposal Thursday. Some cited studies saying expanding Medicaid would be a multibillion-dollar boon to the state's economy, adding the state is willing to spend hundreds of millions to attract economic-development projects.

Opponents sat silent, in part because it was clear the proposal would not advance in the budget.

Lourie told the committee the proposal is "not about whether you are for

or against Obamacare."

Instead, he said, the proposal would create a public-private partnership to close the health-care coverage gap between the working poor and other South Carolinians.

Lourie said it is much less expensive for an insured South Carolinian to go to the doctor for preventive care than for an uninsured resident to go to the emergency room, leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab.

Campbell, a retired business executive, said he is not for expanding Medicaid, but looks at the proposal from a business perspective. There has to be a more cost-effective way to pay for health care for poor South Carolinians than the current system, he added.

The proposal would have followed a framework being used in GOP-controlled Arkansas.

In South Carolina now, adults who are not disabled and earn \$15,000 or less are ineligible for Medicaid, with a few exceptions. Parents of young children are eligible for Medicaid if their income is about \$7,000 or less, and pregnant women are eligible if their income is about \$23,000 or less.

Title: **State to roll out new license tags**
 Author: By Andrew Shain The State
 Size: 34.25 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



State to roll out new license tags

By Andrew Shain

The State

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's license plates featuring a sunrise will begin to sunset as early as 2018, *The State* has learned.

"It's out of here," S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles Director Kevin Shwedo said of the state's seven-year-old tag, which some drivers dislike because it appears to have Clemson University's school colors.

The state agency will roll out new plates over the next six years with a standard template used for all 4.2 million state tags — even plates that, for an extra fee, promote colleges, professions and social causes.

The new plates will have a white background with black numbers and letters, and "South Carolina" written across the bottom in black lettering.

Distinctive accent coloring now used in special plates, such as garnet for the University of South Carolina or yellow for fans of musician Jimmy Buffett, will no longer be included. Those plates can cost up to an extra \$75 every two years in addition to the standard \$24 fee.

The new tags will have color emblems — the palmetto tree and crescent moon from the state flag or college logos. The emblems will go to the left of the plate's identification numbers and letters.

All plates will be topped with red and blue stripes with wording between in black lettering.

On special plates, the name of the college, organization or cause will be written between the stripes. The state also will continue to offer a plate that says "In God We Trust," Shwedo said.

Motor Vehicles has not decided what phrase to print on standard tags, used by about of half of the state's 4.2 million registered vehicles.

"People get very, very emotional with what you put on there," Shwedo said.

The agency is considering the state motto, "Dum spiro spero," or its translation from Latin, "While I breathe, I hope," after some test marketing, Shwedo said.

The agency weighed other phrases, including the state's current tourism slogan, "Just Right," and a phrase pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley, "It's a great day in South Carolina."

"From a personality standpoint, I love it," Shwedo said of Haley's catchphrase, "because I personally believe I set the conditions for myself and all those people that work with me for a great day.

"But I also am not stupid enough to think that people wouldn't lose their minds" if the plates included a phrase favored by the Republi-

can governor, said Shwedo, who was appointed by Haley. "My intent is not to do anything that's going to alienate anybody."

South Carolina last changed its license plates in 2008 but not without controversy.

Some drivers said the 2008 tags, featuring a sunrise sky, included Clemson's school colors of purple and orange. They said the deep blue used for the tag's palmetto tree, moon and hills looked purple, while a portion of the sky was orange.

Shwedo's main complaint with the current tag is that the background is too dark to read plate numbers. "How do you see this at night?"

Standardizing all of the state's plates, even the special ones, would make S.C. tags more easily identifiable to motorists and law enforcement, the S.C. Sheriffs' Association and S.C. Department of Public Safety said.

Motor Vehicles offers about 170 special plates on its website.

The price to change all the state's license plates, an estimated \$45 million, will be covered by a \$2 fee that motorists pay every two years with their vehicle registration, Shwedo said.

For standard tags, the changeover could start as early as 2018, Shwedo said.

Title: **UNION WITHDRAWS SC BOEING VOTE**
 Author: By Bruce Smith Associated Press
 Size: 80.44 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



UNION WITHDRAWS SC BOEING VOTE

By Bruce Smith

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — The Machinists union is delaying its attempt to organize Boeing workers in South Carolina, announcing Friday that it is withdrawing a petition to hold a union vote next week because of what it called a toxic atmosphere and political interference.

Almost 3,200 production workers at Boeing facilities in North Charleston, where the aeronautics giant has a 787 assembly plant, were eligible to vote in the election that was set for April 22.

Withdrawing its petition before the National Labor Relations Board means there cannot now be another union vote for at least six months. Boeing employs nearly 7,500 workers in South Carolina.

"We've determined now is not the right time for an election," said lead union organizer Mike Evans. "An atmosphere of threats, harassment and unprecedented political interference has intimidated workers to the point we don't believe a free and fair election is possible."

"An atmosphere of threats, harassment and unprecedented political interference has intimidated workers to the point we don't believe a free and fair election is possible."

MIKE EVANS

lead union organizer

The union said it had contacted about 1,700 workers but Evans said the home visits were suspended after two organizers were threatened at gunpoint and other workers reported hostile confrontations.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a strong opponent of unions, had urged Boeing workers to vote against being represented by the Machinists.

"I hold the Boeing Company, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and their surrogates responsible for creating an atmosphere of state-sanctioned hostility toward unions and union organizers," Evans said.

Beverly Wyse, the vice president and general manager for Boeing

South Carolina, issued a statement thanking workers for "their passion, spirit and determination to move forward together."

She added that "we now have the opportunity to make Boeing South Carolina and our local community an even better place to work and

live."

The Associated Press left a message with Haley seeking comment.

The union, which has filed unfair labor practice complaints, said it will continue efforts to organize Boeing workers. Less than 4 percent of workers in South Carolina are members of unions.

The Machinists have had members in the Charleston area before. It won the right to represent workers at Vought Aircraft Industries in 2007, a plant that Boeing later bought. Less than two years later, plant workers voted against union representation.

Four years ago, shortly before Boeing opened the \$750 million Dreamliner plant, the NLRB filed a complaint against the company alleging the nonunion plant was in retaliation against Washington state workers who earlier went on strike.

The NLRB later dropped the complaint after Boeing agreed that the 737 Max would be built in Washington.

Title: **UNION WITHDRAWS SC BOEING VOTE**

Author: By Bruce Smith Associated Press

Size: 80.44 square inch

Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



C. ALUKA BERRY/THE (COLUMBIA) STATE

Thousands of people gather for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner roll out ceremony at Boeing's North Charleston assembly plant.

Title: **Tilden joins JDLH Board of Trustees**

Author:

Size: 12.09 square inch

Laurens, SC Circulation: 7825



Tilden joins JDLH Board of Trustees

Gov. Nikki Haley has appointed Melissa Tilden of Laurens to serve on the John de la Howe School Board of Trustees.



**Melissa
Tilden**

The Raleigh, N.C. native is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she majored in French. She currently assists in a self-contained, learning disabled class at Laurens Middle School. She has also taught French at the high school level, worked in the banking industry and owned and operated a bookstore for 15 years.

Mrs. Tilden and her husband, Spike, have called Laurens home for almost 30 years. They are parents to three daughters and attend First United Methodist in Laurens where she serves as Education Committee Chair. She also served on the Board of Directors of Main Street Laurens for the past five years.

Her appointment calls for her to serve the next three years on the board which governs John de la Howe School, which provides children in grades 6-12 from across South Carolina with a safe place to heal, grow and make lasting changes. Founded in 1797, the school is located on 1,200 scenic acres in the Sumter National Forest near McCormick.