

Title: **Ruling: Haley can't appoint DOT secretary**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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S.C. SUPREME COURT

Ruling: Haley can't appoint DOT secretary

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

A state Supreme Court ruling Wednesday temporarily put the Department of Transportation's leadership in limbo and, according to lawmakers, underscored the Legislature's need to pass a roads bill.

The justices threw out a clause in the 2015-16 budget allowing Gov. Nikki Haley to continue appointing the Transportation secretary, saying it was unrelated to the budget and therefore unconstitutional "log-rolling."

The issue is whether "suspending the termination of the governor's appointment power is reasonably and inherently related to the raising and spending of tax monies. We hold that it is not," Chief Justice Costa Pleicones wrote in the 4-1 decision.

Under the 2007 government restructuring law that put the Transportation agency in the governor's Cabinet, Haley's ability to appoint the secretary should have expired July 1, 2015. Legislators intended to address that as part of highway-funding legislation.

When they couldn't agree on funding, legislators tacked a one-year extension onto the budget.

The court's order says the authority to appoint a

new leader should have reverted last July to the Transportation Department's commission, restoring its full oversight of the agency.

The ruling is another victory for Greenville resident Ned Sloan, a retired paving contractor who, for more than a decade, has successfully challenged the legislative practice of "bob-tailing" — tacking one bill onto another.

Hours after the ruling, commissioners voted 8-0 in an emergency meeting to keep Christy Hall as secretary and ratify her decisions.

"We have no issue with who the secretary is. Apparently the Supreme Court has an issue with how she got there," said DOT Chairman Mike Wooten. "She's what South Carolina needs, and we need to keep her in that position as long as we can."

The Senate confirmed Hall as secretary in January, but she'd been at the helm as acting secretary since last summer. It was her second stint in the interim position, following the second resignation of a Haley appointee. Legislators have widely praised Hall's leadership during the February 2014 ice storm and last fall's catastrophic flooding.

Rep. Gary Simrill, who

has led the House's highway-funding efforts, said he wasn't surprised by the high court's ruling.

"We were Band-aiding the process," the Rock Hill Republican said.

It does show the ramifications of what could happen if the Legislature continues to delay on legislation aimed at fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads, and it highlights the need to combine reform with funding, Simrill said.

Later Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously advanced a bill merging a Senate borrowing proposal with changes in the DOT's governance. It would continue to give the commission appointing powers, with legislators' approval, but allow the governor to

appoint every commissioner. Currently, legislators appoint seven commissioners and the governor appoints one.

The borrowing plan — which the Senate approved as part of its budget proposal for 2016-17 — uses about \$200 million in existing fees, fines and vehicle sales taxes to borrow \$2 billion over 10 years. Hall has said that frees up other money the DOT can use to replace bridges and pave roads, allowing for more than \$4 billion worth of work total.

Title: **Columbia, USC finalizing bid to host NCAA men's regional**
 Author: BY DAVID CLONINGER dcloninger@thestate.com
 Size: 55.64 column inches
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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Columbia, USC finalizing bid to host NCAA men's regional

BY DAVID CLONINGER
 dcloninger@thestate.com

Sites for 2019-2022 tournaments to be announced at end of year

Ron Morris leading initiative as a consultant to city

Regional could mean \$10-15 million economic impact for area

South Carolina will see a predetermined postseason event played within its borders for the first time since 2005 when the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament is held in Greenville next March.

Why stop there?

Columbia is finalizing a bid to host an NCAA men's basketball tournament regional at Colonial Life Arena. The NCAA will consider host sites for regionals in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and the city and university are aggressively lobbying to be one of them.

"It's just too great an opportunity for the city of Columbia to pass up," said Ron Morris, former columnist for The State and the man who has spearheaded Columbia's NCAA basketball initiative. "This

could have an economic impact of 10 to 15 million dollars for the city and the Midlands, for one week-end. There's never been an event in the history of the city to have that type of impact."

Morris, a college basketball fan for 50 years who has covered it for several publications and wrote "ACC Basketball: An Illustrated History," proposed the idea to the city after the Confederate flag was lowered in July.

With the NCAA's boycott of predetermined championship events in the state ending, Morris thought it would be a good idea if the city and USC would bid on a future NCAA tournament regional, or hire somebody to oversee the process.

The city agreed and asked Morris to lead it. Morris is being paid \$28,800 as a consultant to the city, or for 20 hours per week since July. He estimates he's worked up to 60 hours per week on the project.

Morris interviewed 35 to 40 city and athletic de-

partment officials at arenas and host cities who won previous bids, discovering what it took to get a bid and what Columbia needed to do to make its bid one of the best.

Working with USC athletic officials Ray Tanner, Kevin O'Connell and Charles Waddell along with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson and others, Morris has labored for 10 months on a plan that will win an NCAA regional.

In the middle of the research, North Carolina passed the controversial HB2 bill into law. The NCAA promptly responded by saying discrimination has no part in their business, and would start considering host sites based on the host's acceptance of all people.

North Carolina has been a popular spot for past NCAA basketball regionals, with Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh taking turns. With the new law threatening to take North Carolina off the list of potential host states, South Carolina could ben-

efit.

"We have been a state that shows very strong people, of faith, and of kindness, and of acceptance, but also willingness to move forward," Gov. Nikki Haley said on Monday, when Greenville was chosen for the SEC women's tournament. "And so this is really a tribute to the people of South Carolina, for showing that we are ready to welcome in any tournament that wants to come."

Morris' plan is to keep Columbia and USC ahead of the curve in being accommodating hosts. The bid will be finalized and submitted by mid-August (other cities and arenas in South Carolina might also be bidding) and the NCAA will do its own checking into the site, including visits, and then announce the winners by the end of the year.

"I'm so confident we'll win and it will pay off in the end," Morris said. "It's not a matter of 'if,' but 'when.' You just can't miss an opportunity to bring an event of that magnitude to the city of Columbia."

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Ron Morris



MATT WALSH mwals@thestate.com

Colonial Life Arena, which had a sellout for the South Carolina and Connecticut women's game, could host an NCAA men's regional.

Title: **S.C. House votes to override Gov. Haley's \$40M farm-aid veto**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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S.C. House votes to override Gov. Haley's \$40M farm-aid veto

House voted 112-2 to reverse governor's farm-aid vetoes

Two-thirds of the state Senate also must vote to overturn veto

House speaker: Haley 'intentionally ignored' plea for help from farmers

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

COLUMBIA

The S.C. House voted Tuesday to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of \$40 million in state aid to farmers whose crops were damaged in October's historic rainfall and flooding.

After several speeches from the House podium pledging to help farmers — many looking on from the House balcony — representatives voted 112-2 to override the governor's veto, prompting applause from the floor.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said Haley "intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out" of a re-

quest that she made for federal aid for S.C. homeowners.

"Because of the governor's refusal to advocate on behalf of our state's largest industry, the General Assembly was forced to take action," Lucas said.

Some House members, who said they are farmers, abstained from voting.

To send the aid to farm-

ers, two-thirds of the S.C. Senate also must vote to overturn Haley's veto. Senators approved the aid by a veto-proof, 33-3 margin.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said he is confident the Senate will override Haley's veto with overwhelming support on Wednesday. "This is something that farmers have got to have."

Haley vetoed the aid package Monday. In her veto message, the Republican governor called the money an "unprecedented bailout" for a "vocal indus-

SEE VETO, 12A

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FROM PAGE 3A

VETO

ry,” adding the same aid was not available to small businesses and homeowners who also suffered losses in the flood.

But lawmakers supporting the farm aid said the state already sends millions to businesses in the form of tax benefits.

“South Carolina farmers need our help,” said state Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, speaking before the vote.

“Did you realize that we put \$40 million in beach renourishment in the budget that passed this House?” he asked other members, noting beaches are important to state’s tourism sector.

State Rep. Justin Bamberg said farming is key to his Bamberg community – the same community, he noted, where Haley grew up.

“When she vetoed the farm-aid bill ... she looked at each and every farmer ... looked them in the eyes and told those farmers to go back and walk through their struggling crops and kick rocks,” said the Democrat. “While we are on watch, our farmers will not kick rocks.”

If the Senate votes to override Haley’s veto, farmers will be able to apply for grants from the state. To qualify, a farmer must have

lost at least 40 percent of a crop. The grants will cover 20 percent of that loss, not to exceed \$100,000.

Speaker Lucas also challenged Haley’s veto justification, calling it “factually incorrect.” Haley argued farmers already have access to enough taxpayer-funded federal aid.

But the speaker’s office said farmers do not have access to federal disaster-relief programs available to small businesses or homeowners. Federal programs for farmers are inadequate in dealing with disasters like October’s flood, Lucas’ office said.

*Jamie Self: 803-771-8658,
@jamiemself*

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**DID YOU REALIZE
THAT WE PUT \$40
MILLION IN BEACH
RE-NOURISHMENT
IN THE BUDGET
THAT PASSED THIS
HOUSE?**

Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York

Title: **Farmers can seek grants after Senate overrides veto**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Farmers can seek grants after Senate overrides veto

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - South Carolina farmers affected by last year's floods will be able to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 after the Senate Wednesday overrode the governor's veto of a \$40 million farm aid bill.

The 39-3 vote followed a 112-2 vote

to override the veto in the House on Tuesday.

Farmers, as they did Tuesday, watched in the balcony and applauded the result. Also watching was state Agriculture Secretary Hugh Weath-

Gov. Nikki Haley, in her veto message, described the bill as an "unprecedented bailout" of a single industry.

See GRANTS, Page 7A

Grants

Continued from Page 1A

She listed various federal resources available to farmers and said she did not believe taxpayers should help farmers just because they are vocal.

"Farms like any other small businesses, have access to public and private programs that help them access capital, recover from emergencies and find markets for their goods," Haley wrote. "Unlike most small businesses, farmers are eligible for federally subsidized insurance that covers up to 85 percent of their business losses with the taxpayer covering an average of 62 percent of the insurance premium costs."

She continued pleading with supporters Tuesday on her Facebook page after the House vote, urging them to contact senators and ask them to sustain her veto.

"There were no winners during last year's 1,000 year flood, and we will continue doing our best to help all of our industries and property owners — fairly — through the recovery process," she posted.

That drew this reaction from Kathy Windham Blakeney

"People with homes and business had insurance too but they received assistance!" she posted. "This is a double standard, and I am not a farmer. I have supported you in the past, but you have received incorrect information and made a costly mistake for small time farmers!"

But Judy Odom thanked Haley for her veto.

"No one sector of SC deserves help at the expense of other South Carolinians," she posted. "All of us were affected by the 1,000 year flood...NOT JUST FARMERS!"

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman of Florence afterward called the veto "irresponsible."

"I'm proud of the leadership shown by the Senate today in offering our farmers a lifeline that they desperately need," he said. "I was absolutely determined that the farmers devastated by this flood would be protected following this irresponsible veto. This isn't

about offering some kind of bailout. It is a fiscally responsible way to support our family farms. Nothing is more important than a stable food supply grown by our farmers right here in South Carolina. In the end, this is about doing what we think is right for the people of our state."

A steady stream of senators went to the podium to give speeches in opposition to the veto, just as House members did the day before.

Sen. Thomas McElveen, a Sumter Democrat who represents three counties dotted with farms, said while he wasn't opposed to financial incentives offered out-of-state industries, the state needs to look after its own after a disaster.

"Let's don't forget the partner who brought us to the dance," he said of farmers.

Sen. Nikki Setzler, leader of Senate Democrats, said he believes the bill is "sound legislation" that has been vetted by lawmakers with safeguards to protect taxpayers. He said crop losses last year totaled \$375 million, with \$250 million not covered by crop insurance.

Setzler said the \$40 million "won't touch the losses they incurred."

"Aid has been given to homeowners," he said. "Aid has been given to businesses. Aid has been given to the state of South Carolina as a result of the flood. And the farmers? We're going to turn our backs and say no? You may, I won't."

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican who voted against the original bill, said he wasn't opposed to farmers but is opposed to favoring certain groups to receive tax money. He said he has opposed certain economic incentives for that reason.

Davis also said he is opposed to granting funds based on emotion.

"There are many compelling stories out there," he said. "Where do we draw the line?"

In order to apply for a Farm Aid grant, a farmer must have a loss of at least 40 percent of total agricultural commodity, House Speaker Jay Lucas said Tues-

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day. Grants awarded would be equal to 20 percent of the total loss, with a maximum grant of \$100,000. Grants could only be used for agricultural production expenses and losses due to October's flood and excludes the purchase of new equipment.

Sen. Luke Rankin, an Horry County Republican,

went through each of Haley's points in her veto message and took issue with them.

"It's not a bailout," he said of the farm aid. "It's a lifeline. And it is a sin that we have not done better by them."



SOUTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU

Water submerged peanut crops after the flood.

Title: **JUDGE HANGS UP HER ROBE**
 Author: ANGELIA DAVIS DAVISAL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM
 Size: 129.89 column inches
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SENTENCED TO RETIREMENT

JUDGE HANGS UP HER ROBE

Chief Magistrate Diane Cagle celebrated by friends and colleagues

ANGELIA DAVIS

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At the end of May, Greenville County Judge Diane Cagle will begin serving a sentence she's imposed upon herself - life in retirement.

The verdict comes after Cagle's 32 years of service in Greenville County's magistrate court system, most of which have been as chief magistrate.

Cagle's plan to retire recently brought together state supreme court justices, former governors, magistrates, members of the law enforcement community, and others to honor her for her service.

Cagle has quite a legacy in Greenville County and South Carolina, said former state Lieutenant Governor Nick Theodore, who was among those thanking her for her "service and many years of deep consideration."

A native of Greenville and graduate of Berea High School, Cagle was vice president of Dixie Iron and Metal, Inc. before she was appointed a magistrate in 1984.

Cagle

Continued from Page 1D

said he attempted to approximate the number of cases that Cagle handled over 32 years

"I simply couldn't do it. It's an impossible task," he said. "To say that the number is well in excess of 100,000 would be a modest estimate."

"We marvel when we think of the number of people who came to you for help along the way, when we think of the number of people whose cases were resolved by you," he said to Cagle. "That, by itself, would be a remarkable career."

But in addition to that, Kittredge said, under Cagle, the magistrate court system here in

Greenville County excelled in adapting to increased workload and structural changes, and an increase in the complexity of cases.

Beyond that, other initiatives and programs were started in Greenville County, including the central bond court and transfer court.

Also, because of her leadership, in 2001, Chief Justice Jean Toal appointed Cagle to serve as the head of the pilot program for the statewide court management system, Kittredge said.

Cagle cites that appointment as one of the highlights of her career. Another highlight, she said, was talking helping to get a Greenville Technical College

When that position initially opened, Cagle, who attended the National Judicial College five times from 1987 through 2000, said she'd gone to senators to request it for a friend who was a clerk of court.

"Each response that I got was 'No, we are not going to appoint him. We are going to appoint you,'" Cagle said. "They talked me into doing it and it has been a blessing."

She responded to the role "beautifully," Theodore said.

She advanced to associate chief magistrate in 1987 and became chief magistrate in 1989. She held that position until 2014.

During her tenure, Cagle earned so much "respect and confidence" of the constituents in her area, Theodore said.

State Supreme Court Justice John Kittredge

See CAGLE, Page 6D

satellite branch placed in the northwest edge of the county, where she could sentence people to get their GED.

Of the 200 people sentenced, only one did not get the diploma, she said.

Cagle is highly regarded and respected by all in the justice

system and in law enforcement because of her uncompromising commitment to fairness and high ethical standards, said Gov. Nikki Haley, who awarded Cagle the Order of the Silver Crescent.

Cagle, who is married to David Holcombe, elevated the judiciary to a new level through her guidance, integrity and

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dedication and civic involvement, said a letter signed by Haley.

Working in the court system had not been among Cagle's aspirations, but she found joy in it because "it was always something different every day and, every now and then, you got the opportunity to help somebody."

Cagle said health and a desire to spend more time with her family helped her conclude that now is the time for her to retire. Her last day will be May 31.

What she'll miss most are the people – "the offenders, the officers, the clerks, the secretaries – everybody."

Her only son, Alan Cagle, said retirement is going to be an adjustment for his mother.

But, he said, "I am personally thrilled to know that she's going to enjoy life a little bit more and stress a little bit less, while continuing to be a mentor.

And, "most of all, still to me, mom," he said.

Among the gifts presented to Cagle during her retirement

celebration was a 1955 Ford Thunderbird.



HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

The Honorable Judge Diane Cagle hugs Rose Griffith during a party celebrating her retirement at the Veranda at the Global Trade Park on Monday.

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PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Former U.S. Education Secretary Dick Riley, right, and Betty Farr, left, speak with the Honorable Judge Diane Cagle during a party celebrating her retirement at the Veranda at the Global Trade Park on Monday.



A party was held to celebrate the career of The Honorable Judge Diane Cagle, who is retiring at the Veranda at the Global Trade Park on Monday.

Title: **German company announces plant**
 Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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German company announces plant

Will bring 45 jobs to Pickens County

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Project Big Apple came to fruition Wednesday, with the announcement that the world's leader in high-speed railway couplings is moving its North American manufacturing headquarters to Pickens County.

County Council gave final approval to a fee-in-lieu of taxes agreement and other incentives in a special meeting at Alliance Pickens headquarters to make way for the announcement that German-based era-contact would be building a \$3.6 million facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park that will create 45 jobs.

The company had been referred to as Project Big Apple in county documents to shield its identity during negotiations because it will be moving its only operation in the U.S. from New York to Pickens County.

"This world leader could have gone anywhere, but they chose Pickens County," council chairman Jennifer Willis said.

Jochen Kurz, general manager of the family-owned company, said the Pickens County School Dis-

trict's Career and Technology Center was one of the key selling points in the decision to locate in the park near Liberty.

"It was love at first sight," he said of his visit to the county while prospecting for a site.

The company will be needing sales people, engineers and technicians, and it expects to be recruiting students right out of the career center and training them for jobs, he said.

The 38,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017, he said.

The company's market in the USA is similar in size to its business in China, where it employs about 200 workers, and Kurz told *The Greenville News* he expects to have that large a workforce here eventually.

"It's always a great day in our state when we can welcome a company like era-contact USA to the South Carolina family," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement released by the Department of Commerce. "Their decision to create 45 new jobs in Pickens County is a huge win for the people of South Carolina and is a real reason to celebrate across the state."

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Artist rendering of a facility to be built by era-contact in the Pickens County Commerce Park.

RON BARNETT

Title: **S.C. lawmakers ban abortions at 20 weeks**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 49.44 column inches
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S.C. lawmakers ban abortions at 20 weeks

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

COLUMBIA

S.C. lawmakers Tuesday passed a bill that would ban abortion at 20 weeks or later – a proposal that has been struck down by courts in three other states as unconstitutional.

The S.C. House voted 79-29 to give final approval to the bill. After it is ratified, it will head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

The bill's passage in the Legislature is a huge victory for abortion opponents. They pushed the 20-week ban asserting that a fetus can feel pain at that age – a point disputed in the medical community.

Haley is expected to sign the bill into law. "I can't imagine any scenario in which I wouldn't sign it," the Lexington Republican said in March, adding she wanted to see the details before making a final decision.

"I am so excited. This is something that we've been working on for four years," said state Rep. Wendy Nanne, R-Greenville, sponsor of the bill. "It is a nice ending to a lot of hard work."

The bill offers no exceptions for rape or incest – omissions that opponents say

will harm some of the state's most vulnerable women.

Nanne's bill does provide an exception for cases of severe fetal anomalies, which would prevent a child from surviving with or without medical intervention.

An abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy or later, calculated as the weeks past fertilization, also would be legal if a doctor says it is necessary to protect the mother from death or severe bodily impairment.

Nanne said she is pleased the proposal does not include exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Those exceptions were included in the S.C. Senate's version of the bill but removed in a compromise bill.

"In the case of the mother's life or the baby is deemed not going to live,

I'm OK with (those exceptions)," she said.

Abortion-rights advocates say the bill targets a small number of women whose pregnancies are wanted but decide, later, to terminate them as a result of severe complications.

State Rep. Beth Bernstein, D-Richland, said the bill would "cause much suf-

fering" for mothers and children born only to die shortly after. "This is not an easy decision, and we're only making it more difficult," Bernstein said.

In South Carolina, an average of 28 abortions a year are performed at 20 weeks or later, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"Abortion later in pregnancy is extremely rare and often takes place in complex and difficult situations where a woman and her doctor need every medical option available," said Alyssa Miller with Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, a pro-abortion rights group.

"In states that have passed similar abortion bans, some women and their families have been put into unimaginable situations — needing to end a pregnancy for serious medical reasons but unable to do so."

Miller said the proposal is part of "an extreme political agenda" designed to "chip away at access to safe and legal abortion."

States have passed a spate of bills attempting to limit access to abortion.

If Haley signs the bill into law, South Carolina will become the 17th state to pass an abortion ban at 20 weeks or earlier since 2010. South Dakota passed a similar law in March.

Those bans have been challenged in three states – Arizona, Georgia and Idaho. Each was struck down as unconstitutional by courts, according to the National Women's Law Center.

But the U.S. Supreme Court, which has said abortion is legal through the second trimester, has not weighed in on whether the 20-week abortion bans are unconstitutional.

On Tuesday, House Democrats warned South Carolina will face a legal challenge for its abortion ban – one that taxpayers will pay for.

State Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, aimed his criticism at Republican House members, 71 of whom voted

for the bill, joined by eight Democrats. "When it comes to a political agenda, then

spending taxpayers' dollars is not a problem," Smith said.

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HOUSE PANEL MERGES PLANS TO BORROW FOR ROAD REPAIRS, REFORM ROADS AGENCY

A S.C. House panel Tuesday merged a plan to borrow more than \$4 billion for road-repair projects with proposed changes to the structure of the state Transportation Department.

The resulting bill could be what lawmakers pass this year as a stop-gap roads fix.

The House panel took the road-financing proposal and added proposed changes to the commission that oversees the Transportation Department. That commission now is legislatively controlled. But, under the proposed restructuring, the eight-member commission would be appointed by the governor.

Some of the added road-repair money would be used to fix Malfunction Junction, the poorly designed, congested interchanges around the intersection of Interstates 20 and 26.

However, the added money could not be used to build any new roads, including proposals to extend Interstate 526 in Charleston or build Interstate 73 to Myrtle Beach. That prohibition appeals to anti-growth coastal conservation groups and others, who want existing roads repaired before new ones are built.

— FROM THE (COLUMBIA) STATE

Title: **SCHouse overrides Haley veto of farmaid**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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SENATE LIKELY TO AGREE

SC House overrides Haley veto of farm aid

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

The S.C. House voted Tuesday to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of \$40 million in state aid to farmers whose crops were damaged in October's historic rainfall and flooding.

After several speeches from the House podium pledging to help farmers – many looking on from the House balcony – representatives voted 112-2 to

override the governor's veto, prompting applause from the floor.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said Haley "intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out" of a request that she made for federal aid for S.C. homeowners.

"Because of the governor's

refusal to advocate on behalf of our state's largest industry, the General Assembly was forced to take action," Lucas said.

Some House members, who said they are farmers, abstained from voting.

To send the aid to farmers, two-thirds of the S.C. Senate also must vote to overturn Haley's veto. Senators approved

the aid by a veto-proof, 33-3 margin.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said he is confident the Senate will override Haley's veto with overwhelming support on Wednesday. "This is something that farmers have

SEE FARMERS, 7A

FROM PAGE 3A

FARMERS

got to have."

Haley vetoed the aid package Monday. In her veto message, the Republican governor called the money an "unprecedented bailout" for a "vocal industry," adding the same aid was not available to small businesses and homeowners who also suffered losses in the flood.

But lawmakers supporting the farm aid said the state already sends millions to businesses in the form of tax benefits.

"South Carolina farmers need our help," said state Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, speaking before the vote.

"Did you realize that we put \$40 million in beach renourishment in

the budget that passed this House?" he asked other members, noting beaches are important to state's tourism sector.

State Rep. Justin Bamberg said farming is key to his Bamberg community – the same community, he noted, where Haley grew up.

"When she vetoed the farm-aid bill ... she looked at each and every farmer ... looked them in the eyes and told those farmers to go back and walk through their struggling crops and kick rocks," said the Democrat. "While we are on watch, our farmers will not kick rocks."

If the Senate votes to override Haley's veto, farmers will be able to apply for grants from the state. To

qualify, a farmer must have lost at least 40 percent of a crop. The grants will cover 20 percent of that loss, not to exceed \$100,000.

Speaker Lucas also challenged Haley's veto justification, calling it "factually incorrect." Haley argued farmers already have access to enough taxpayer-funded federal aid.

But the speaker's office said farmers do not have access to federal disaster-relief programs available to small businesses or homeowners. Federal programs for farmers are inadequate in dealing with disasters like October's flood, Lucas' office said.

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Jimmie Lee Shaw sprays for pests in a cotton field Monday at Overbridge Farms in Newberry.

Title: **Bill puts 20-week limit on abortions**
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MEASURE GOES TO GOVERNOR

Bill puts 20-week limit on abortions

By 79-29 vote, S.C. House gives final approval to proposal

Proposal includes no exceptions for rape or incest

Gov. Nikki Haley expected to sign proposal into law

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

S.C. lawmakers Tuesday passed a bill that would ban abortion at 20 weeks or later – a proposal that has been struck down by courts in three other states as unconstitutional.

The S.C. House voted 79-29 to give final approval to the bill. After it is ratified, it will head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

The bill's passage in the Legislature is a huge victory for abortion opponents. They pushed the 20-week ban asserting that a fetus can feel pain at that age – a point dis-

puted in the medical community.

Haley is expected to sign the bill into law. "I can't imagine any scenario in which I wouldn't sign it," the Lexington Republican said in March, adding she wanted to see the details before making a final decision.

"I am so excited. This is something that we've been working on for four years," said state Rep. Wendy Nanney, R-Greenville,

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ABORTION

sponsor of the bill. "It is a nice ending to a lot of hard work."

The bill offers no exceptions for rape or incest – omissions that opponents say will harm some of the state's most vulnerable women.

Nanney's bill does provide an exception for cases of severe fetal anomalies, which would prevent a child from surviving with or without medical intervention.

An abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy or later, calculated as the weeks past fertilization, also would be legal if a doctor says it is necessary to protect the mother from death or severe bodily impairment.

Nanney said she is pleased the proposal does not include exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Those exceptions were included in the S.C. Senate's version of the bill but

removed in a compromise bill.

"In the case of the mother's life or the baby is deemed not going to live, I'm OK with (those exceptions)," she said.

Abortion-rights advocates say the bill targets a small number of women whose pregnancies are wanted but decide, later, to terminate them as a result of severe complications.

State Rep. Beth Bern-

stein, D-Richland, said the bill would "cause much suffering" for mothers and children born only to die shortly after. "This is not an easy decision, and we're only making it more difficult," Bernstein said.

In South Carolina, an average of 28 abortions a year are performed at 20 weeks or later, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"Abortion later in preg-

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nancy is extremely rare and often takes place in complex and difficult situations where a woman and her doctor need every medical option available," said Alyssa Miller with Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, a pro-abortion rights group.

"In states that have passed similar abortion bans, some women and their families have been put into unimaginable situations — needing to end a pregnancy for serious medical reasons but unable to do so."

Miller said the proposal is part of "an extreme

political agenda" designed to "chip away at access to safe and legal abortion."

States have passed a spate of bills attempting to limit access to abortion.

If Haley signs the bill into law, South Carolina will become the 17th state to pass an abortion ban at 20 weeks or earlier since 2010. South Dakota passed a similar law in March.

Those bans have been challenged in three states — Arizona, Georgia and Idaho. Each was struck down as unconstitutional by courts, according to the National Women's Law

Center.

But the U.S. Supreme Court, which has said abortion is legal through the second trimester, has not weighed in on whether the 20-week abortion bans are unconstitutional.

On Tuesday, House Democrats warned South Carolina will face a legal challenge for its abortion ban — one that taxpayers will pay for.

State Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, aimed his criticism at Republican House members, 71 of whom voted for the bill, joined by eight Democrats. "When it comes to a

political agenda, then spending taxpayers' dollars is not a problem," Smith said.

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The Associated Press contributed. Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

SOUTH CAROLINA WOULD BECOME THE 17TH STATE TO PASS AN ABORTION BAN AT 20 WEEKS OR EARLIER SINCE 2010.

Title: **There's nothing fair about a flood, or the governor's veto**
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There's nothing fair about a flood, or the governor's veto

In October, our state was hit with an unprecedented natural disaster. Many families and communities suffered devastating losses: homes destroyed, businesses shut down, vital infrastructure damaged. Sadly, some even lost friends and loved ones.

The historic flooding touched nearly every corner and every citizen of South Carolina in some way. While government assistance, hardworking volunteers, charities and countless individuals have helped many, we still have a long way to go before we fully recover. This is especially true for our farmers.

South Carolina's farmers were among those hardest hit by the storm. They suffered more than \$376 million in crop loss. Crop insurance will cover about a third of that. Believe me: Crop insurance is just not like normal business insurance or your homeowners insurance.

To date, FEMA has paid approximately \$375 million for homeowners through flood-insurance claims and other assistance. An additional \$157 million is com-

ing to South Carolina from the federal budget passed in December. Farmers were excluded from this financial assistance, and there's none on the way.

Chances are, you or someone you know missed work and wages because of the flooding. For many families, losing just a few days of work can mean a late car payment or postponing a medical procedure or some other important purchase.

Imagine, though, if the floods cost you an entire year of work and income. How would and your family cope?

That is exactly the situation our farmers face. Like every year, they invested money to put a crop in the ground in 2015. When the October floods washed crops away right at harvest time, the investment was lost too, and now farmers have to wait until the 2016 crop is harvested to produce income to live on and pay the bills.

The Palmetto Farm Aid bill represents the last real chance to help farmers left out of all the other assistance flowing into the state. It creates a one-time \$40



HUGH E. WEATHERS
Guest Columnist

million fund to help those farms hit hardest by the storm. Only those farmers most affected by this disaster are eligible for grants, and the grant can only pay up to 20 percent of what was lost.

Our legislators understand how important this assistance is to our farmers. That is why this bill passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 95-6, and the Senate by 33-3.

Unfortunately, Gov. Nikki Haley does not support this help for farmers, calling it a bailout. It is not; it's just a lifeline. To those who have likened the Palmetto Farm Aid Bill to the bank bailout of 2008, there is a major difference: Unlike the banks, farmers did not make the mess they are in, and no amount of pre-

planning or investment in crop insurance could have prevented the loss and devastation we saw.

Now, Gov. Haley has vetoed the last bit of hope for many. This is consistent with her previous decision to leave farmers out in her request for help for South Carolina from Washington. However, it is not consistent with her numerous statements about fairness and treating everyone equally when it comes to providing financial assistance.

The consequences of this flood were extreme and should be treated as such. This one-time funding of \$40 million is only for those hardest hit. While this aid will not make farmers whole, it will provide an opportunity for them to continue production in 2016. Helping those farmers who do so much for all of us — and who have been left out of most the financial assistance coming into the state — is a simple matter of fairness.

Mr. Weathers is S.C. agriculture commissioner; contact him at hweathe@scda.sc.gov.