

**From:** Rep. Bill Hixon - District 83 - South Carolina <bill@billhixon.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Roads Update, Pro-Life Action & Budget Movement- Bill Hixon Legislative Update

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## Representative Bill Hixon, District 83 - Newsletter

Legislative Update March 21, 2016

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it is time for me to seek re-election? Last week I filed to run again for the House of Representatives District 83. Again I ask for your prayers and support. Thank you for all you do for me with your emails, thoughts, and prayers. Please keep them up!

We finished up the week of legislative session in the South Carolina House by clearing the way for South Carolina institutions of higher learning to be more competitive, and also made significant headway on important Pro-Life reform.

After years of pressure from South Carolinians who continue to suffer on our hazardous roadways, the Senate has finally amended and returned the SCDOT reform bill we sent them last year. We discussed and debated their revisions last week. Most of the House does not completely agree with what the Senate returned to us since there would be no source of funding after 2017. Citizens should expect and receive certain basic services from their government, safe roads and bridges being chief among them. I continue to hear from voters in my district that repairing our roads remains one of their top priorities. My House colleagues and I do not intend to delay the passage of this important road funding legislation and will address it as quickly as we are able to do so.

I am pleased to report we have but one final hurdle to clear in getting the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to a conference committee. In conference, minute details can be cleared up between both the House and Senate allowing a final passage in both legislative bodies placing the bill on Governor Nikki Haley's desk for her signature. As House conservatives, we have been working for many months to move this important legislation, and I am hopeful that in the coming weeks I will be able to report that our efforts have been successful. Protecting the unborn from violent pain is not a political issue, but a moral imperative that I am proud to support.

Finally, after many months of deliberation in subcommittee and full committee, the House Ways and Means Committee introduced the State's annual budget for fiscal

year 2016/2017. The initial proposal can be found [here](#), and I welcome your feedback and suggestions. We will be taking the budget up this week.

In order for me to have a strong voice in Columbia, I have to communicate with my constituents. And that is you! My website, newsletters, mailers, and Facebook are the communication tools that I use. It takes extra time, staff, and campaign funds to maintain these tools.

If you would like to contribute, please mail a check to Hixon for House, P.O. Box 7927, North Augusta, SC 29861.

I hope that you find this update helpful and informative. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and allowing me to serve you.

### Legislative Update - March 21, 2016

The House of Representatives approved and sent the Senate [H.4941](#), a bill establishing a statewide program for addressing unsound school district finances. Under the legislation, the State Department of Education is to work with district superintendents and finance officers to develop and adopt a statewide program with guidelines for: (1) identifying fiscal practices and budgetary conditions that, if uncorrected, could compromise the fiscal integrity of a school district; and (2) advising districts that demonstrate these financial problems on the corrective actions that should be taken. The department must establish three escalating levels of fiscal and budgetary concern so that the State Superintendent of Education can declare a 'fiscal watch', a 'fiscal caution', and a 'fiscal emergency' with regard to school district finances. The succeeding levels of budgetary concern carry increasingly stringent requirements for school district recovery plans, audits, and inspections as well as more intensive technical support from the state department. Should a school district's finances warrant the most severe level of concern prompting the State Superintendent of Education to declare a 'fiscal emergency', provisions are included in the legislation for the State Department of Education to promulgate emergency regulations to preclude a default on any type of debt and prevent further decline in the district's finances.

The House amended, approved, and sent the Senate [H.4940](#), a bill that provides in statute for the office of transformation within the State Department of Education. As directed by the State Superintendent of Education, the Office of Transformation provides technical assistance, such as diagnostic reviews of school operations and academics, to under-performing schools and districts with ratings of below average or at risk on annual school report cards or with the lowest percentages of students meeting state standards on state assessments or with the lowest high school graduation rates.

The House approved and sent the Senate [H.4701](#), the "Second Amendment Preservation Act". The legislation provides that the state of South Carolina shall not enforce any federal law, rule, or regulation that took effect after January 1, 2016, that limits the right of a person to own, possess, or use a firearm, ammunition, or

firearm accessories and shall not accept any federal funds or expend any state funds to enforce any federal law, rule, or regulation that took effect after January 1, 2016, that requires firearms to be registered or confiscated.

The House amended and gave second reading approval to [H.4542](#), the "experimental health care treatment law" which provides authorization for physicians to prescribe certain promising experimental treatments to an eligible patient who has considered all available approved treatments for an advanced illness that has been medically determined to be irreversible and, without life sustaining measures, likely to result in death within six months. The provisions apply only to an investigational drug, biological product, or device that has successfully completed phase one of an FDA approved clinical trial but remains under further investigation in federal clinical trials and has not yet been approved for general use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The House amended, approved, and sent the Senate [H.4413](#), a bill revising safe havens for abandoned babies provisions that designate locations, such as hospitals, police stations, and fire stations, where someone may leave an infant under certain circumstances without criminal penalty. The legislation requires all such locations to post a notice on the premises that prominently displays to the public that the facility, agency, or other location is a designated safe haven at which a person may leave an infant. The legislation also provides that the safe haven provisions apply to infants who are no more than one hundred eighty days old rather than the current standard of no more than thirty days old.

The House amended approved, and sent the Senate [H.4943](#), a bill the issuance of deer hunting tags for in-state residents and non-residents. This new tagging system does not revise game zones or seasons, but it does include requirements for hunters to tag every deer taken in the state. The legislation provides for the Department of Natural Resources to issue eight doe day specific tags and three buck tags with the purchase of a South Carolina hunting license and big game permit for in-state residents. Hunters (including youth and gratis licensees) will have the option to purchase two additional buck (with four points on one side or a minimum 12-inch antler spread) tags at \$5 each and/or four additional doe tags at \$5 each. All funds collected from the two additional buck tags sales will go into a Coyote Management Program. With the purchase of a hunting license and big game permit, non-resident hunters will pay \$50 for the first purchased antlered tag and \$20 for each additional antlered tag (with a maximum purchase of four tags of which two must have size restriction). There is a \$10 charge for each antler-less tag purchased. The legislation provides for antler-less and antlered deer limits to be two doe taken per day and two bucks taken per day. The Department of Natural Resources to provide a report of a four year study by July 1, 2022, to the Chairman of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and the Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee on such issues as the status of state's the white tailed deer population and a review of the tagging program. As part of its Coyote Management Program, DNR is directed to develop and implement a coyote tagging and bounty program. The department must tag and release no less than three coyotes in each of the four game zones and apply a bounty of not less than one thousand dollars per tagged coyote. The department must neuter any coyote before it is released.

The House approved and sent the Senate [H.4717](#), a bill that responds to the unprecedented damage of the October 2015 floods by creating the "South Carolina

Farm Aid Fund" to assist farmers in order to prevent the economic collapse of many of the state's farms which could cause a severe disruption in the state's economy and food supply chain.

**As always, thank you for the privilege of serving you in Columbia. If I can ever be of assistance to you, or if you have ideas on issues you want me to share with the rest of the General Assembly, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

As a reminder, you can go to my [website](#) for links to my voting record and bills that I have sponsored or co-sponsored.

Also, you can view Live Broadcasts of the South Carolina House of Representatives daily legislative sessions by clicking [Here](#).

As always you can go to my [FACEBOOK](#) page and hit the like button or visit my [Website](#) for the latest information.

Go to the new [House Roll Call Votes Page](#) to see how all the representatives have voted on all the important bills.

Congressman Joe Wilson now represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is (803) 608-9747.

Senator Tom Young can be reached at: [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or by phone at (803) 649-0000 (o). Senator Young also does weekly newsletters and you can subscribe by emailing him at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com).

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in Columbia. If I can ever be of assistance to you, or if you have ideas on issues you want me to share with the rest of the General Assembly, please don't hesitate to contact me at Home at 803-278-0892 or at work 803-279-8855.

Sincerely,  
Bill Hixon

For more information, please visit my website...

[www.billhixon.com](http://www.billhixon.com)

Check out my FACEBOOK page...

[Bill on FACEBOOK](#)

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