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2018-2019 Budget Report
Representative Chip Huggins
District 85
Serving Irmo and Chapin

The focus of the House this week was almost exclusively on the budget. This is only a partial representation of the budget and it can be viewed on our website: www.schouse.gov

**The House will observe furlough the week of March 26, 2018, saving taxpayers money while the Senate continues its budget work, and we will return to legislative session on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.*

The House of Representatives amended, approved, and sent the Senate **H.4950**, the General Appropriation Bill, and **H.4951**, the joint resolution making appropriations from the Capital Reserve Fund, which together comprise the \$8.8 billion **FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGET**. The budget includes \$8.2 billion in recurring state general fund revenue and \$145 million in Capital Reserve Funds.

\$32.4 million is devoted to the 1% increase in the employer contribution rates for the South Carolina Retirement System and the Police Officers Retirement System that is in keeping with the schedule for addressing the unfunded liability facing the state's pensions established in Act 13 of 2017.

\$56.4 million is included to cover the increased costs of operating the state's health and dental insurance plans with no increases in the premiums paid by employees and small increases in deductibles and copayments. Coverage is expanded to include well visits.

For K-12 public education, \$32 million is used to maintain the base student cost at \$2,425 per pupil.

\$60 million is provided for a statewide 2% teacher salary increase.

\$5 million is used to increase the statewide minimum starting salary for a teacher from \$30 thousand to \$32 thousand.

\$11 million is devoted to technical assistance for low performing schools.

\$13 million in Education Improvement Act funds is included to address S.C. Public Charter School District growth. For Fiscal Year 2018-19, and with funds provided to charter school

authorizers, institutions of higher education and the South Carolina Public Charter School District may not sponsor more than a combined total of sixty schools.

The Department of Education and the State Law Enforcement Division are directed to form a Crisis Intervention Team to develop a report on school safety plans with recommendations for the General Assembly to consider which may include such school safety measures as physical building security, bullet proof and access controlled doors, RFID chip in student identification cards, mental health services, and school resource officers.

Full funding is provided from the Education Lottery for the LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows higher education scholarship programs.

The Department of Health and Human Services is afforded \$26.4 million for Medicaid maintenance of effort to address program cost growth, \$3.8 million to enhance access and increase provider reimbursement rates for Autism Spectrum Disorder Services, and \$4.4 million for opioid use disorder treatment and services.

The Department of Mental Health is afforded \$4.5 million for supported community housing expansion, \$500 thousand for school-based services, and \$2 million for Child and Adolescent Intensive Community and Residential Services.

The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services is afforded \$1.25 million for an enhanced response to Opioid Use Disorder and \$1.75 million for increased opioid treatment and services.

The Department of Social Services is appropriated \$20.3 million for a child and family service review, \$2.7 million for the state's share in a federal child care match, and \$25 million from the Capital Reserve Fund for the development of the child support system.

A \$25 thousand increase is provided for children's services at the Commission for the Blind.

The Department of Natural Resources is allocated \$3 million in recurring funds and \$500 thousand in nonrecurring funds for statewide public wildlife and fisheries management projects, \$1.9 million for salary realignment, \$404 thousand for law enforcement officer step increases, \$415 thousand for vehicle rotation, and \$502 thousand for information technology.

The Conservation Bank Trust is afforded \$3.5 million in recurring funds and \$1.5 million from the Capital Reserve Fund.

A Lottery Reserve Trust Fund is established in case the state should need to pay claims from December 2017 when the South Carolina Education Lottery issued more winning tickets than intended. The trust fund is afforded \$41 million in lottery funds along with all net lottery proceeds, investment earnings, and unclaimed prize money for the year.

The Local Government Fund is maintained at a funding level of \$222 million.

The Department of Public Safety is appropriated \$1 million in recurring funds for Highway Patrol officer overtime and \$400 thousand in recurring funds for local law enforcement grants.

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