

Title: **SC approves bill banning abortion after 19 weeks**  
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# SC approves bill banning abortion after 19 weeks

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it, but wants to look at the details once it reaches her desk.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher. Abortion opponents have also passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, known as an evacuation method.

The South Carolina House approved the bill 79-29. The Senate approved a compromise in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

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# Legislature takes action

## House overrides Haley's veto of \$40M in aid for farmers

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — With dozens of farmers in the lobby and lawmakers cheering every speech, the South Carolina House on Tuesday voted to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of a bill offering \$40 million in state aid to farmers who lost their crops in last year's massive floods.

The 112-2 vote in the Republican-dominated House was a sharp rebuke of a rare veto by their GOP colleague and well beyond the two-thirds needed to send the veto on to the Senate. With a two-thirds vote in that chamber — which passed the bill originally 33-3 — the proposal becomes law.

More than a dozen House members spoke Tuesday, thanking farmers for their hard work in tough times.

Haley's veto had stunned the farmers. Many voted for the governor



**NIKKI  
HALEY**

twice. And they remember her saying more than once after earlier disasters that South Carolina was going to demonstrate that the state had the backs of its farmers.

"It broke my heart," Williamsburg County farmer Brian McClam said of Haley's veto.

McClam lost \$800,000 in 2015. The first blow came just before the October flood when drought withered his cotton, corn, soybeans, peanuts and peas. Then came 24 1/2 inches of rain in three days. It took months for the water to finally drain from much of his 3,000 acres.

"I cannot understand how a governor who runs a whole state doesn't understand how agriculture drives this state," said McClam, who was just one of about 50 farmers and their families on hand for the vote.

In her veto message Monday, Haley said it wasn't fair for farmers to get help that wasn't available to all small businesses. She said farmers

have crop insurance and federal aid to cover their losses.

"The governor got poor advice," said Republican state Agriculture Secretary Hugh Weathers, who said all of the aid isn't near enough to help farmers who are on the hook for all the money lost from 2015 crops and for the money needed to

get 2016 crops in the ground, all the while looking at lower market prices for what they do grow.

The \$40 million proposal would allow farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 each, covering no more than 20 percent of their total loss. A board will award the grants, and Weathers said if the Senate overrides the veto this week, that board could be picked by the end of the month.

Haley took a more conciliatory tone after Tuesday's vote.

"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 said in a statement.