

Title: **Poor schools forced to wait another year for funding**
 Author: JAMIE SELF JSELF@THESTATE.COM
 Size: 66.65 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Poor schools forced to wait another year for funding

JAMIE SELF

JSELF@THESTATE.COM

COLUMBIA - More than a year after the state's highest court ordered lawmakers to improve the state's poor schools, state lawmakers will delay until at least next year deciding whether to help those schools pay to rebuild or replace aging buildings.

A \$200 million-a-year state borrowing plan for those schools — first pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley in January — will die when the legislative session ends in June, state senators said Wednesday.

The bill is expected to be re-introduced next year, the start of a new two-year legislative session. But it could face new legislators, elected in November, and have to compete against what could be new legis-

lative priorities.

News that lawmakers will postpone the borrowing plan until next year is a setback for poor schools, said Carl Epps, an attorney representing schools that sued in 1993 seeking more state money.

"Once again, members of the Legislature won't do what's right by these kids," Epps said. "We've been looking at this for 20 years."

Lawmakers have OK'd \$1.5 million in spending in the state budget that takes effect July 1 to study the building needs of poor school districts, many in rural South Carolina. That study is the first step toward deciding which school districts have the greatest need for state money to construct build-

ings, state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman said.

A spokesperson said Gov. Haley is committed to the helping the districts replace their aging facilities but did not say whether the Republican wants the borrowing proposal passed this year.

"The governor will continue to fight for the school facilities initiative, because when our students and teachers are in schools they are proud of, when they are in schools that are safe, they excel," said Haley spokesperson Chaney Adams.

The House passed the bill and sent it to the Senate in late April.

House Speaker Jay Lucas,

See SCHOOLS, Page 5A

Schools

Continued from Page 3A

R-Darlington, urged senators Wednesday to try to pass the bill before the legislative sessions ends next month.

However, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said the legislation, which has not made it out of a Senate committee, would be tough to

pass this year.

State Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, said his subcommittee, which helps decide state spending on K-12 education, needs more time to iron out details of the bill.

Hayes also said lawmakers have time to work on the legislation.

The bill will not take

effect until next July, regardless of whether it passes this legislative session or the next, he said. The state would not start borrowing money for the program until the 2017-2018 budget year, which starts in July 2017.

"It really can't take effect until next year, so we'll take it up in Janu-

ary. We've got some time. But the key thing is we have to get the study done, find out where the needs are."

The proposal is a major reform in the way schools pay for buildings and maintenance.

If the bill becomes law, the state would con-



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tribute money to school construction for the first time. Under current law, districts must rely on the money they can raise from local taxes to pay for buildings. That leaves poor school districts at a disadvantage compared with wealthier ones.

The decision to delay the facilities bill comes as lawmakers are close to approving more than \$300 million in new education spending in the state's fiscal year that starts July 1, including sending \$217 million more to districts for per-student support, raising bus-driver pay and spending \$29 million more on technology.

Haley pushed for those moves in her executive budget.

But lawmakers also face a court-imposed deadline at the conclusion of the legislative session in June.

In November 2014, the state Supreme Court ordered lawmakers, the governor and rural

school districts to work together to improve public education.

The court's order came in its decision of a 1993 lawsuit brought by poor, rural school districts — including Abbeville — against the state. In the lawsuit, the poor districts said they needed more money to provide students with a quality education.

Then, last September, the court gave lawmakers, the governor and school districts until February to devise a plan to address the inadequacies the court had cited in the state's schools.

Under pressure from the governor and lawmakers who said the court had overstepped its authority, the court later dropped the deadline.

Now, the governor and state lawmakers have until a week after the legislative session ends — sometime next month — to report on their progress in addressing the

problems cited by the court.

Haley and other leaders in the GOP-controlled Legislature have said they have made education a top priority.

Haley rolled out her first K-12 proposal in 2014, as she was seeking re-election, calling on the state to spend more money on children in poverty, technology and reading initiatives. Since then, Haley has said lawmakers must make education a priority in the new state budget.

In January, Haley pushed for the \$200 million-a-year borrowing proposal, citing leaky roofs and unsafe school buildings.

Hayes said he is optimistic the school facilities bill will pass next session.

"We're on track on the Abbeville agenda, and this — we'll get it passed next year," he said.

Spearman also said she is confident the state

will address problems identified in the Abbeville lawsuit.

"We believe the Legislature is taking significant steps in the right direction in regards to the Abbeville lawsuit, especially taking into account the severity of needs in other areas of the state," she said.

Still, Lucas, the House speaker, urged senators to reach an agreement by the end of this year's legislative session on the House-passed borrowing plan.

"The House is committed to education reform, which is why we spent over a year studying our current policy before passing seven bills that address our state's education needs," Lucas said in a statement.

"The needs for facility improvements and technical assistance, especially in poor and rural school districts, will not subside without action from the Senate."

Title: **S.C. road legislation needs sustainability**
 Author:
 Size: 58.28 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



EDITORIAL

S.C. road legislation needs sustainability

South Carolina lawmakers patted each other on the back following passage of S. 1258, a Senate road funding bill that legislators say will increase funding by more than \$4 billion in the next 10 years.

"Members of the House understand that the people of South Carolina expect their Legislature to pass a roads bill this year," House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said in a news release.

"Although more effort must be made next session to find a long-term funding stream, this bill is a starting point that allows for adequate repair of deficient roads and bridges without raiding our state's General Fund," the release said.

Indeed, the Senate bill provides a funding boost and restructures the S.C. Department of Transportation and State Infrastructure Bank. It also amplifies funding, lawmakers say, by making it easier to secure a series of short-term loans to expedite road projects as opposed to floating larger, long-term general obligation bonds.

But it's also not entirely accurate to suggest S. 1258 won't potentially impact the general fund and the agencies that would be dependent on it.

S. 1258, for example, diverts \$84.2 million in S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles fee revenue to the State Highway Fund. The bill in its current form also creates a detour from the state's school building fund, ferrying nearly \$61 million to the State Highway Fund.

The bill includes a variety of other funding detours designed to generate billions of dollars.

Rep. Gary Simrill, R-Rock Hill, who crafted

the House companion bill, said the S.C. DMV and school building funds would be replenished with general fund appropriations.

"The DMV will not be shortchanged as a result of this," Simrill said, noting the school building fund will be similarly unaffected.

That appears to be the case in this year's budget, but if there's one certainty to the budgeting process, it's that the general fund is a floating target and isn't immune to future funding cuts or transfers.

The Great Recession of 2008 made it painfully obvious that no public service is immune from budget cuts during times of economic downturn. Even in good times, there's no guarantee funding will remain in place over the long term.

State lawmakers assert the fund transfers are integral components to highway legislation because it gives government more flexibility in bonding road projects. Simrill said it's easier to leverage bonds against guaranteed revenue sources, such as DMV fees, than it is against general fund revenue.

"It's a revenue bond and not a general obligation bond," he said.

Simrill said that's significant because revenue bonds can be issued more quickly and in smaller amounts than general obligation bonds, thereby accelerating road projects by borrowing in smaller, more frequent increments.

The Rock Hill lawmaker likened the process to the home mortgage lending process. It would be like paying for a house in phases instead of all at once, like with a conventional mortgage, he said.

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That is a creative way of looking at it. And it's hard to deny the logic behind securing more frequent, short-term loans.

Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, tells us S. 1258 will generate \$32 million for road resurfacing projects in Aiken County, \$14 million for Edgefield County and \$15 million for Barnwell County.

Taylor said the bill would result in an additional \$52 million to resurface I-20 from Exit 5 to the Georgia state line. If funding comes to fruition, it's hard to reject that level of support.

That, however, still doesn't fully allay our concerns about shifting DMV and school building revenues to roads and replacing fee revenue with general fund revenue. General

fund revenues almost always fluctuate; seldom are they etched in stone.

During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, record travel is expected in the Palmetto State.

AAA Carolinas predicts 1.5 million Carolinians will be hitting the highway this weekend. Many more will pour into the Palmetto State from other areas of the country.

With travel reaching all-time highs, South Carolina needs a better, more dependable way to fund road repair and construction. While the current plan likely headed to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk may generate short-term revenue, it's sustainability over the long-term still remains doubtful.

Title: **S.C.'s Gov. Haley signs 20-week abortion ban**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 35.18 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



S.C.'s Gov. Haley signs 20-week abortion ban

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley signed legislation Wednesday that immediately outlaws most abortions in South Carolina at 20 weeks beyond fertilization.

The only exceptions are if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb.

Doctors face up to \$10,000 in fines and three years in prison for each violation; prison time is mandatory on a third conviction.

These bans are now in effect in at least 13 states and blocked by court challenges in three others. South Dakota's ban takes effect July 1.

Women nationwide have the right to obtain abortions under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which said states could restrict abortions after viability – the point when a fetus has a reasonable chance of surviving outside the uterus. "Viability is usually placed at about seven months (28 weeks) but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks," the ruling said.

The Supreme Court has yet to rule on bans that would limit even earlier abortions.

As in other states, South Carolina's law ties the fetus' age to conception, rather than a woman's monthly cycle. But since this date cannot be scientifically pinpointed, the ban actually

refers to what doctors consider a gestational age of 22 weeks.

Supporters of the bill cite the disputed claim that a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents say later-term abortions usually happen with wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong.

"The reality is that 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, a Planned Parenthood spokes-

woman for South Carolina.

South Carolina's definition of "fetal anomaly" makes it illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live. Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

Advocates for abortion rights contend these measures are aimed at restricting women's access to a safe, legal abortion.

The sponsor of South Carolina's law, state Rep. Wendy Nannery, said the killing needs to stop, and sees this law as a step to eventually "get rid of abortion altogether."

Haley's signature comes only days after Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin vetoed legislation to outlaw the procedure at any stage, by making it a felony for doctors to perform an abortion.

Fallin, a Republican who opposes abortion, said the measure would not with-

stand a legal challenge.

Abortion-rights supporters rallied Tuesday at the Statehouse to ask Haley to veto the measure. But Haley's signature was no surprise.

"I'm strongly pro-life, very pro-life and not because my party tells me to be, but my husband was adopted, and so every day I know the blessings of having him there," Haley said during her 2010 campaign for governor.

As a House member that year, Haley voted to end abortion coverage for victims of rape and incest in the state health plan for employees. The Senate defeated that proposal.

In 2012, Haley signed a bill intended to ensure that a fetus surviving an abortion attempt is not treated as medical waste. It defined a person as anyone who is breathing and has a beating heart after birth, whether by labor, cesarean section, or abortion, copying a 2002 federal law enforceable on federal property.

The ban would affect only hospitals, since none of the three abortion clinics in South Carolina provide abortions beyond 15 weeks.

On average, fewer than 30 abortions yearly are performed at 20 weeks gestation or beyond in South Carolina, according to data since 1990 from the state's public health agency. Most of these women have been white, married and older than 24, according to the agency.

Title: **Haley signs 20-week abortion ban for SC**

Author:

Size: 9.61 column inches

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Haley signs 20-week abortion ban for SC

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law Wednesday a ban on abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy or later.

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

Courts in other states have struck down similar laws as unconstitutional.

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

Under the law, an abortion would be allowed at 20 weeks of pregnancy or later, calculated as the weeks past fertilization, in the case of a severe fetal anomaly that would prevent the child from surviving with or without treatment.

The law also allows exceptions if a doctor says an abortion is necessary to protect the mother from death or severe bodily impairment.

— JAMIE SELF

Title: **No fix for rural SC schools this year, senators say**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 75.48 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



No fix for rural SC schools this year, senators say

Borrowing bill expected to be re-introduced next year

BY JAMIE SELF
 jself@thestate.com

More than a year after the state's highest court ordered lawmakers to improve the state's poor schools, S.C. lawmakers will delay until at least next year deciding whether to help those schools pay to rebuild or replace

aging buildings.

A \$200 million-a-year state borrowing plan for those schools – first pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley in January – will die when the legislative session ends in June, state senators said

Wednesday.

The bill is expected to be re-introduced next year, the start of a new two-year legislative session. But it could face new legislators, elected in November, and have to compete against what could

SEE SCHOOLS, 6A



THESTATE.COM: How much it costs to keep up schools, and a timeline of the Abbeville schools case.

FROM PAGE 1A

SCHOOLS

be new legislative priorities.

News that lawmakers will postpone the borrowing plan until next year is a setback for poor schools, said Carl Epps, an attorney representing schools that sued in 1993 seeking more state money.

"Once again, members of the Legislature won't do what's right by these kids," Epps said. "We've been looking at this for 20 years."

Lawmakers have OK'd \$1.5 million in spending in the state budget that takes effect July 1 to study the building needs of poor school districts, many in rural South Carolina. That study is the first step toward deciding which school districts have the greatest need for state money to construct build-

ings, state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman said.

A spokesperson said Gov. Haley is committed to the helping the districts replace their aging facilities but did not say whether the Republican wants the borrowing proposal passed this year.

"The governor will continue to fight for the school facilities initiative, because when our students and teachers are in schools they are proud of, when they are in schools that are safe, they excel," said Haley spokesperson Chaney Adams.

The House passed the bill and sent it to the Senate in late April.

House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, urged senators Wednesday to try to pass the bill before the

legislative sessions ends next month.

However, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said the legislation, which has not made it out of a Senate committee, would be tough to pass this year.

State Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, said his subcommittee, which helps decide state spending on K-12 education, needs more time to iron out details of the bill.

Hayes also said lawmakers have time to work on the legislation.

The bill will not take effect until next July, regardless of whether it passes this legislative session or the next, he said. The state would not start borrowing money for the program until the 2017-2018 budget year, which starts in

July 2017.

"It really can't take effect until next year, so we'll take it up in January. We've got some time. But the key thing is we have to get the study done, find out where the needs are."

LEGISLATORS MUST UPDATE COURT ON PROGRESS

The proposal is a major reform in the way schools pay for buildings and maintenance.

If the bill becomes law, the state would contribute money to school construction for the first time. Under current law, districts must rely on the money they can raise from local taxes to pay for buildings. That leaves poor school districts at a disadvantage compared with wealthier ones.

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The decision to delay the facilities bill comes as lawmakers are close to approving more than \$300 million in new education spending in the state's fiscal year that starts July 1, including sending \$217 million more to districts for per-student support, raising bus-driver pay and spending \$29 million more on technology.

Haley pushed for those moves in her executive budget.

But lawmakers also face a court-imposed deadline at the conclusion of the legislative session in June.

In November 2014, the state Supreme Court ordered lawmakers, the governor and rural school districts to work together to improve public education.

The court's order came in its decision of a 1993 lawsuit brought by poor, rural school districts - including Abbeville - against the state. In the

lawsuit, the poor districts said they needed more money to provide students with a quality education.

Then, last September, the court gave lawmakers, the governor and school districts until February to devise a plan to address the inadequacies the court had cited in the state's schools.

Under pressure from the governor and lawmakers who said the court had overstepped its authority, the court later dropped the deadline.

Now, the governor and state lawmakers have until a week after the legislative session ends - sometime next month - to report on their progress in addressing the problems cited by the court.

Haley and other leaders in the GOP-controlled Legislature have said they have made education a top priority.

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K-12 proposal in 2014, as she was seeking re-election, calling on the state to spend more money on

children in poverty, technology and reading initiatives. Since then, Haley has said lawmakers must make education a priority in the new state budget.

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Hayes said he is optimistic the school facilities bill will pass next session.

"We're on track on the Abbeville agenda, and this - we'll get it passed next year," he said.

Spearman also said she is confident the state will address problems identified in the Abbeville lawsuit.

"We believe the Legislature is taking significant steps in the right direction in regards to the Abbeville

lawsuit, especially taking into account the severity of needs in other areas of the state," she said.

NEEDED: 'ACTION FROM THE SENATE'

Still, Lucas, the House speaker, urged senators to reach an agreement by the end of this year's legislative session on the House-passed borrowing plan.

"The House is committed to education reform, which is why we spent over a year studying our current policy before passing seven bills that address our state's education needs," Lucas said in a statement.

"The needs for facility improvements and technical assistance, especially in poor and rural school districts, will not subside without action from the Senate."

Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

Title: **20-week abortion ban signed in SC**

Author:

Size: 6.97 column inches

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



20-week abortion ban signed in SC

COLUMBIA

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley signed legislation Wednesday that immediately outlaws most abortions in South Carolina at 20 weeks beyond fertilization.

The only exceptions are if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb.

Doctors face up to \$10,000 in fines and 3 years in prison for each violation; prison time is mandatory on a third conviction.

These bans are now in effect in at least 13 states and blocked by court challenges in several others. South Dakota's ban takes effect July 1.

The Supreme Court has yet to rule on bans that would limit even earlier abortions.

Title: **Haley signs 20-week abortion restriction**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 29.14 column inches
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



AT THE STATEHOUSE

Haley signs 20-week abortion restriction

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

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NIKKI
HALEY

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See **HALEY**, page 4A

HALEY

Continued from 1A

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Women nationwide have the right to obtain abortions under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which said states could restrict abortions after viability — the point when a fetus has a reasonable chance of surviving outside the uterus. "Viability is usually placed

at about seven months (28 weeks) but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks," the ruling said.

The Supreme Court has yet to rule on bans that would limit even earlier abortions.

As in other states, South Carolina's law ties the fetus' age to conception, rather than a woman's monthly cycle. But since this date cannot be scientifically pinpointed, the ban actually refers to what doctors

consider a gestational age of 22 weeks.

Supporters of the bill cite the disputed claim that a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks.

Opponents say later-term abortions usually happen with wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong.

"The reality is that 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, a Planned Parenthood spokeswoman for South Carolina.

South Carolina's definition of "fetal anomaly" makes it illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live. Such anomalies are generally detected around 20

weeks.

Advocates for abortion rights contend these measures are aimed at restricting women's access to a safe, legal abortion.

The sponsor of South Carolina's law, state Rep. Wendy Nanney, said the killing needs to stop, and sees this law as a step to eventually "get rid of abortion altogether."

Haley's signature comes only days after Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin vetoed legislation to outlaw the procedure at any stage, by making it a felony for doctors to perform an abortion.

Title: **Haley signs 20-week abortion restriction**
Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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Title: **LAKE CONESTEE PARK BECOMES SANCTUARY**
 Author: SCOTT KEELER DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 101.52 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



LAKE CONESTEE PARK BECOMES SANCTUARY

Gov. Haley signs bill
to help local wildlife

SCOTT KEELER

DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

As a privately owned park, Lake Conestee Nature Park has not enjoyed the same protections that state parks automatically have.

It got much closer on Tuesday though. Conestee Foundation officials announced that the park has the highest level of protection afforded by state law to a privately owned facility. That protection came when Gov. Nikki Haley signed House Bill 4743, which made the park a wildlife sanctuary.

The foundation's executive director, Dr.

David Hargett, said this sanctuary status provides for the protection and conservation of game, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, amphibians, other animals, and plant life. The law prohibits the damage to or removal of any animals, flowers, shrubs, trees, plants, or artifacts within the park without a permit from the Conestee Foundation.

"In terms of law enforcement, it allows us to work closely with DNR and have their enforcement agents engage someone who's doing something prohibited by the

law," Hargett said.

After the non-profit Conestee Foundation was created 18 years ago, the group acquired the lake and later the surrounding farmlands. Hargett said the area previously was a "no mans land," but in that sense it was "every man's land."

"Historically, there was a lot of hunting, fishing and all kinds of activities out here that are no longer compatible with our current function as a publicly accessible

See SANCTUARY, Page 4A

Sanctuary

Continued from Page 3A

park," Hargett said. "Through studies we've done, we've learned that the best thing to do in terms of the habitat here is to leave it alone."

Hargett said the bill specifically can help stop the water fowl hunting that has gone on as recently as last winter. He said people have navigated down the river and been able to legally discharge weapons from a floating vessel.

"As strange as that may seem, it's happened," Hargett said. "Meanwhile, we're an important bird area of global significance. We have people coming from all over the region to see the extraordinary bird life that's here."

The park is comprised of over 400 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands along the Reedy six miles south of Greenville. It has been named by the Audubon Society and BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area of Global Significance. A total of 206 bird species have been identified at the park.

The park opened in October of 2006. Since then, 12 miles of trails have been developed, and half of those are paved. There's over a mile of boardwalk, numerous observation decks and 36 learning stations on the ground with more on the way.

Hargett said in addition to trying to protect wildlife, this bill also strives to protect school children and other visitors to the park.

"It's a very active place for nature education, learning about the environment and for learning about Greenville's hometown river, the Reedy River," Hargett said. "We estimate that we have 60,000 people a year coming through this park. It's as big, as complex and has visitation similar to some of the leading state parks."

This law also prohibits the release of non-native wildlife, including domesticated pets, and non-native plants onto park lands. Hargett said a Burmese python that some-

one released was captured at the park last year, and feral cats and unleashed dogs have also roamed free. The penalties for violation of the statute can include fines up to \$500, and imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

Hargett said earning another level of protection was first discussed by the group years ago, but they began approaching the legislative delegation of Greenville County two years ago. He expressed gratitude for State Reps. Eric Beddingfield, Chandra Dillard, Leola Robinson-Simpson and Phyllis Henderson for sponsoring the bill.

"This can be a really powerful educational tool for us to let people understand that nature has the right of way here. ... About 97 percent of our 400 acres is wild space, and I consider those 'do not disturb' zones," Hargett said. "This is really a place to go slow, leave no tracks and no trash and enjoy the wildlife and the sanctuary that nature's provided here in all of its resilience."

Title: **LAKE CONESTEE PARK BECOMES SANCTUARY**
Author: SCOTT KEELER DSKEELER@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
Size: 101.52 column inches
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CINDY HOSEA/STAFF

The Conestee Foundation has announced that Lake Conestee Nature Park has been recognized in state law as a wildlife sanctuary.

Title: **Haley signs ban on abortions after 20 weeks**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
 Size: 33.32 column inches
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Haley signs ban on abortions after 20 weeks

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Gov. Nikki Haley signed a 20-week abortion ban into law Wednesday afternoon.

The legislation bans abortions after 19 weeks of pregnancy and provides no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Exceptions for the mother's health or a fetal abnormality that would result in death are provided, however.

South Carolina has three outpatient abortion facilities — one each in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston. Those clinics are already banned by state law to perform abortions at or beyond 18 weeks of pregnancy and do not typically perform abortions past 14 weeks, according to their websites. This new law

would then largely apply to abortion procedures in hospitals.

The bill, called the Pain Capable Unborn Child Act, was originally authored by Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville and was passed last year in the House by a vote of 80-27. Abortion foes contend that fetuses can feel pain by the

See ABORTIONS, Page 4A

Abortions

Continued from Page 1A

age, which is where the bill received its name.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states and have been blocked by courts in three others, according to the Associated Press.

Doctors face up to \$10,000 in fines and 3 years in prison for each violation; prison time is mandatory on a third conviction, according to the Associated Press.

These bans are now in effect in at least 13 states and blocked by court challenges in several others. South Dakota's ban takes effect July 1.

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PROVIDED/TANGIE RENEE PHOTOGRAPHY
 Governor Nikki Haley

Title: 'GENTLE GIANT'
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 99.35 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



'GENTLE GIANT'

Family and friends remember slain Sen. Pinckney

TIM SMITH

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA - Hundreds gathered in the Senate chamber Wednesday to watch the young daughters of the late Sen. Clementa Pinckney unveil his official Senate portrait, almost a year since a white gunman's murders of the senator and eight parishioners sparked a wave of reconciliation and unity that brought down the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

Jennifer Pinckney, the senator's widow,

thanked a hushed group of dignitaries, lawmakers, friends and family, and told her husband that his portrait deserved to be hung with other figures of history in the chamber.

She said her husband, if alive, would refuse such an honor, arguing he did not deserve to be hung alongside such historical legends.

"You are well deserved to be hung

with greatness because you are great," she said, her daughters Eliana and Malana on either side of her.

See PINCKNEY, Page 5A

INSIDE

Church slaying families accept pursuit of death penalty, 7A

Pinckney

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Pinckney, 41, was shot to death during a Bible study at his church, Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, on June 17, 2015. Authorities said the white gunman accused of the attack was motivated by racism. This week, federal officials said they would seek the death penalty against the suspect.

Wednesday's ceremony drew hundreds of Pinckney's family, lawmakers, including House Speaker Jay Lucas, Gov. Nikki Haley, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster and friends into a chamber built to seat 46 senators.

Artist Larry Lebbby, whose work has included portraits of former President Jimmy Carter, the late Sen. Strom Thurmond, former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Ernest Finney, took seven months to complete Pinckney's portrait, which was commissioned by a unanimous vote of the Senate. Lebbby's work has hung in the White House and the Vatican, as well as the Statehouse.

The portrait shows Pinckney standing near a stained glass window of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, wearing his trademark smile. Pinckney served almost 20 years in the Statehouse and was elected to the Senate in 2000.

"This is a sad but proud moment for his family and I," his wife told the chamber after her daughters pulled off the indigo drape uncovering the portrait.

Those paying tribute to him included Sen. John Matthews of Orangeburg County, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, and Sen. Gerald Malloy of Hartsville.

"As generations of senators occupy these seats, they will see his bright eyes and smiling face," Leatherman said. "But they will not remember the tragedy that took him from us. Instead, his lasting legacy is of God's grace that can face down any evil and lead us all to a better place."

Pinckney, Matthews said, "had a good heart and believed in doing the right thing."

He said Pinckney's life was an example to all.

"He left a great example for all of us to live up to," he said. "He believed that if you served right and lived right, in the end, you would be alright."

Malloy said Pinckney was not a senator "who talked to hear his own words."

"When he talked with that powerful voice, people listened," he

said.

Malloy said those looking at his portrait need to be reminded of how he lived and why he was killed.

"He was killed because of ignorance," he said. "And because his killer had access to a gun that should have been denied to him."

He said just as Pinckney opened his door the final night of his life to

someone he did not know, did not look like him or understand, "we owe it to him to keep the doors open to issues of relevance to all in South Carolina." Those doors must also be opened to people who do not look like us, he said.

"His life and death must lead to reconciliation here in our state," he said.

Jennifer Pinckney described her husband as a "gentle giant."

"Everyone was important to him," she said in a soft voice. "Everyone was worthy. He was a man that would work for you, or he would politely persuade you; a man that would pray for you and with you; a man that is being missed, that is truly being missed."

She thanked lawmakers and then after a moment of silence hugged one of her daughters, then thanked the people of South Carolina for their "unwavering support."

Title: **'GENTLE GIANT'**
Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
Size: 99.35 column inches
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"I know Clementa is with all of us," she said.

Pinckney's portrait will hang on the upper north wall of the Senate.

About two dozen other portraits hang in the Senate, including John C. Calhoun, a former U.S. senator, secretary of war and vice presi-

dent; Thurmond; I. DeQuincey Newman, the first African-American to serve in the Senate; James Francis Byrnes, a former governor and U.S. Supreme Court justice; Mary Gordon Ellis, the first female senator in the state; and the late Sen. Verne Smith of Greer.



GERRY MELENDEZ/THE STATE

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Hundreds gathered in the Senate chamber Wednesday to watch the daughters of the late Sen. Clementa Pinckney unveil his Senate portrait.