



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 1/21/2011**

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Governor Nikki Haley made her first State of the State Address Wednesday asking legislators for their assistance in balancing the budget, creating jobs, and defending budget cuts. Haley detailed several ideas to deal with the \$829 million shortfall which include the following:

*Lower the amount that is paid by the state to doctors and hospitals to treat Medicaid patients. Estimated savings of \$10 million possibly more depending upon the percentage of the cut.*

*The State should stop funding ETV and the Arts Commission. Estimated savings of \$11.8 million*

*Pursue savings in state prison and parole operations. Estimated savings of \$6 million*

*Cut state-funded lobbyists. Estimated savings of \$1.2 million*

*Require generic drugs for the treatment of Medicaid patients diagnosed with cancer, HIV/Aids and mental health disorders. Estimated savings of \$991,000*

The SPD association will continue to track and monitor movement of the legislation below. Please contact the Association Office if you have questions concerning proposed legislation.

**H.3019, Rep. Bowen**, this bill will revise the definition of a Special Purpose District to include an SPD created pursuant to Section 33-36-1310. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**H.3020, Rep. Bowen**, this bill will allow an SPD that provides water to request approval from the Public Service Commission to enlarge its boundaries, provided that the enlarged service area does not infringe on water service already provided by a political subdivision in that service area. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**H.3021, Rep. Bowen**, this bill will allow the legislative delegation of a county in which a city is located to designate power to regulate public sewer and water utilities of the city to the public service commission. This bill was referred to the House LCI Committee.

**H.3067, Rep. G.R. Smith**, this bill will enact the "South Carolina Truth in Spending Act of 2011". Each state agency and local governmental entity will maintain a transaction register that includes a complete record of all funds expended over one hundred dollars, from whatever source for whatever purpose. The register must be posted prominently on the Internet website maintained by the entity and made available for public viewing and downloading. Several similar bills have been introduced in the House and Senate. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

**H.3143, Rep. Harrison**, this bill will require the governing body of a RECREATIONAL SPD to be appointed by county council and to transfer its assets and liabilities to the county by ordinance of county council. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.