



3/17/2011 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives approved the State Budget bill. While the Budget includes \$350 Million additional dollars, some agencies were still cut because the state will no longer receive federal ARRA funds.

Highlights of the House Approved Budget include:

- Increases education funding by \$171 per pupil
- Moves the Arts Commission under the Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism
- Requires state employees to pay half of the increased cost of their state health care benefits
- Removes funding for state agencies to hire lobbyists
- Provides \$25 Million for Public Charter Schools
- Department of Health & Human Services was given an additional \$435 Million to Cover Deficit
- \$14 Million to tech schools for job training

The House will be on furlough until Tuesday, March 29th and The Senate will continue to meet.

H.3617, Rep. Pitts, this bill provides that a sewage system or treatment facility that has had ~~three~~ **two** or more **significant** sewage spills in a twelve month period must complete a comprehensive review of their operations. The Environmental Affairs II Subcommittee adopted the proposed amendment and gave the bill a favorable report. The bill will now move forward to be discussed by the full House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Sewer Districts, The bill was amended to address further concerns by the SCWQA (SC Water Quality Association), the conservation community and DHEC.

H.3470, Rep. Pitts, this bill will add household dishwashing detergents to the cleaning products included in the restriction on phosphates. The House Environmental Affairs II Subcommittee gave the bill a favorable report and it will now move forward to be discussed by the full House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

H.3917, Rep. Bowen, this bill provides that political subdivisions in a county providing water service which is part of a joint regional water association and obtains its water from a regional producing center shall have a **special water board** to establish water rates for the entity and more. The bill was referred to the House LCI Committee

H.3883, Rep. Ryan, this bill will devolve on county council of a particular county the appointment and recommendation for appointment authority of county offices formerly held by the county legislative delegation. The bill further reads. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

S.523, Senator McGill and Leatherman, This bill will amend the definition of a special purpose to include certain fire and public safety districts. The bill was given a favorable report by the Senate Finance Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar.