



Capitol Consultants

Government Affairs



"It affects the statewide funding of \$870 million federal dollars for schools across the state and at the very least buys us a lawsuit."

Senator Brad Hutto (D-Orangeburg) raising a point of order that the Berkeley County "bathroom bill" is not a local bill because it would put statewide education funding at risk because of a potential Title IX violation for discrimination.

Volume XVIII,

May 20, 2016

Precious Little Time Remains

There was a flare of the dramatic at times as the pressure of the looming sine die deadline continues to build. At one point, House Democrats were accused of intentionally not showing up to prevent action on a piece of legislation. At another point, Senator Larry Martin (R-Pickens) expressed his frustration on the Senate floor stating, "We just blew through a legislative day with nothing being done, and we have precious few days left." Continue reading to find out more on these stories and more.

Another Bathroom Bill Looms

On Tuesday, Senator Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley) introduced a local bill to overturn the recent Berkeley school district's policy to allow students to use restrooms with which they identify. Opponents tried delaying the bill on Wednesday by raising a point of order on whether the bill was local legislation since it could have statewide ramifications. The efforts failed on Wednesday and the bill was given second reading. On Thursday, another point of order was raised for the same reason after new information was presented to lawmakers from the State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman who asked for a delay on a vote until the school board meets next week. Senator Brad Hutto (D-Orangeburg) explained his new point of order motion was based on a letter from the

Numbers to Know

102

Bills remaining on the 76-page Senate calendar.

42

Bills remaining on the 19-page House calendar.

6

Legislative days remaining in session before sine die on June 2.

5

Total votes out of 156 in both the House and Senate that were against overriding the Governor's veto of the farm relief bill.

The override easily achieved the needed 2/3 vote to override in both bodies.

\$870 Million

Estimated amount of statewide education funding that could be in jeopardy if the Berkeley

Department of Education that explained the bill could potentially not only put the \$26 million of Berkeley Country federal funding at risk, but the entire statewide \$870 million. He believes the Superintendent of Education could not sign off saying the state has no Title IX violations if there is this discrimination occurring in the state. The point of order has not been ruled on by Lt. Governor Henry McMaster and is still pending as the Senate voted 20-15 to carry the bill over and adjourn for the day. The point of order will be ruled on when the Senate returns on Tuesday.

County bathroom bill were to pass.

Legislature Overrides Farm Relief Veto

The House and Senate easily gave the needed votes to overturn Governor Haley's veto of the \$40 million farm aid bill. The bill would allow farmers who lost over 40% of their crop to receive a grant of no more than \$100,000 to cover 20% of the loss on a first-come, first-serve basis. While the Governor vetoed the bill saying it would be an "unprecedented bailout", Speaker Lucas and other lawmakers pointed out that farmers don't have access to federal disaster-relief funding programs that small businesses and homeowners are eligible for. After the votes, the Governor said there were no winners in last year's 1,000 year flood, and the state will continue to do our best to help all industries through the recovery process.

Refugee Bill Fails to Advance

The Senate-passed bill that would require refugees in South Carolina to register in the state had difficulty advancing this week after the hearing was unable to have a quorum to take action. Committee Chairman Greg Dellaney (R-Chester) blamed Democrats since Representative James Smith (D-Richland) was the only Democrat in attendance. There were Republicans absent as well. The Chairman rescheduled the meeting for Thursday, and the committee immediately voted to adjourn debate on the bill without debate or discussion.

The Week Ahead

Both bodies will work diligently to get through their calendars which features 102 bills in the Senate and 42 bills in the House currently. The House was able to pass the independent investigations ethics bill this week and will likely consider the income disclosure legislation next week. The House amended the budget and sent it back to the Senate and there will likely be a conference committee that will meet starting next week.

Copyright © 2016 Capitol Consultants, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as a client of the Government Relations Team at Capitol Consultants

Our mailing address is:

Capitol Consultants
PO Box 1763
Columbia, SC 29202

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a dark gray rectangular box.