

**LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE
SPRING 2024**

PRESENTED BY

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OUTLINE

- Ways & Means Budget Recommendations
- Ratified or Almost There
- Senate Floor Debate
- Senate Committees
- House Floor Debate
- House Committees
- Regulation

WAYS AND MEANS BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Week of February 26th – Appropriations Act is being printed.

Week of March 4th – House rules require the printed bill to “sit on the desk” for a week.

Week of March 11th – House floor debate.

BEA General Fund Revenue Forecast

RECURRING	
GF Revenue Estimate	\$13.2 billion
FY 2023-24 Appropriations	(\$11.6 billion)
Tax Relief Trust Fund	(\$800.8 million)
Projected Recurring Revenue	\$776.9 million

NON-RECURRING	(in millions)
Projected FY 2022-23 Surplus	\$453.1
FY 23-24 Capital Reserve Fund	\$390.1
Contingency Reserve Fund	\$57.9
Projected Non-Recurring Revenue	\$896.1 million

- The total general fund budget is \$700 million lower than last year.
- The lottery is down \$48 million from than last year.
- Total Requests: Recurring, \$1.7 billion; Non-Recurring, \$3 billion
- A third of the new money was already committed to obligations such as reserves, tax relief, school choice, and veterans nursing homes.

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

- \$107.5 million (Recurring)– State Health Plan (\$74 million per RFA for K-12)
- \$200 million (Recurring) – State Aid to Classroom – Additional funding provided in EIA
- \$30 million (Recurring) – Education Scholarship Trust Fund for Education Scholarships
- \$5 million (Non-recurring) – School Safety Mapping
- \$20 million (Non-recurring) – School Facilities Safety Upgrades

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT (ALL RECURRING)

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- \$29.7 million – State Aid to Classrooms
- \$10 million – Math Resources and Support
- \$17.1 million – CERDEP for SCDE
- \$3 million – Early Literacy Training
- \$2.7 million – Teacher Supplies (Raises amount to \$400)
- \$727,650 – Teach SC Teacher Recruitment Partnership
- \$394,022 – Education Data Dashboard

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT 8 ACT (CONTINUED)

- \$200,000 – Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement
- \$4.7 million – SCDE Grants Committee
- \$500,000 – SC Teacher
- \$1 million – Jobs for America’s Graduates
- \$450,000 – Carolina Collaborative for Alternative Preparation
- \$6.8 million – CERDEP
- \$10.2 million – Instructional Support for Districts (LMS, Lor, and AMS)

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Lottery Unclaimed Prizes:

- \$3.5 million – Instructional Materials

CHE Scholarship Surplus:

- \$35 million – School Bus Lease/Purchase
- \$40 million – Instructional Materials

GF AMENDED PROVISOS

- **1.3 (SDE: State Aid to Classrooms)** This proviso contains the newly adopted Statewide Minimum Salary Schedule, sets the student to teacher ratio for funding at 11.23 (previously 11.2), and sets the teacher salary used in the funding formula at \$57,904 (with benefits \$76,758).
- **1.49 (SDE: Interscholastic Athletic Association Dues)** This proviso requires a multiplier system of classification, process and qualifications for a student attending a non-member school to participate with a member school and eliminates the one year waiting period for home school students.
- **1.52 (SDE: Graduation Rates)** This proviso requires the creation of a detailed plan to increase graduation rates. The proviso changes the graduation rate from below 60% to 70% or less.
- **1.70 (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average)** This proviso updates the Southeastern Average Teacher Salary from \$58,048 to \$59,866.
- **1.80 (SDE: Retired Teacher Salary Negotiation)** This proviso extends for another year the ability of school districts to negotiate salaries below the salary schedule when hiring retired teachers.

TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

Salary schedule changes:

- Extends state minimum salary schedule for years of experience from 23 to 28 years
- Bachelor's degree starting salary increased to \$47,000
- Proposal required \$198 million in funding

GF AMENDED PROVISOS

- **108.6. (PEBA: State Health Plan)** This proviso strictly updates the State Health Plan to the year 2025. It sets the employer premium increase at 11.8% .
- **117.126 (GP: School Resource Officer Critical Needs)** The amendment specifies that law enforcement officers who retire on or before December 31, 2023 (was previously 2017) may return to employment as a SRO without affecting their monthly retirement allowance.
- **117.142 (GP: Employee Compensation)** This proviso deals with Statewide Employee pay increases. The proviso stipulates that the compensation of all classified employees shall be increased by \$1,000 for FTEs making \$66,667 and under and one and a half percent for FTEs making over \$66,667. Additionally, it stipulates that school bus driver salary and fringe funding to school districts shall be increased by one and a half percent.

GF NEW PROVISOS

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- **1.105 (Charter School Transfer)** The amendment specifies that a charter school authorized by an institution of higher education may transfer its charter to a different authorizer provided the current authorizer is operating under a warning of noncompliance or is on probation by its accrediting body for degree-granting higher education institutions. Additionally, the current authorizer may not demand or withhold unspent funds held by or owed to a charter school and may not charge a fee associated with moving to another authorizer.
- **1.106. (Charter School Expenditures)** This amendment specifies that a charter school authorizer must not expend any state appropriated funds, or funds realized as a result of its operations, for any purposes other than those listed in the Charter School Act (Chapter 40 of Title 59). If the Superintendent of Education discovers a violation of this provision, she may declare that the authorizer no longer has the authority to charter or authorize schools and all schools may apply to transfer to a different authorizer.
- **1.108 (Charter Schools in Poverty)** This proviso provides charter schools an additional \$1,000 per pupil if the school has a poverty index of 75% or above and a state report card rating of good or excellent.
- **1.107 (Military Dependent Enrollment)** This amendment specifies that a charter school may offer enrollment preference to dependents of active-duty military personnel.

GF NEW PROVISOS

- **1.199 (SDE: Abstinence Education Grant)** This proviso specifies that funds made available for this purpose may only be awarded through a competitive grant process.
- **1.100 (SDE: Abstinence-Until Marriage Emerging Program)** This proviso stipulates that a 12-month grant for this program would be awarded to nonprofits through a competitive grant process.
- **1.101 (SDE: Abstinence-Until Marriage Evidence Based Programs Funding)** This proviso specifies that funding would come from funds appropriated for the Continuation of Teen Pregnancy Prevention.
- **1.102 (SDE: SC Future Makers and Tallo)** This proviso specifies that funds appropriated to the EOC would be used to support the opportunity for students to access SC Future Makers and Tallo to discover careers, apprenticeships, or internships in careers in advanced manufacturing and logistics and supply chain management.
- **1.103 (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety)** This proviso specifies that school districts must implement a policy that prohibits the use of personal electronic communication (one not authorized for classroom use) devices by students during direct classroom instructional time.

GF NEW PROVISOS

- **1.104 (SDE: District Accounting Systems and Best Practices)** – This proviso convenes a study committee to examine and propose necessary revisions for improving district accounting systems and best practices. The committee will be composed of 11 members of which SCSBO will have an appointment through the Governor’s Office. The proviso calls for the report of the committee to be issued no later than May 31, 2025, with recommendations to include -
 - Increased transparency for school district personnel, stakeholders, and policymakers.
 - Ensuring alignment to accounting standards across the State.
 - Ease of reporting.
 - Consolidation of multiple reports into a streamlined reporting format; Consistency of data across districts, and
 - Increased efficiency for school district financial staff.

EIA AMENDED PROVISOS

- **1A.45 (SDE-EIA: Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive)** This proviso was amended to require the EOC to complete an evaluation of the impact of the funds and incentives related to the Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive and report its findings to the General Assembly.
- **1A.69 (SDE-EIA: Developmental Education and Therapy Services)** This proviso increased from \$1.3 million to \$5.9 million the amount allocated to the SC Public Charter School District for Palmetto Excel with the expectation of serving 500 students.
- **1A.73 (SDEEIA: Foundational Literacy Skill Training)** The amendment specifies that “School districts shall not purchase, utilize, or recommend reading or literacy materials that employ the three-cueing system model of reading, visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word recognition, or the three-cueing system model of reading based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues.” Additionally, it authorizes the Department to carry forward and expend funds for literacy training.

RATIFIED OR ALMOST THERE

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- S. 245 – Booster Club
 - Ratified March 7
 - Cannot serve as financial officer if convicted of financial crime
 - Board may require SLED background check but has to pay for it
 - Booster clubs register officers with board by August 1 each year
 - Board can request accounting review for specific issue

RATIFIED OR ALMOST THERE

S. 418 – Read to Succeed

- Ratified March 7
- Requires “scientifically-based” reading instruction, training
- Codifies proviso allowing screening to occur first five days of school year
- Endorsement revisions
- Adds universal screening assessment
- Expands summer reading camps, intervention
- Encourages retention in earlier grades (K-2)

IN THE SENATE

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H. 4720 – Continuing Resolution (on calendar)

- In Finance Committee February 28
- Maintains current year revenue if budget fails to pass by July 1
- Ensures debt payments are made

IN THE SENATE

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H.4624– Transgender Medical Care (Senate calendar)

- Prohibits transgender care to anyone younger than 18
- Prohibits school staff from “knowingly” withhold from parents or encourage students to withhold from their parents
- Amended w/requirement to notify parents in writing if their child:
 - asserts to staff of his/her gender inconsistent with birth certificate
 - requests staff to use different name different than legal name
 - Requests to staff to use pronoun not align to his/her sex

IN THE SENATE

S. 1017 – Low Income Housing Tax Credit (on calendar)

- In Finance Committee, passed subcommittee
- Amount of tax exemption based on percentage of the development owned by low-income housing organization up to 50 percent
- Requires annual reporting requirements, notice to ensure organizations maintain percentage
- Supported by SCSBA, counties and cities

IN THE SENATE

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H.3309 – Seizure Safe Schools (on calendar)

- Create seizure actions plan
- Health plan policy to address administration of medications, training for staff with direct contact with students, etc.
- Allows under certain condition student self-monitor, self-medicate
- Provides liability exemption clause

IN THE SENATE

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H.3295 – Competency Based Education (on calendar)

- Directs State Board of Education, SCDE to develop process for competency-based schools to apply for exemptions to certain laws, regulations (*not discrimination, health safety, state and federal assessments*)
- Develop process for students transfer, provisions for mastery, etc.
- Directs SCDE to establish a definition for competency-based education that must be published on school website

IN SENATE COMMITTEE

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H. 4700 – Social Media

- In Labor Commerce, Industry Committee
- Social media companies must verify users are 18 years or older; if younger have parent permission
- Prevent minors accessing content advocating use of force, self harm or destruction personal or public (school) property
- Attorney general enforce regulations

IN SENATE COMMITTEE

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H. 4709 – Cursive Writing

- amends a current law to require cursive writing instruction begin in second grade and continue through fifth grade

IN SENATE COMMITTEE

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S. 584 - Students with Disabilities

- In Education Committee; carried over in subcommittee
- Confusing language
- Requires certain actions when finding of no cause to dismiss teacher accused of abuse
 - Superintendent notifies State Board of Education
 - Provide steps taken to investigate
- SBE may investigate if steps taken by the district are insufficient
- Local board develops policies ensuring sufficient staff are present when services of a personal nature are provided to special needs students

HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE

- H. 4655 – Physical Education and Recess – House Education Committee – The bill specifies that
 - Students in 4K - 5th grade must have 1.5 hours of PE weekly
 - Students in 6th – 8th grade must have at least 60 hours of PE per school year.
 - 20 minutes of recess (in addition to PE time) must be provided to 4K -8th grade students
 - Recess can't be used for curriculum or PE requirements nor removed as a form of punishment.
 - Districts must report number of minutes of PE and additional physical activity (recess) students receive weekly.
 - These requirements may not result in the replacement or reduction of time dedicated to instruction in the arts.
 - Noncertified staff or adult volunteers may assist in implementing bill requirements.

HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE

- H. 4649 – Private Security Services in Schools – Education Committee
 - Applies to districts with more than 15,000 students.
 - Allows these districts to use the services of a private security business solely for the purposes of security and emergency management.
 - Specifies that private security employees may not be used in the advisor or teacher roles as SROs.
 - Requires the private security employees to be uniformed.
 - Requires training provided by SLED.
 - Specifies that employees must be 21 years old.

HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE

- H. 4365/ S. 778 – Social Worker Compact – House 3M
 - creates a compact which would allow reciprocity in the hiring of social workers from those states in the compact.
 - In essence it would create a multistate license.
 - License renewal would be the purview of the home state issuing the initial license.
 - Seven states must become members via enacted legislation for the compact to become effective.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- S. 305 – Occupational Work Experience – House Education – This bill allows
 - SDE to award years of experience on a teaching certificate for experience in or related to the content field of the qualifying certificate.
 - One year of certificate experience may be awarded for two years of full-time relevant work experience.
 - Individuals entering the profession prior to 7/1/2023 to apply for additional experience credit and if granted would be entitled to have their pay adjusted for the current year, however is not considered service credit for state retirement or state health plans.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- H. 4374 – Social Studies Standards – House Education – This bill specifies that
 - Those reviewing the standards may not have a record of promoting political or social issues in classroom instruction, or supporting narratives which characterize the founding of the US, its evolution to a constitutional republic, or its history as a story of oppression.
 - Majority of reviewers must be subject matter historians to include constitutional history experts and military historians (doctorate in US history or a published author regarding a historically significant person, time period or event).
 - Those writing revisions must ensure that a traditional approach to history (key individuals and events shaping political, constitutional, intellectual, economic, diplomatic, and military history) is embodied in the standards.
 - Appointees can be removed by Superintendent if a violation of this section is discovered at any point in the process.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- H. 4866 – Smart Heart Act – House Education – This bill in its current form
 - Specifies each public school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) and if the school has an athletic department in grades 9th-12th they must also develop an athletics emergency action plan (AEAP).
 - Lists the components of each plan to include identifying a cardiac emergency response team, first aid, CPR and AED training, and integrating local EMS personnel into the plan.
 - Requires an AED to be located onsite and made available in an unlocked location on school property, to be tested and maintained, and training to be provided.
 - Does not make training and maintenance subject to funding.
 - Currently groups are working together to craft an amendment that all can agree to support.

SBE REGULATION ON INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS³³

- Limits complaints to those brought by parents or legal guardians of students in a district who have made a good faith effort to address their concerns with school or district staff prior to bringing a complaint.
- Clarifies that the State Department of Education will create a standard complaint form for statewide use to bring uniformity and simplicity to the process.
- Provides that local boards may suspend an appeal if an appeal of the same material is pending before the State Board of Education, pending the SBE's decision.
- Extends the period for a local board to consider a complaint from 60 to 90 days and clarify that a board may appoint a subcommittee of members of the same to review complaints and make recommendations to the full board.
- Gives local boards the option to ask the State Board to take jurisdiction over a Complaint from the start.
- Limits the number of complaints to five from any one individual.
- Effective date March 2025

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

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H.3728 - Transparency and Integrity in Education (CRT)

- Prohibits certain concepts in instruction
- Means for addressing violations
- Process for public review of books, materials, curriculum
- Parental expectations and pledge
- House passed bill and Senate passed bill differs – conference committee appointed

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

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High School League

- SCHSL passed new competitive balance multiplier for out of zone students
- Amended proviso requires multiplier system take into account
 - school's location, student population and performance in each sports
 - process and qualification for a student attending a non-member private or public school to participate on a member's team
 - annual accountability report
- Waives year wait period for home school students to participate on member



THANK YOU

Questions?