



From the  dome — To your  home

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A legislative update from the Municipal Association of SC

118th General Assembly  
2009-2010 Session



## **Legislative Report from the 2009 and 2010 Regular Sessions of the 118th South Carolina General Assembly Prepared by the Municipal Association of South Carolina**

The end of the 2010 session brought to conclusion the two-year 118th session of the General Assembly that began in January 2009. This report includes bills passed in 2009 and 2010 and their impact on municipalities. The report also includes an overview of the bills on the Municipal Association's legislative agenda for 2010.

The 2010 legislative session was gavelled to a close in the House of Representatives and the Senate on Thursday, June 3, at 5 p.m. The General Assembly returned to Columbia on June 15, 16, 17 and 29 to continue work on vetoed legislation and the state budget.

During this two-year session, the Municipal Association's legislative agenda continued to focus on the three guiding principles of promoting economic growth, enhancing a positive quality of life, and encouraging local accountability and fiscal responsibility. These locally-driven principles support the state's efforts to compete in the new knowledge economy.

In 2009 and 2010, the Association's legislative tracking system followed almost 800 bills that related to cities and towns. These bills are tied to issues that directly affect municipalities' ability to deliver services and provide amenities residents, visitors and businesses demand. All of these bills are in the Association's legislative tracking system (a link to the legislative tracking system can be found at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)) and can be searched by bill number, topic and tracking level.

The Association's legislative team represents the interest of the state's cities and towns at the State House. The main goal of the Association's advocacy efforts is to ensure cities and towns have the resources and flexibility to meet the expectations of their residents. The Association uses a three-prong approach to accomplish this goal:

- Engaging local grassroots by encouraging local elected leaders, residents and businesses to advocate on behalf of their city or town
- Employing direct lobbying of legislators by the Association's lobbying team on the front lines at the State House and partnering with other advocacy organizations when there is a common interest
- Using the news media to communicate our issues by developing relationships with reporters and providing accurate and timely information on municipal issues

## **Bills on the 2010 Municipal Association of SC Legislative Agenda**

The Municipal Association's 2010 legislative agenda, as adopted by the Association's legislative committee and the board of directors, addressed major issues important to hometowns. The agenda, because it was adopted in the middle of a two-year session, included issues that tie to specific bill numbers.

### **Point of sale (H3272)**

For cities and towns, point of sale was one of the most important issues debated during the 2009-2010 session.

In 2006, the legislature passed tax reform legislation, Act 388, which made several changes to the way municipal governments can raise revenue. A compromise part of that legislation gave local governments the authority to put property on the tax rolls at full market value when property is sold (referred to as "point of sale"). This was to alleviate some of the consequences to cities and towns of another provision that gave a property tax break to anyone owning property that increased in value more than 15 percent over a five-year period.

The rationalization behind this tax break was to ensure current property owners were not taxed out of their homes. This exemption was not to be passed on to subsequent buyers of the property. When property sold, the property value would be recorded for tax purposes at the actual sales price to "true up" the tax value.

Opponents of the point of sale provision worked to eliminate it from state law. The bill that was before the Senate would have limited increases in fair market value at the time of sale to 15 percent above the seller's tax value. This is in addition to the existing cap of 15 percent over five years at reassessment.

The Association opposed eliminating the point of sale provision. This effort would protect rapidly appreciating property from ever being taxed at 100 percent of its value and shift more of the cost of city, county and school operations to businesses and owners of less rapidly appreciating property.

As the Senate debated the issue, the Municipal Association, the SC Association of Counties and the SC School Boards Association reached a compromise with the SC Association of Realtors. The Senate amended the bill with the compromise language, but the bill failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote to pass. The Senate recommitted the bill to the Finance Committee, where it died in committee.

### **Municipal Finance Accountability (S699 and H3839)**

In the summer of 2009, the Municipal Association board of directors formed a task force to recommend legislation that would trigger assistance by a state commission for cities and towns in financial distress. The House and Senate amended two previously introduced bills with the language recommended by the task force. The amended House bill passed the House and the Senate Finance Committee but was never debated on the Senate floor.

### **Annexation**

Several annexation bills that would have made it more difficult for cities and towns to annex property died in committee. The Association will continue to work toward reforming the state's outdated annexation laws.

### **Cuts to the Local Government Fund**

Included in the 2010-2011 state budget was a \$28 million (12 percent) cut to the Local Government Fund from last year's level. This cut means a \$4.6 million reduction to cities and towns from fiscal year 2009-2010 and a 20 percent reduction from the formula provided in the state code.

### **Changes to business license fee structure**

Legislators introduced several bills affecting how local governments collect business license taxes. From changing the basis of the business license fee from gross revenue to specific business license fee exemptions, these bills did not see any action this session.

### **Increased flexibility for local accommodations and hospitality tax expenditures (H4478)**

A bill passed the House and Senate that included language to increase from 20 percent to 50 percent the amount of revenue from the local accommodations and hospitality taxes that may be used for operations and maintenance of tourism-related facilities in cities and towns located in counties where less than \$900,000 in state accommodations tax is collected annually. The governor signed the bill was signed into law on June 23, 2010.

### **Capital project sales tax (S346)**

A bill that was up for debate in the Senate Finance Committee in 2009 contained language regarding a capital project sales tax. The Association hoped to amend this bill in 2010 with language regarding a municipal capital project sales tax, but the bill never received a subcommittee hearing.

### **Expungement (H4205 and S912)**

H4205 passed the House and Senate and was signed by the governor on May 12, 2010, to correct the unintended consequence of the 2009 bill that included expunging traffic tickets and Department of Natural Resources' offenses. A similar bill, S912, was sent to a conference committee to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions. The conference committee never met to discuss the bill; therefore, the bill died at the end of the session.

### **Crime reduction (S191)**

Local law enforcement officials will have more tools to protect residents from criminal activity. The Reduction of Recidivism Act authorizes law enforcement officers to conduct warrantless searches and seizures of probationers and parolees. This bill was vetoed by the governor and overridden by both the House and Senate to become law on May 6, 2010.

### **Accommodations and hospitality taxes as security for revenue bonds (S304)**

The Association supported a bill in 2009 to allow cities and towns to pledge local accommodations and hospitality taxes as security for revenue bonds. This bill was sent to a conference committee because the House and Senate passed different versions of the bill. The Senate adopted the conference report in 2009. At the end of the 2010 session, the House adopted the free conference report, and the governor allowed the bill to become law without his signature on June 28, 2010.

## **Highlights of other important bills passed during the 2010 legislative session that were not included on the legislative agenda.**

### **Electronic filing of campaign disclosures and reports (H3066, R237, A190)**

This law requires county, school board and municipal election candidates to file campaign disclosures and reports electronically with the state Election Commission.

**Allows local option tourism development fees for property tax relief (H4310, R133 A130)**

This law allows up to 20 percent of the revenue from the local option tourism development fee to be used for property tax relief for owner-occupied residential property and for tourism-related capital projects beginning in the second rather than the third year of imposition of the fee (currently only Horry County qualifies for the local option tourism development fee).

**Permit Extension Joint Resolution of 2010 (H4445, R215)**

This law extends certain government approvals affecting the development of real property within the state between 2008 and 2011. This includes state and local permits for sketch plans, preliminary plats, and site specific development plans. This law also exempts development agreements. If the permit is expired for at least one year, the entity has to renew it but current regulations must apply.

**Automatic fire sprinklers in new single family homes (H4663, R282)**

This law includes a building code provision requiring an automatic residential fire sprinkler system in new single family and two family dwellings may not be enforced until January 1, 2014. This law also establishes a study committee to review fire sprinkler credits. Members of the study committee include the Municipal Association of SC, the SC Association of Counties, SC Homebuilders Association and the SC Fire Sprinkler Association.

**Allows utilities to finance the cost of energy conservation measures (S1096, R148, A159)**

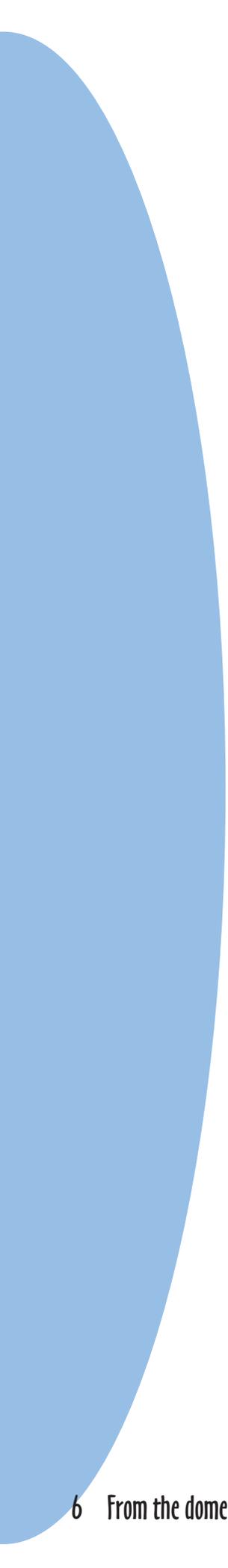
This law gives electric and gas utilities the authority to finance for customers the purchase price and installation cost of energy conservation measures.

## Important Links

All of these links can be found on the Municipal Association of SC website at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: legislative services).

- 2009 and 2010 passed bills tracked by the Municipal Association
- 2009 and 2010 bills tracked by the Municipal Association (by bill number)
- 2009 and 2010 editions of *From the Dome to Your Home*

The next section of the report includes bills that were passed during the 2010 and 2009 legislative sessions.



# 2010 passed bills tracked by the Municipal Association

A link to the legislative tracking system can be found on the Municipal Association website ([www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)) on the legislative services page.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
<b>BUDGET AND FINANCE</b>			
H3395	A152, R171	Changes to general reserve fund amounts	Makes conforming amendments to reflect any change in the amount required to be held in the State General Reserve fund pursuant to the state constitution.
H3396	R172	Increases amount of revenue required for the state general reserve and capital reserve funds	Proposes an amendment to the state constitution to increase from 3 to 5 percent the amount of state general fund revenue in the latest completed fiscal year required to be held in the general reserve fund.
H4174	R276	Provides a conveyance to a trust is not an assessable transfer of interest	Provides that a conveyance to a trust or by distribution under a will does not constitute an assessable transfer of interest of real property if the property is conveyed from the settlor or the settlor's spouse to the children. It further clarifies which transfers, conveyances and distributions do not constitute an assessable transfer of interest.
H4310	A130, R133	Allows local option tourism development fees for property tax relief	Allows up to 20 percent of the revenue from the local option tourism development fee to be used for property tax relief for owner-occupied residential property and for tourism-related capital projects beginning in the second rather than the third year of imposition of the fee (currently only Horry County qualifies for the local option tourism development fee).
H4478	R351	SC Economic Development Competitiveness Act of 2010	Broadens current infrastructure, energy and revitalization incentives for economic development to stimulate job creation in the state. This bill includes language from S332 that allows smaller counties and cities and towns in those counties that collect less than \$900,000 annually in state accommodations taxes to use up to 50 percent of local accommodations and hospitality fee revenue for operating tourism facilities.
H4505	A229, R279	Allows register of deeds to accept payment by credit or debit card	Authorizes the payment of fees and fines in the Register of Deeds office by credit or debit card.
H4511	A171, R202	SC Rural Infrastructure Act	Establishes the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority and authorizes the authority to provide loans and other financial assistance to a municipality, county, special purpose and public service districts.
H4514	A150, R174	Amends the Fee in Lieu of Tax Simplification Act	Requires a specified amount of income taxes paid by resident and nonresident shareholders of 'S' corporations must be deposited into a special fund and distributed by the coordinating council for economic development as grants for public infrastructure improvements.
H4657	R293	Appropriations Bill, 2010-2011	Appropriates revenues to meet the expenses of state government for fiscal year 2010-2011. This bill includes a \$28 million cut (12 percent) to the Local Government Fund from last year's levels.
H4839	R334	Property tax exemptions for medal of honor recipients and prisoners of war	Clarifies that the property tax exemption for recipients of the medal of honor regardless of when the medal of honor was awarded or the conflict involved.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
S304	R340	Accommodations and hospitality fees pledged as security for revenue bonds	Allows local accommodations and hospitality fees to be pledged as security for revenue bonds.
S405	R299	Property tax exemptions for watercraft	Clarifies that a watercraft and its motor may not receive a 42.75 percent exemption if the boat or watercraft is classified as a primary or secondary residence for property tax purposes.
S717	R302	Tax exemptions for organizations researching natural hazards	Exempts from sales and property tax machinery, equipment, building and other raw materials and electricity used by a facility owned by a tax exempt organization investing at least \$20 million over three years in the facility when that facility is used primarily for researching and testing the impact of natural hazards such as wind, fire, earthquake and hail on building materials.
S910	A199, R224	Allows borrowing money against municipal-owned hospital or care facilities	Authorizes municipalities providing hospital, nursing home or care facilities to borrow money in the name of the hospital.
S950	R305	Clarifies language in the Municipal Improvement District Act	Clarifies that an easement for maintenance in channels, canals or waterways is sufficient property interest to proceed with an assessed district. This bill also authorizes that some portion of the bonds issued to fund assessments may be backed by the taxing power of the municipality. Additionally, it requires a consent to inclusion from the owner of residential property when the sole improvements are the widening and dredging of canals.
S1024	A175, R209	Allows surviving spouse of a handicapped person to receive the same property tax exemption	Allows the surviving spouse of a deceased person who was eligible for a property tax exemption because of specific illnesses the same property tax exemption on the dwelling owned by the deceased person.
S1145	A162, R189	Filing application for disability retirement	Provides that a member of the SC Retirement System is considered to be in service on the date the disability retirement application is filed if the member is not retired and if the last day the member was employed by a covered employer in the system occurred not more than 90 days before the date of filing.
S1146	A176, R210	Payment of death benefits in plans administered by the SC Retirement System	Provides that benefits paid through the accidental death insurance benefit of the SCRS shall not be treated as a life insurance benefit so that under IRS guidelines the death benefit would only be taxed at the time of payout.
S1330	A219, R290	Sets the fee for automobile manufacturer standard license plates for 2011 and 2012	Sets the registration fee at \$699 in 2011 and 2012 for automobile manufacturers for vehicles used in a benefit program for the manufacturer's employees or for testing, distribution, evaluation and promotion. The revenue from this fee is credited to the state general fund and the amount required to be remitted to a local government is \$679.
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
H4551	A135, R166	Revises the definition of terms related to public safety communications	Imposes new fees on prepaid wireless telecommunications and VoIP providers for the support of the 911 system. The bill also adds language that preempts local governments from imposing any other fee for 911 funding purposes other than the one provided for in the 911 provisions.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
<b>ELECTIONS</b>			
H3059	R292	Deletes definition of a club district in election law	Deletes the definition of club district and the reference to a club as an entity that is responsible for registration books.
H3066	A190, R237	Electronic filing of campaign disclosures and reports	Requires county, school board and municipal election candidates to file campaign disclosures and reports electronically with the state Election Commission.
H3630	A191, R239	Municipal election commission training requirement	Requires all municipal election commissioners and staff to complete a training and certification program conducted by the state Election Commission.
H3706	A225, R270	Use of campaign funds	Allows campaigns to use debit cards for expenditures more than \$25.
<b>BUILDING</b>			
H4445	R215	Permit Extension Joint Resolution of 2010	Extends certain government approvals affecting the development of real property within the state between 2008 and 2011. This includes state and local permits for sketch plans, preliminary plats and site specific development plans. This bill also exempts development agreements. If the permit is expired for at least one year, the entity has to renew it but current regulations must apply.
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
H3814	R317	Filling vacancies on the SC DOT Commission	Establishes how members are nominated to the Commission of the SC Department of Transportation.
S749	A206, R253	Establishes the Division of Railroad Transportation	Establishes the Division of Railroad Transportation in the SC Department of Transportation. This bill also requires railroads and railways to report annually to this division their active, inactive, to be abandoned and abandoned rail lines.
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
H3719	A192, R240	Submitting a missing persons report	Provides that any individual responsible for a missing person may submit a missing person report.
H4205	A167, R197	Changes the expungement law to exclude fish, game and motor vehicle violations	Changes the section of current law related to destruction of criminal records when a charge is dismissed or the person is found innocent to exclude fish, game and watercraft violations or motor vehicle charges if the violator is not fingerprinted.
H4256	R348	Law enforcement ordering telephone lines cut, rerouted or diverted in certain situations	Allows the supervising agent of a law enforcement agency to cut phone lines and allows SLED to issue an administrative subpoena to a telephone company, Internet service provider or other communications entity when it receives information that a person's life is threatened, a prisoner may escape, a person is being held as a hostage, a person may resist arrest while using a weapon or an armed person may commit suicide.
S191	A151, R140	SC Reduction of Recidivism Act of 2009	Gives law enforcement officers authority to reduce recidivism rates, apprehend criminals and protect potential victims from crime by authorizing warrantless searches and seizures of probationers and parolees.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
S217	A237, R295	Designated places of inmate confinement	Substitutes the term in the code of laws "regional county or municipal jail" for the term "county jail" and includes facility managers of the county or municipal managers/administrators as someone from whom the state must obtain consent to house as an inmate in a local government facility. This bill also enacts the Local Detention Facility Mutual Aid and Assistance Act to allow local detention facilities to assist each other in providing safe and secure housing for inmates.
S288	R296	Surrendering driver's license by violent crime offenders	Provides that a person who is convicted of a violent crime must surrender his driver's license or special identification card to the court which must transmit it to the state Department of Motor Vehicles.
S362	A126, R125	Impairment of firefighters related to workers' comp	Extends the firefighter presumption to those firemen who successfully pass a physical examination by a competent physician by July 1, 2012. The bill also extends the presumption to law enforcement officers if they can provide a written physical examination conducted before July 1, 2012, which also includes a risk factor assessment for coronary artery disease.
S454	A196, R207	Increases members of state board of pyrotechnics	Provides state policy concerning pyrotechnics. This bill authorizes fire chiefs and law enforcement officers to investigate complaints. It also removes the responsibility for inspections and issuing state retail permits from county/municipal governments.
S931	A158, R185	Conditional release of sexually violent predators	Requires that a person found to be a sexually violent predator only be held in a local or regional detention facility pending conclusion of proceedings.
S1097	A159, R186	Enacts the Future Volunteer Firefighters Act of SC	Enacts the Future Volunteer Firefighters Act and directs the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to establish the junior firefighters program to encourage young people to enter the fire service as a career.
S1154	R262	Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act of 2010	Enacts recommendations proposed by the Sentencing Reform Commission report related to criminal offenses, corrections, and probation and parole provisions and increases summary court jurisdiction on property loss to \$2000 or less.
S1298	R312	Traffic guidelines in cases of emergency	Provides relief of traffic regulations during times of emergency. This bill also allows citations to be issued during times of emergency using photographic evidence. The bill also requires a person who receives a citation based solely on photographic evidence must be served within one hour.
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
H3270	A177, R211	Registration of underground storage tanks	Establishes new annual renewal fees for the registration of underground storage tanks and requires the additional revenue generated from the tank fee increases be deposited into the Superb Account.
H4416	R163	Expands the authority of the Renewable Water Resources of Greenville County	Expands the authority of the Renewable Water Resources of Greenville County to use the by-products of waste treatment facilities for alternate energy production.
H4448	R327	Interruption of municipal electric or gas service	Prevents a gas utility, electric utility, the Public Service Authority, electric cooperative and municipality from interrupting electric or gas service to any residential customer for nonpayment of a bill until 25 days after the billing date. All of the mentioned entities may interrupt electric or gas service to any residential customer who has voluntarily enrolled in a prepay program.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
H4635	R167	Allows additional commissioners for Bamberg Public Works	Authorizes the City of Bamberg to add two commissioners to the Board of Commissioners of Public Works.
H4663	A232, R282	Automatic fire sprinklers in new single family homes	Provides that a building code provision requiring an automatic residential fire sprinkler system in new single family and two family dwellings may not be enforced until January 1, 2014. This bill also establishes a study committee to review fire sprinkler credits. Members of the study committee include the Municipal Association of SC, the SC Association of Counties, SC Homebuilders Association and the SC Fire Sprinkler Association.
S452	R300	Permitting for surface water withdrawals	Provides that subject to certain exceptions, surface water withdrawals must be made pursuant to a permit.
S677	Senate resolution	Use of forest biomass for energy products	Recognizes and encourages the use of forest biomass for energy products as South Carolina's most abundant source of renewable energy.
S1022	R128	Allows York County Natural Gas to connect to more sources	Allows the York County Natural Gas Authority to connect to any source of natural gas and increases its powers to allow the purchase and sale of the Town of Blacksburg's natural gas system.
S1096	A141, R148	Allows utilities to finance the cost of energy conservation measures	Gives electric and gas utilities the authority to finance for customers the purchase price and installation cost of energy conservation measures.
S1131	A161, R188	Fee in lieu of property taxes for a qualified nuclear plant facility	Defines the minimum level of investment for a qualified nuclear plant facility. This bill also provides a time within which a sponsor has to enter into a fee agreement regarding a qualified nuclear plant facility.
<b>OTHER</b>			
H3305	R157	Constitutional change relating to right to secret ballot	Proposes an amendment to the state constitution to guarantee the right to vote by secret ballot in union elections.
H3835	R318	SC Hydrogen Permitting Act	Creates the state hydrogen permitting program. This bill also states that only the state fire marshall may permit a hydrogen facility in the state and may delegate that authority to a county or municipal official.
H4093	A178, R212	SC Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Act	Establishes a comprehensive recovery program for television, computing and printing devices. Does not allow a covered device to be discarded in a solid waste landfill. Local governments may participate in the recovery program with the approval of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The recovery program does not allow local government to charge fees for participation in the recovery program.
H4172	R322	Allows county council to institute an employee furlough program	Allows a county to implement employee furloughs for no more than ten working days in a fiscal year.
H4187	R323	Deletes the term of a lease of airports to private parties for operation	Deletes the limits of the term of an airport or landing field lease to private parties for operation.
H4542	R329	Makes changes to the prohibition of the release of an ethics report	Deletes the prohibition of the release of information by the State Ethics Commission until final disposition of an ethics investigation and requires that the information may not be released until a finding of probable cause has been made.
S186	A125, R124	Limits attorney fees in state initiated actions	Limits attorney's fees in state-initiated actions to a reasonable time expended at a reasonable rate.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
S728	A182, R221	Makes further changes to the Textiles Communities Revitalization Act	Provides for further clarification of specific requirements for textile mill sites acquired before or after 2007.
S1187	A184, R226	Reestablishment expenses to move a small business, farm or nonprofit organization	Allows reestablishment expenses up to \$50,000 for property owners for expenses related to the taking of land for public use.
S1449	Senate resolution	Form of government resolution for the City of Columbia	Urges the City of Columbia council to put forth a public referendum on the November 2010 ballot to determine the will of residents to change its form of government from council-manager to mayor-council form.

\* Some Act numbers were not available at press time.

# 2009 passed bills tracked by the Municipal Association

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Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
<b>BUDGET AND FINANCE</b>			
H3560	A23, R49	2009-2010 Appropriations Bill	Makes appropriations and provides revenues to meet the expenses of state government for fiscal year 2009-2010.
H3581	A87, R50	Removes prohibition against cutting LGF	Allows the General Assembly to cut the Local Government Fund to cities and towns for FY 09-10 by 17.4 percent.
H3022	A36, R89	Collecting fees for expungement or destruction of records	Prevents a municipal, county or state agency from collecting a fee for expunging records when a charge is dismissed or the person is found innocent.
H3482	A45, R103	Excludes aircraft from personal property taxes	Exempts from property taxes aircraft owned by a company engaged in air transport of specialized cargo.
H3018	A76, R88	Property tax exemption of home improvements	Exempts from property tax newly built one and two-family residences until the property is sold or occupied (rented) OR for five years after it was built, whichever comes first. The exemption does not apply to the value of the land.
S483	A3, R11	Local Option Tourism Development Fee Act	Allows municipalities in counties that collect at least \$14 million in accommodations taxes in a year to impose a fee for tourism promotion, property tax rollback and capital projects promoting tourism causes.
S13	A18, R44	Motor vehicle fees	Puts revenue from motor vehicle fees and penalties into the Transportation Infrastructure Bank.
S278	A88, R60	Allows county council to waive or reduce property tax penalties	Allows county officials, with the consent of a city or town located in the county, charged with collecting taxes to waive or reduce the penalties for late payments by majority vote of a county council.
S235	A99, R2	Authorizes Dorchester School District 2 to impose an impact fee	Authorizes Dorchester School District 2 to impose an impact fee.
S360	A49, R65	Deletes collection amount requirement from the capital project sales and use tax	Deletes a requirement that the one percent capital project sales and use tax imposed by a county is to collect a limited amount of money.
H3730	A89, R52	Stimulus funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund	Accepts the stimulus money for the clean water state revolving fund and drinking water state revolving fund.
H3148	A68, R96	Federal Educational Tax-Credit Bond Implementation Act	Provides conditions for the allocation of stimulus funds to school districts in South Carolina.
S364	A74, R67	Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment Program (V-SAFE)	Offers grants to fire departments with at least 50 percent volunteers.
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
H3299	A7, R32	Customer Choice and Technology Investment Act of 2009	Allows some local exchange carriers to opt out of regulation when providing certain services.
<b>ELECTIONS</b>			
H3232	A84, R4	Certification date of results from a local referendum	Changes the certification date of a capital project sales tax referendum held in November 2008 from no later than November 30, 2008, to no later than December 11, 2008.
<b>BUILDING</b>			
S268	A20, R46	Building code enforcement officers	Creates a special building inspector to perform certain types of inspections that are not carried out by municipal officials. These inspectors are qualified through the state Labor, Licensing and Regulation department.
S234	A98, R1	Report of development on schools in Dorchester County	Requires the superintendent of Dorchester County School District 2 to prepare and submit to the county and municipalities within that school district an annual report detailing information about the impact of development on district schools.

Bill number	Act and Ratification number	Short Title/Description	What does this do?
H3550	A46, R105	Revises title of current Building Energy Efficiency Standard Act	Adopts the international energy conservation code as the energy standard and requires all new and renovated buildings to comply with this standard. Also establishes an appeals process.
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
S166	A92, R58	Highway beautification and billboards	Establishes a pilot project through the Department of Transportation to reduce the number of nonconforming billboards on I-26 and I-95.
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>			
S593	A32, R74	Concealed weapon inside a vehicle on school property	Provides that the section of the law that relates to carrying a weapon on school property does not apply to a person who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon when the weapon is inside a vehicle.
H3013	A56, R87	Increases penalties and jurisdiction for removal of agriculture fencing	Allows an increase in the penalty for removing or destroying fences, gates or other barriers enclosing animals, crops or uncultivated land. This bill also gives magistrates court the jurisdiction to hear these cases.
H3653	A95, R110	Municipal court jury lists	Moves the date for the expansion of municipal court jury lists to December 2009 and uses information from the SC Department of Motor Vehicles.
H3761	A62, R114	Procedures for drug proceeds	Requires proceeds from forfeited cash or property to be deposited in a separate, special account and used only for drug enforcement and training.
H3087	A77, R91	Residence of sex offenders related to local ordinances	Prevents a municipality from enacting an ordinance that changes the boundaries from 1,000 feet where a sex offender may reside.
H3463	A1, R15	Requirements of printing electronic traffic tickets in different colors	Removes the requirement that electronic traffic tickets be printed in certain colors.
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
S668	A33, R76	Christmas Eve as a legal holiday for state employees	Establishes Christmas Eve as a legal holiday for state employees.
S793	A55, R85	Restrictions on the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority	Sets up the conditions and terms for municipalities and other public bodies operating water distribution and wastewater systems in Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton counties to get services from the authority.
H3957	A22, R54	Water quality monitoring near an oyster factory	Requires DHEC to use local qualified personnel to monitor water quality in a river near an oyster factory.
<b>TAX REFORM</b>			
S12	A81, R121	SC Taxation Realignment Commission	Establishes a commission to study the tax structure in the state.
<b>OTHER</b>			
H3651	A48, R109	Limits authority of counties and municipalities to regulate forestry activities	Limits the authority of counties and municipalities to restrict or regulate certain forestry activities. See Section 1 part B of the bill for the list.
H3301	A78, R98	Database for deferred presentment providers	Requires the consumer finance division of the Board of Financial Institutions to implement a real-time internet accessible database for payday lenders to verify if deferred presentment transactions are outstanding for a particular person.
S232	A19, R45	Use of clean energy sources	Encourages the use of clean energy sources, to include nuclear energy, and provides a definition for renewable energy resources.
S453	A75, R70	Local ordinances dealing with livestock and poultry	Preempts municipalities from enacting ordinances that regulate the handling of livestock or poultry.
S374	A123, R122	Posting notices in places of employment	Deletes the provision requiring notices concerning employment to be posted in every room where five or more people are employed.



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