

# 2015/2016 SC Club for Growth House Scorecard Key

**1. April 15, 2015 – Gas Tax Increase.** H. 3579, Passage of Bill. This bill included a \$365 million a year tax hike on taxpayers through a \$0.10 a gallon gas tax increase. As we said from the start of the roads debate, any tax increase must come with a substantial tax cut and Department of Transportation restructuring. This bill had neither. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the bill passed 87-20.

**2. March 11, 2015 – Board of Regents.** H. 3701, Table Amendment Number 185. This amendment would have created a much-needed Board of Regents to oversee higher education in South Carolina. Currently there is no successful board that oversees higher education. The preferred vote was NO to tabling. Unfortunately, this amendment was tabled 58-55.

**3. March 12, 2015 – Bonding Amendment.** H. 3701, Table Amendment Number 197. This amendment would have spent \$500+ million on projects that had been discussed behind closed doors and introduced at the last minute. This amendment is one example of the many ways your tax dollars are used for pet projects that circumvent the legislative process. The preferred vote was YES to tabling. Fortunately, the amendment was tabled 69-44.

**4. March 25, 2015 – Superintendent of Education.** H. 3041, Passage of Joint Resolution to Constitution. This Constitutional amendment would allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent of Education. The preferred vote was YES. Fortunately, the resolution passed 67-40.

**5. July 6, 2015 – Veto 42 Bus Shop.** H. 3701, Override Veto 42. This veto targeted a proviso requiring funding for two bus shops while no other bus shops are mentioned. Not only is it an earmark but it also takes away the Superintendent's ability to effectively run his/her agency. The preferred vote was NO to overriding the veto. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 88-24.

**6. July 7, 2015 – Veto 54 Woodrow Wilson Home.** H. 3701, Override Veto 54. This veto would have removed an earmark for the Woodrow Wilson's Family Home. There are historical homes in all corners of South Carolina that do not receive an earmark in the budget for marketing. Instead of funding via political favors there are other ways for places like this to raise money. The preferred vote was NO to overriding the veto. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 81-25.

**7. July 7, 2015 – Veto 57 Columbia Museum of Art.** H. 3701, Override Veto 57. This veto would have removed an earmark for the Columbia Museum of Art. There are museums in all corners of South Carolina that do not receive an earmark in the budget. Instead of funding via political favors there are other ways for places like this to raise money. The preferred vote was NO to overriding the veto. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 80-27.

**8. July 9, 2015 – Confederate Flag.** S. 0897, Passage of the Bill. This vote determined whether or not the Battle Flag of the Army of Northern Virginia (AKA the Confederate Battle Flag) was to be removed from the State House grounds. The South Carolina Club for Growth advocated for the flag's removal due to its negative economic impact, particularly in sports and tourism and the millions of dollars associated with such events. For example, since 2001, the NCAA banned South Carolina from hosting postseason events – basketball tournaments, football bowl games, etc. – due to the flag. It has been estimated that South Carolina has lost out on at least \$10 million in tourism and revenue. The preferred vote was YES. Fortunately, the bill passed 93-27.

**9. June 2, 2016 – Adjournment of the General Assembly.** S. 0267, To Concur in Senate Amendments. For nearly 20 years, the SC House has passed bills that would shorten the legislative session. Ultimately,

these bills died in the SC Senate and never became law. While not the perfect bill due to the many exceptions the legislature could cite to extend the session, S. 0267 was a step in the right direction and one the Senate was able to pass. This bill, signed by the Governor, could potentially save taxpayers \$350,000 a year. The SC Club for Growth hopes the legislature will continue its efforts to reduce the length of the legislative session in the years to come. The preferred vote was YES. The House concurred with the Senate and the motion was passed 91-0.

**10. June 15, 2016 - Payroll Deductions for State Employees.** H. 5270, To Override the Veto. H. 5270 grows the size and scope of government by establishing a public dues collection agency for private organizations – clearly not a core function of government. The Society of Former SLED Agents is a private organization with the mission of providing support to its members. Much like the AFL-CIO and other unions, membership is contingent upon the paying of dues. This organization, like any other private organization, should collect dues through private means. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 105-3.

**11. June 15, 2016 – Veto 12 Bus Shop.** H. 5001, Veto 12 – Lee County Bus Shop Proviso 1.56 Override. This proviso mandated staffing levels at a single bus maintenance facility in Lee County and is a classic example of legislative micromanaging and overreach. Education policy should be largely be guided by parents, teachers, and districts. We should be expanding innovation and flexibility in our education system. This proviso does neither. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 77-26.

**12., 13. June 15, 2016 – Veto 26 CCU & Veto 27 CCU.** H. 5001, Costal Carolina Stadium Override & Costal Carolina Stadium Engineering Override. Coastal Carolina University switched athletic conferences and university officials sought approval to increase the size of CCU’s football stadium through the issue of bonds. This bond approval process had to be approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). The CHE, citing insufficient funding to cover the bond debt, denied the request multiple times.

In order to sidestep the CHE’s denial, legislators slipped in two provisos late in the budget process. These provisos were included in the final budget. Governor Haley vetoed the provisos (Veto 26 and Veto 27). By overriding these vetoes, legislators placed runaway higher education spending ahead of fiscal responsibility and student wellbeing. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, vetoes 26 and 27 were overridden 96-12 and 77-16, respectively.

**14. June 15, 2016 – Veto 29 Aeronautics, Aviation Fund.** H 5001, To Override Veto 29. Shortly before this veto was considered, Governor Haley signed a more than \$2 million reoccurring funding source for the Division of Aeronautics. Additionally, the agency only requested a \$5 million supplement to this fund. Apparently legislators in Columbia know more about the funding needs of this organization than the agency itself and slipped in a \$7 million proviso. Considering the reoccurring funding source and the department’s own budgeting request, the \$7 million proviso highlights the legislature’s poor record of fiscal accountability and budgeting abuse. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 93-12.

**15. June 15, 2016 – Vet 31 DHEC Indoor Aquatic Center.** H. 5001, To Override Veto 21. This proviso was a \$100,000 earmark for a swimming pool managed by the Richland County Recreation Commission. Not only did the proviso contain six-figures of pork, it also aimed to reduce the required 2:1 local to state match down to 1:1. Swimming pools are clearly not a core function of government. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Fortunately, the veto was sustained 36-60.

**16. June 15, 2016 – Veto 32 DOA, Leadership SC.** H. 5001, To override Veto 32. Leadership South Carolina is a private organization that should function without taxpayer support. Its mission is focused on

professional development and networking. Its alumni include legislators and lobbyist. Supporting Leadership South Carolina is clearly not a core function of government. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 73-30.

17. **June 15, 2016 – Veto 33 South Carolina Artisans Center.** H. 5001, To Override Veto 33. This veto would have removed \$500,000 in pork from the state budget. The SC Artisans Center is a private organization and should be supported through private means, not public tax dollars. This pork project is another example of how legislators use your tax dollars to bring home the bacon. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 73-26.

18. **June 15, 2016 – Veto 34 Sports Developing Marketing Program.** H 5001, To Override Veto 34. The \$3 million worth of pork in this proviso is nothing more than a poor attempt at hiding earmarks intended for private entities. Additionally, the recruiting of sports events is not a core function of government and certainly not worth \$3 million of taxpayer dollars. Sadly, this is one more example of how legislators spend your hard earned tax dollars on pet projects instead of returning them to you. The preferred vote was NO to overriding. Unfortunately, the veto was overridden 86-16.