

2017 South Carolina House Scorecard Key

1. **Superintended of Education – February 22, 2017. [H. 3146](#). **Passage of Joint Resolution to the Constitution. [Vote #H91](#)**. The SC Club for Growth has longed pushed for sensible reforms to state government, including the appointment of cabinet-level agency heads by the Governor. By making the Superintendent of Education an appointed position, there will be a greater degree of accountability in education in South Carolina. The preferred vote was YES to passage. Fortunately, the House passed the Joint Resolution 87-24.**
2. **Pension Reform #1 – February 28, 2017. [H. 3726](#). **Passage of Bill. [Vote #H97](#)**. “Ultimately, the money comes from taxpayers,” said the Charleston Post and Courier when describing the House’s “fix” of South Carolina’s failing pension system. Taxpayer’s already contribute over \$1 billion to the hemorrhaging program that paid some of the highest investment management fees in the nation while getting some of the lowest returns. This bill, and the corresponding vote to adopt the conference report amounted to an \$826 million annual tax hike on SC taxpayers. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the bill passed 99-14.**
3. **Secretary of Transportation – March 1, 2017. [H. 3516](#). **Table [Amendment Number 9](#). [Vote #H100](#)**. During the legislature’s discussion of one of the largest tax increases in South Carolina history, some members sought to bring accountability to the process and offered an amendment that would make the Secretary of Transportation a cabinet-level position. While this would not totally remove the General Assembly’s politicization of road funding and repair, it would be a step in the right direction. The preferred vote was NO to tabling. Unfortunately, the bill was tabled 84-33.**
4. **Gas Tax #1 – March 1, 2017. [H. 3516](#). **Passage of Bill. [Vote # H103](#)**. This bill increased the state’s gas tax by 10-cents-a-gallon and increased a number of other fees. All in, this bill raised taxes and fees on South Carolina drivers by \$600 million a year. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the bill passed 97-18.**
5. **Electrology Practice Act – March 29, 2017. [H. 3450](#). **Passage of Bill. [Vote #H424](#)**. H. 3450 seeks to grow government by creating the Electrology Licensure Committee. In addition, the bill seeks to create two new occupational licenses. In short, H.3450 limits the supplies of goods and services. The preferred vote was NO to passage. Unfortunately, the House passed the bill 94-10.**
6. **Controlling Health Insurance – April 4, 2017. [H. 3809](#). **Passage of Bill. [Vote #H464](#)**. This bill places more regulations on health insurance companies and furthers government’s intervention in the free market. The best thing Government can do to help drive down healthcare cost is get out of the way, not continually pass more mandates. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the bill passed 64-38.**
7. **A to F Grading – April 5, 2017. [H. 3969](#). **Table [Amendment Number 3](#). [Vote #H473](#)**. South Carolina’s government-run education system is among the worst in the nation. To comply with a 2016 law requiring the creation of new standards for the educational opportunities of students, some lawmakers sought to institute an easily understandable grading system based on the traditional A-to-F scale we are all familiar with. This system would be direct and to the point. Some lawmakers thought the standard in which we grade our children was too harsh to grade government run schools. These lawmakers preferred ambiguous terms like “average” or “sufficient.” Government, schools included, should be transparent and poor performing schools should not be able to hide behind unclear terms that don’t adequately and explicitly state their performance. The preferred vote was NO to tabling. Unfortunately, the motion was tabled 72-39.**

8. **Pension Reform #2 – April 5, 2017. [H. 3726](#). Adopt Conference Report. [Vote #H475](#).** This bill did nothing to fix South Carolina's broken pension system. Instead, it through good money after bad by authorized a YEARLY \$826 million tax increase on taxpayers. This is addition to the BILLION dollar annual contribution taxpayers make to support the fledgling fund. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the House adopted the conference report 105-1.
9. **Joint Election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor – May 2, 2017. [S. 0107](#). Passage of Bill. [Vote #570](#).** Over half the United States jointly elect the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The South Carolina Club for Growth supports this bill, that became law, for a number of reasons – continuity in government and accountability in government being at the top of the list. The preferred vote was YES. Fortunately, the bill passes 86-12.
10. **Gas Tax #2 – May 9, 2017. [H. 3516](#). To Adopt the Conference Report. [Vote #620](#).** Among other taxes and fee, this bill increased the gas tax by 12 cents, increased the vehicle sales tax, nearly doubled the vehicle registration fee, increased the tax cap on recreational vehicles, and created a new fee on fuel-efficient cars. Simply put, this bill amounted to one of the largest tax increases in South Carolina history. But perhaps the most disappointing thing about this bill is that it will do little to fix our roads because the monies collected can be used on bond debt. The preferred vote was NO. Unfortunately, the House adopted the conference report 99-20.