



EXECUTIVE BUDGET

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

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HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

January 12, 2026

To the People of South Carolina and Members of the General Assembly:

I submit to you my Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

South Carolina's booming economy has once again created a large budget surplus, this year creating \$2.7 billion in unexpected new revenue.

Every day, employers are creating new jobs, entrepreneurs are opening new businesses, and companies are investing and expanding here. Since 2017, we have announced over \$53.7 billion in new capital investment and almost 100,000 new jobs in South Carolina.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, South Carolina recorded the highest economic growth (GDP) of any state in the nation for the first quarter of 2025. For the third consecutive year, the influential trade magazine Area Development ranked our state the second best for doing business.

Last year, we announced over \$8.9 billion in new capital investment and more than 7,300 new jobs in both rural and urban South Carolina.

Notable economic development announcements included:

- Eaton Corporation in Union will invest \$340 million and create 700 new jobs.
- Isuzu in Greenville will invest \$280 million and create 700 new jobs.
- Homanit USA in Clarendon will invest \$250 million and create 300 new jobs.
- Hampton Lumber in Allendale will invest \$225 million and create 125 new jobs.
- SODECIA AAPICO in Orangeburg will invest \$120 million and create 392 new jobs.
- Woodward in Spartanburg will invest \$200 million and create 27 new jobs.
- ElringKlinger in Pickens will invest \$68.5 million and create 294 new jobs.

There are many reasons why our state continues to enjoy widespread success recruiting and expanding jobs and investment. Our state government is in superior fiscal shape, its laws and policies are business friendly. The state's income tax is shrinking every year, while our population

continues to grow. Investments in education, public safety and workforce training are paying off. We are preserving and protecting our lands, natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations. And our infrastructure and energy demands are being met with planning, foresight, and commitment.

South Carolina's future prosperity requires that we constantly work to create, innovate and improve our efforts in each of these endeavors.

We have made tremendous progress improving our roadways with major projects under construction in every corner of the state. Currently there are almost \$7 billion in active projects underway across the state, up from \$2.7 billion in 2017. Much of that progress is a result of four years' worth of state budget appropriations totaling \$1.4 billion for new construction and improvements to state-owned roads, bridges, highways, and interstates.

However, nationally and here in South Carolina, inflationary construction and labor cost increases now threaten to create crippling delays and busted budgets for major road construction projects currently underway and those soon to break ground.

My Executive Budget recommends an appropriation of \$1.1 billion in new surplus money to keep current and future construction projects moving and on schedule despite inflationary cost increases.

An example of how inflationary cost increases have impacted the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is the number miles of two-lane highway which can be paved using one penny of the state's gas tax: In 2017, SCDOT could pave 114 miles; in 2025, SCDOT could only pave 87 miles.

According to SCDOT Secretary Justin Powell, three prime examples of current construction costs that have increased from 2022 to today are:

- The widening of I-26 between Charleston and Columbia: \$2.02 billion to \$3.03 billion, or a 50% increase
- The widening of I-95 from the Georgia border to Point South: \$977 million to \$2.27 billion, or a 132% increase
- Carolina Crossroads (Columbia's Malfunction Junction): \$2.062 billion to \$2.751 billion, or a 33% increase

Additional funds will also help SCDOT move forward with getting additional interstate widening projects shovel ready in the next few years, including I-85 in Anderson and Oconee counties and I-77 in York and Chester counties.

In addition to inflation, South Carolina's major infrastructure systems and essential government services are struggling to support and keep up with the explosive and unrestrained population growth happening across the state. Last year, the U-Haul rental company ranked South Carolina as the number one destination for their moving trucks and vans.

Left unaddressed, the state may face future problems with water and sewer access, traffic congestion, road and bridge repair, demand for electric power generation, public safety, school overcrowding and healthcare availability.

The time has come, and we must start now, to conduct a thorough analysis and study to determine if our state's infrastructure and government services will be able to keep pace if population growth continues unrestrained.

This Executive Budget includes a proviso directing the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to issue a request for information (RFI) to identify the scope, expectations, and costs for developing one or more comprehensive analyses to measure the impacts of the 10 and 20-year projected population growth on South Carolina's infrastructure and essential government services.

South Carolina government currently maintains its largest rainy day reserve fund balance and low amounts of general obligation debt. In 2022-2023 my Executive Budget began recommending that we maintain a "rainy-day" fund balance of no less than 10% of the total General Fund revenues each year.

To maintain that balance, I am recommending that a total of \$1.4 billion be set aside and placed in the State's "rainy day" fund. Saving money instead of spending it has served our state well – and ensures that we will always be prepared for future economic uncertainties.

Until a few years ago, South Carolina had the highest personal income tax rate in the Southeast and the 12th highest in the nation. No more.

Five years ago, I signed into law the largest income tax cut in state history. As a result, South Carolina taxpayers have kept an additional \$1.275 billion of their hard-earned money. My Executive Budget continues to cut the state's income tax an additional \$107.2 million, by dropping the rate from 6% to 5.9%.

And we don't need to stop at 5.9% – we should continue cutting or eliminating the personal income tax rate as much as we can, and as fast as we can.

Educating our children is the most important thing we do. Our future prosperity requires that we continue the remarkable progress we have made in raising teacher pay.

Eight years ago, the minimum starting salary of a teacher in South Carolina was \$30,113 and the average teacher salary was below the Southeastern average. At that time, I proposed that we begin raising the minimum starting teacher salary, as much as possible each year, with the goal of raising it to at least \$50,000 by 2026.

This year, my Executive Budget recommends spending \$150 million of the budget surplus to continue raising the minimum starting teacher salary, going from \$48,500 to \$50,500. This represents a 68% increase since 2017. South Carolina's required minimum starting teacher salary continues to exceed that of both Georgia and North Carolina.

In addition, as the minimum salary for new teachers has risen, so has the average salary of a public school teacher in South Carolina, reaching \$64,050 last year, which has exceeded the Southeastern average every year since 2021.

Since the statewide expansion of the full-day four-year-old kindergarten program (4K) starting in the 2021-2022 school year, enrollment in the program offered in public schools, private childcare centers, and private schools, has increased significantly.

This may turn out to be the most important investment that we have made in early childhood education. Statistics show that a child from a low-income household enrolled in a state-funded, full-day 4K program, is more likely to be ready for kindergarten than their peers who did not participate.

Today, 18,411 students are enrolled in the program, which is a 30% increase since the program was expanded. Currently, every public school district in the state, except one, is offering full-day four-year-old kindergarten for children from low-income households with an annual income that is at or below 185% of federal poverty guidelines.

Enrollment has also grown at the private day care and private school providers participating in the program. According to the Office of First Steps there are currently 1,899 classroom slots available at these private providers.

To fill these available classroom slots, this Executive Budget includes an appropriation of \$9.9 million to the Office of First Steps to expand enrollment eligibility to children from households with an annual income that is at or below 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. As an example, a family of four with a household income of \$96,450 would be eligible.

Recently, the State of Arkansas began offering free breakfast to all public school students – regardless of household income. I propose that South Carolina do the same.

Research studies have documented that children who eat breakfast daily are better prepared to learn in the classroom. Eating breakfast improves their cognitive performance, attention, memory, and behavior – thereby improving their academic performance.

My Executive Budget recommends an appropriation of \$8.7 million in new money, which the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) estimates will fund 4.1 million meals, sufficient to provide a daily breakfast for every public school student in the state.

The Education Scholarship Trust Fund provides scholarships to eligible low-income parents so they can choose the type of education environment and instruction that best suits their child's unique needs. Last year, the General Assembly increased the minimum number of scholarships required to be funded in this year's state budget from 10,000 to 15,000. They placed no cap on the number of scholarships that may be funded above 15,000.

Due to the popularity of the program, my Executive Budget recommends expanding the number of funded scholarships to 20,000 with an appropriation of \$61.4 million in new money, which will also increase the scholarship award amount from \$7,500 to \$7,634.

Placing an armed, certified school resource officer (SRO) in every school, in every county, all day, every day, has been one of my top priorities as governor. At my request, the General Assembly began funding a grant program administered by the Department of Public Safety, to provide school districts with funds to hire more resource officers for our state's 1,283 public schools.

The grant program has been very successful and has more than tripled the number of schools with an officer assigned to a school, going from 406 in 2018 to 1,181 in 2025.

In last year's budget, and at my request, the General Assembly provided the final full-funding necessary to place a full-time SRO in all 1,283 public schools statewide. While it is no longer necessary to request an appropriation of new money for the program, this Executive Budget maintains the current level of annual funding at \$56.2 million.

Access and affordability to higher education for every South Carolinian is essential to ensuring that our state has the trained and skilled workforce to compete for jobs and investment in the future. That means we must invest to make all higher education – our colleges, universities, and technical colleges – accessible and affordable for the sons and daughters of South Carolina.

This year marks the seventh consecutive year that I will propose that we freeze college tuition for in-state students with an appropriation of \$39.2 million. To receive funds from this appropriation, each institution is required to certify that there will be no in-state tuition or mandatory fee increase for the 2026-2027 academic year.

A uniform formula is used to calculate and appropriate tuition freeze funds for each institution. The formula considers the total tuition and fees charged the previous year to undergraduate in-state students, multiplied by the 2025 Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) of 3.7%, multiplied by the total number of in-state undergraduate students, to arrive at an amount for each school.

In the 12th edition of *The State of Facilities in Higher Education* published in 2025, it was revealed that the deferred capital renewal costs on higher education campuses in the United States have increased to more than \$140 per gross square foot, a 2% increase from the prior year.

In South Carolina there are 35,516,676 total square feet of assignable space in our public colleges and universities, which equates to \$4.9 billion in potential deferred maintenance costs.

My Executive Budget recommends appropriating \$81.7 million in one-time funds for deferred maintenance and critical capital building projects on the campuses of our public colleges and universities, and \$40.3 million for the state's technical college campuses.

The formula used to calculate each appropriation is based on each school's fall 2025 in-state enrollment reported to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Each college and university

receives \$1,000 for each in-state undergraduate student enrolled in the fall of 2025; the technical colleges \$500.

For the sixth year in a row, my Executive Budget proposes providing \$80 million in state lottery funds for need-based grants so that every South Carolinian who qualifies for financial aid – as measured by federal Pell Grants – has sufficient state financial assistance to attend any in-state public college, university, or technical college. Students at private, independent, and historically black colleges and universities will receive an additional \$20 million for Tuition Grants and assistance as well.

I am also recommending funding for a new need-based college scholarship, the Meeting Street Scholarships, using \$15 million in new one-time funds. These funds will help leverage private donations to provide a \$10,000 annual college scholarship up-to four years, for academically prepared, Pell Grant eligible, in-state students to attend an eligible South Carolina college or university.

Once again, I will renew my call for the General Assembly to fund and authorize a systemic review of our state's 33 public institutions of higher education, to be procured by the Department of Employment and Workforce. The goal is to make sure we are preparing to meet our state's future workforce needs.

This study will address the sustainability, accessibility, and affordability, as well as provide an assessment of the need for consolidation of existing physical space, programs, certificates, and degrees offered at our public colleges and universities, as compared to the projected workforce needs of our state in the future.

To address the high demand for skills, training, and knowledge, this Executive Budget once again provides \$95 million in lottery funds for South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships (SC WINS) through the South Carolina Technical College System.

This very successful program has provided over 120,000 South Carolinians with scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and required fees at any of our technical colleges to earn a post-secondary or industry credential in high-demand careers like manufacturing, nursing, computer science, information technology, transportation, logistics, or construction.

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) estimates that South Carolina's incidence of cancer rate for adults ages 18 and over will be 18% between 2023 and 2028, surpassing the national growth rate of 12%. And, over the next 15 years, cancer rates are projected to increase by 30%.

This Executive Budget recommends \$115 million for the creation of a new National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Hospital at MUSC. With this important designation, MUSC will be able to deliver best-in-class cancer care and cutting-edge clinical trials for all South Carolinians, including those in rural and underserved communities.

In the last two years, we completed the most significant government restructuring and accountability effort in over thirty years – bringing direct gubernatorial accountability to the actions of our largest state healthcare service delivery agencies.

This restructuring was also necessary because a comprehensive review and analysis by outside experts concluded that South Carolina had the most fragmented, siloed, and lowest ranked health and human service delivery system in the nation.

Our people with physical disabilities, special needs and mental health issues who were seeking assistance were often required to navigate through a confusing maze of offices, agencies, and officials as they sought help for a loved one or dependent.

The first step of our restructuring effort came two years ago, when the commission run Department of Health and Environmental Control was dissolved and was statutorily reconstituted as two new gubernatorial cabinet agencies – the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Services.

Then a year later, the commission run Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs were dissolved and reconstituted, along with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, into a new gubernatorial cabinet agency, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

My Executive Budget recommends that almost \$100 million be appropriated to these new cabinet agencies as they work to improve and modernize access to healthcare delivery services for the South Carolinians who depend on them.

Our State's landscapes, natural resources, farms, history and culture are unsurpassed in this nation. In recent years, we have provided funds, time, and attention to identify and purchase significant and endangered properties for preservation and conservation.

Since 2017, we have preserved almost 229,000 acres of historically or environmentally significant lands, including the State's largest conservation easement in history, which last year permanently protected 62,000 acres in the Pee Dee region of the state.

We have also deployed floodwater mitigation projects such as flood reduction infrastructure, voluntary buyout of homes in flood-prone areas, and have developed plans and studies to identify and understand flooding issues.

Once again, my Executive Budget recommends that significant funds – \$68 million – be appropriated to the Conservation Land Bank, the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Resilience, and the Forestry Commission for the purposes of identifying and preserving culturally or environmentally significant or endangered properties, and also for flooding mitigation efforts.

In addition, I am recommending the Conservation Land Bank receive \$3 million for the purpose of awarding voluntary conservation easements to preserve working agricultural farms and forested

land for future generations of farmers. To date, 1,650 acres have been preserved using these easements.

To keep South Carolinians safe, we must maintain a robust law enforcement presence – and properly “fund the police.”

A few years ago, we tasked the South Carolina Department of Administration with conducting a comprehensive analysis of law enforcement pay within state government. This effort was aimed at ensuring salaries are competitive to attract and retain top-tier talent.

As a result, and each year since, South Carolina's law enforcement officers have received substantial pay raises – some as high as 52% in the last three years. My Executive Budget continues our investment in our state law enforcement professionals by providing an additional \$10.7 million for pay raises and for the hiring of new agents and officers.

I renew my call for the General Assembly to provide a \$2,000 state income tax credit for every active-duty law enforcement officer, firefighter, first responder, and emergency medical technician employed by a public entity. This nonrefundable tax credit will provide a total of \$45 million in income tax relief for those who put their lives on the line each day to protect and serve the public.

This Executive Budget also creates a \$35 million equipment grant program for our state's 46 sheriffs administered by the Department of Public Safety. To be eligible, the sheriff or a member of their command staff must have completed, be enrolled in, or attest to future enrollment in, the Excellence in Policing and Public Safety Program at the University of South Carolina Law School.

In addition, I recommend the Department of Corrections be appropriated \$58.89 million for pay raises, new staff hires, deferred maintenance, inflationary operating costs, and technology upgrades at our state's 21 prisons.

Last year, in the wake of Hurricane Helene, I proposed that the General Assembly create and fund the South Carolina Public Assistance (PA) program to be administered by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD). This grant program allows local governments, public utilities, nonprofit, and charitable aid organizations to apply for disaster recovery funds – funds that were either denied by the federal government or did not meet federal FEMA thresholds. This year, I am recommending the program receive an appropriation of \$20 million in one-time funds.

In conclusion, by thinking big, by being bold, and by making these transformative investments, I believe we will set our state on a course that will provide the opportunity for prosperity, success, and happiness for generations of South Carolinians.

Let us continue working together. I believe in South Carolina, I believe in America, and I believe the best is yet to come.

Yours very truly,



Henry Dargan McMaster

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Budget Process

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Preparing the FY 2026-27 Budget

July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor's Office began to develop instructions and templates for the upcoming fiscal year.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Budget Office (EBO) transmitted instructions and templates to state agencies and universities.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies submitted their requests to EBO, which distributed copies to Governor's Office, plus House and Senate staffers.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor's Office met with agencies and universities to discuss their requests.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) released the revenue estimate upon which the Governor's Executive Budget is based.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor's Office analyzed budget requests and prepared budget drafts.
January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor releases FY 2026-27 Executive Budget. House Ways and Means Subcommittees begin formal deliberations.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full House Ways and Means Committee takes up the budget.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BEA revises its revenue forecast. House of Representatives debates and passes the budget.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate Finance Committee begins its deliberations. Senate debates and passes the budget.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Committee convenes. House and Senate adopt Conference Committee report.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor acts on budget; General Assembly takes up any vetoes.

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Executive Budget Summary FY 2026-27



GENERAL GOVERNMENT & TAX RELIEF

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$107.2 million in individual income tax relief by cutting the top rate from 6.0% to 5.9%
- \$36.7 million for the State Health Plan and no employee premium increase for the 14th consecutive year
- \$20 million nonrecurring funds for the South Carolina Public Assistance Program for disaster relief

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Accelerating Tax Relief

- \$107.2 million in recurring and nonrecurring funds to cut the top rate for individual income tax from 6.0% to 5.9%.

Aid to Subdivisions

- \$321.2 million recurring funds to fully fund the Local Government Fund, an increase of \$15.3 million or 5%;
- \$79.8 million recurring and nonrecurring funds to create a dedicated fund for Aid to Fire Districts.

Department of Administration (Admin)

- \$6.2 million recurring and nonrecurring funds to create an Office of Statewide Data.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

- \$4.5 million nonrecurring funds for armored car transportation contracts at branch offices.

Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA)

- \$36.7 million recurring funds for the State Health Plan with no resulting employee premium increase.

Department of Archives & History

- \$3.0 million nonrecurring funds for Historic Building Preservation Grants;
- \$2.0 million nonrecurring funds for the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission.

Tax Relief. Reducing taxes on the hardworking people of South Carolina remains a top priority of Governor McMaster. In 2022, the Governor called for and signed into law the Comprehensive Tax Cut Act, delivering the largest income tax cut in state history and incrementally lowering the top marginal individual income tax rate from 7.0% to 6.0%. To date, \$1.275 billion in income taxes have been eliminated, allowing taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Thanks to disciplined budgeting, conservative fiscal management, and a booming economy, South Carolina reached the target 6.0% income-tax rate ahead of schedule last year. But the work is not finished. As competition among states intensifies, South Carolina must continue to reduce the income tax to stay competitive.

To build upon this progress, the Executive Budget cuts the top individual income tax rate from 6.0% to 5.9%.

Rainy-Day Savings. South Carolina's strong financial position is the direct result of disciplined budgeting and a strong commitment to saving for the future. In his Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Executive Budget, Governor McMaster called upon the General Assembly to maintain a balance of no less than 10% of the State's General Fund revenues in two rainy-day accounts to protect its citizens and the State against economic downturns.

By saving rather than overspending, the State has built the largest rainy day reserve balance in history.

Consistent with this fiscally responsible approach, the Executive Budget recommends setting aside a total of \$1.4 billion – equal to 10% of actual Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund revenues of \$14,057,743,518 – into the General Reserve Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund.

General Reserve Fund (7%)	\$ 984,042,046
Capital Reserve Fund (3%)	\$ 421,732,306
Total:	\$ 1,405,774,352

Disaster Relief. Last year, the Governor recommended and the legislature approved creation of the South Carolina Public Assistance Program, a state, public assistance program within the South Carolina Department of Emergency Management (SCEMD) to support disaster recovery for localized hazard events that do not meet the thresholds for a federal disaster declaration. The Public Assistance Program was partially funded in the current fiscal year. This Executive Budget recommends \$20 million nonrecurring funds for the program to allow SCEMD to reimburse state agencies, county and local governments, and utilities for eligible costs. The State must always be prepared.

State Health Plan. This Executive Budget recommends \$36.7 million for the State Health Plan to annualize the 4.6% employer only rate increase that went into effect January of 2026. There is no employer or employee increase recommended by the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. This budget marks the 14th consecutive year without an increase in employee premiums.

The State Health Plan, however, continues to experience growth in claims expenditure above historic norms, occurring in both medical and pharmacy settings. Between January and September of 2025, there was a 7% increase in medical payments per member over the same period in 2024. On the pharmacy side, pharmacy expenditures are up 9.5% per member year-over-year through the first nine months of 2025. Regarding specialty pharmacy, pre-rebate, specialty medication spending is up 15% per member through September over the same period last year, while non-specialty spending is up 4.1% per member in 2025 over 2024. This Executive Budget recommends a proviso that PEBA request cost containment reviews by all third-party administrators of the medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and prescription drug plans to stem the rising costs of the State Health Plan.

Office of Statewide Data. This Executive Budget recommends the establishment of an Office of Statewide Data (OSD) in the Department of Administration. OSD will be led by a Chief Data Officer (CDO) with the primary role to improve the management, transparency, and utilization of state data across all state agencies. The CDO's primary role will be to oversee data governance, data analytics, and the effective use of data to improve public policy, enhance citizen services, and foster transparency in state operations.

The CDO will establish a framework for effective data sharing and management, create an infrastructure for future data-driven initiatives, and ensure that public services are more efficient and transparent for all citizens. The CDO will evaluate data silos within state agencies, drive innovation, and lead to a more coordinated, data-driven government. The development of a comprehensive, long-term statewide data strategy will guide how state government manages, governs, shares, protects, and uses data across all state agencies. Data coordination is the essential foundation for the effective use and implementation of artificial intelligence which can lead to cost-efficiencies in state government.

Currently, over 40 states have a formal Chief Data Officer or equivalent. Neighboring states including Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Florida have a dedicated CDO and support staff. In Virginia, the CDO launched a substance use analytics platform which integrates multiple state databases to support efforts to address opioid and substance use challenges.

Georgia established a comprehensive cloud-based platform to consolidate multiple state datasets: including healthcare claims, child welfare, opioid statistics, and infrastructure data. This has enabled state leaders and agencies to make data-driven policy decisions while promoting government transparency and operational efficiency.

Aid to Fire Districts. State law requires that certain insurance premium tax revenues be designated for local fire departments. Under the current process, a portion of the insurance premium tax revenues are deposited in the State’s General Fund and disbursed to counties by a line-item appropriation in the budget called “Aid to Fire Districts.” This line-item appropriation includes revenue from the fire department premium tax and 25% of the State’s portion of the broker’s premium tax.

The problem is that the amount distributed to local fire departments has increased annually for several years, but the line-item appropriation in the budget has not increased. The result has been a shortfall that must be made up at the end of the fiscal year by surplus General Fund revenues. In essence, the Aid to Fire Districts line-item is an open-ended authorization.

Proviso 117.213 of the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act required the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) Office, in conjunction with the Executive Budget Office, to develop and submit options to address the open-ended status of the Aid to Fire Districts appropriation. To ensure that the revenues are distributed to local fire departments as required by state law, this Executive Budget creates a dedicated fund for Aid to Fire Districts. Rather than collecting the General Fund revenues and allocating the funds through the line-item appropriation or using surplus General Fund revenues, the insurance premium taxes are deposited into this fund. This Executive Budget allocates \$79.8 million in recurring and nonrecurring General Funds to fund the program.

Cultural Agency Support. The Executive Budget proposes funding recommendations for agencies that support our shared culture, arts, and history.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was here in South Carolina where the Revolutionary War was won with over 400 battles and skirmishes fought in our State.

To commemorate the anniversary of the American Revolution and South Carolina’s role in securing independence, our State has created and invested in the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission. Since Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the legislature has appropriated \$20.5 million in nonrecurring funds to the Sestercentennial Commission. The recurring budget for the Commission is currently \$6.9 million. This Executive Budget recommends an additional \$2 million in nonrecurring funds to support their work.

In addition, this Executive Budget recommends \$3 million in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Archives and History for the Historic Building Preservation Grants Program, which supports historic preservation projects benefitting local communities through the physical repair and rehabilitation of South Carolina’s historic buildings.

Ethical and Transparent Government. South Carolinians must trust their representatives, and the State’s representatives must demonstrate they are deserving of that trust.

In 2012, the South Carolina Commission on Ethics Reform was created with former Attorney General Travis Medlock and Governor McMaster serving as co-chairs. The Commission made a series of ethics reform recommendations, some of which have been implemented, and some of which have not. Governor McMaster’s continued goal is to see each ethics reform recommendation enacted.

This Executive Budget proposes that anyone paid to influence decisions made by county, city, town councils, and school boards should be required to register as a lobbyist, just as they are required to do so at the state level.

The Executive Budget also includes a proviso directing South Carolina ETV (SCETV) to prioritize state funds appropriated to the State’s public educational broadcasting network for the broadcast, transmission of programming, content, or information provided to the general public for the purpose of increasing local, state, and regionally-produced news, educational, cultural, sports, entertainment, and state government transparency programing.

Adoption of Shared Services. The Department of Administration offers state agencies support services in such areas as human resources, fiscal management, information technology (IT), and procurement. These shared services save money and improve efficiency, especially in IT.

The Department of Administration provides a variety of secure, reliable, and cost-effective IT shared services and infrastructure that empower state agencies to deliver more responsive services to the citizens of South Carolina.

An additional five agencies will be migrating to IT Shared Services in the next two years:

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Employment and Workforce
- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- State Library

This Executive Budget includes \$13.9 million in additional recurring and nonrecurring state funds for technology shared services.

Future Infrastructure Needs. South Carolina’s rapid population growth requires thoughtful, long-term planning to ensure government services and infrastructure keep pace. To better understand the impacts of continued growth, this Executive Budget includes a proviso directing the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to issue a request for information (RFI) to identify the scope, expectations, and costs for developing one or more comprehensive analyses to measure the impacts of the 10 and 20-year projected population changes.

These analyses will assess how in-migration and demographic trends affect major infrastructure systems and essential government services including water and sewer, roads and bridges, electric

and gas utilities, and services such as public safety and healthcare. This forward-looking approach will allow the State to plan strategically, prioritize investments, and evaluate future needs to ensure taxpayer dollars are being utilized to their maximum benefit.



EDUCATION

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$150 million increase in State Aid to Classrooms to increase the minimum starting salary for teachers from \$48,500 to \$50,500 and every cell in the State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule by \$2,000
- \$61.4 million for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund
- \$605.6 million investment in undergraduate scholarships and grants
- \$39.2 million for tuition mitigation to freeze in-state tuition rates for a seventh consecutive year
- \$8.7 million to provide free, nutritious breakfast to any student who wants one

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

- \$150 million increase in State Aid to Classrooms through the General Fund and Education Improvement Act (EIA) recurring revenues to increase the minimum starting teacher salary from \$48,500 to \$50,500 and to increase every cell in the State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule by \$2,000;
- \$61.4 million for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund - \$41.4 million in recurring general funds and \$20 million in lottery revenues;
- \$50 million in EIA recurring and surplus revenues for instructional materials;
- \$20 million in EIA surplus revenues for school safety grants;
- \$15 million in EIA recurring revenues for summer reading camps for first and second graders who are not on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade;
- \$9.9 million in EIA surplus revenues to expand full-day 4K in private centers that have available slots for children whose family income is 300% or less of the federal poverty guidelines;
- \$8.7 million in EIA revenues to provide free, nutritious breakfast to any student who wants one;
- \$5 million in EIA surplus revenues funds for Phase 3 of a strategic compensation model for educators;

- \$5 million in nonrecurring general funds to purchase school buses.

Post-Secondary Student Scholarships and Grants

- \$299.1 million investment in lottery scholarship programs (LIFE, HOPE, Palmetto Fellows);
- \$95 million lottery and nonrecurring general fund dollars for SCWINS at the South Carolina Technical College System;
- \$80 million lottery funds for need-based grants;
- \$53 million for lottery tuition assistance at two-year institutions;
- \$20 million lottery funds for Tuition Grants;
- \$15 million for Meeting Street College Scholarships;
- \$10 million lottery funds for Nursing Initiative;
- \$6.2 million lottery funds for National Guard tuition repayment program;
- \$3.5 million lottery funds for College Transition Program scholarships for students with special needs.

Higher Education

- \$81.7 million nonrecurring general funds for deferred maintenance and critical capital projects at the research universities, four-year comprehensive universities, and two-year branches of the University of South Carolina system;
- \$39.2 million recurring general funds for tuition mitigation.

Technical College System

- \$40.3 million nonrecurring general funds for deferred maintenance and critical capital projects;
- \$20 million nonrecurring general funds for high demand job skill training equipment;
- \$10 million nonrecurring general funds for readySC.

Teaching and Learning. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-50 defines the educational objectives for all students in our State: students who graduate from a public high school should have the knowledge, skills, and characteristics to be college, career, and citizenship ready.

To achieve these objectives, Governor McMaster recommends investing in the following:

Teachers. Among school-related factors, research documents that teachers matter the most when it comes to student academic performance in reading and mathematics.

When Governor McMaster took office in 2017, the minimum starting teacher salary was \$30,113. In 2022, the Governor set a goal that the minimum starting salary would be at least \$50,000 by 2026. This Executive Budget accomplishes that goal by increasing State Aid to Classrooms by \$150 million using General Fund and Education Improvement Act (EIA) revenues. The funds will raise the minimum starting teacher salary from \$48,500 to \$50,500 and

increase all cells in the current State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule by \$2,000. Raising the minimum starting salary to \$50,500 equates to a 68% increase in the past nine years.

As the beginning salary for teachers increases, so do the wages for all teachers paid at or above the State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule. As the following chart documents, the average teacher salary in South Carolina in school year 2024-2025 was \$64,050, exceeding the Southeastern average teacher salary of \$61,749. The average teacher salary in South Carolina for school year 2025-2026 will be reported next fall.

School Year	SC Beginning Minimum Teacher Salary	SC Actual Average Teacher Salary	Southeastern Average Teacher Salary
2017-2018	\$30,113	\$50,182	\$50,750
2018-2019	\$32,000	\$50,882	\$51,713
2019-2020	\$35,000	\$53,329	\$52,963
2020-2021	\$35,000	\$53,185	\$53,431
2021-2022	\$36,000	\$54,814	\$54,774
2022-2023	\$40,000	\$57,520	\$57,341
2023-2024	\$42,500	\$60,763	\$59,595
2024-2025	\$47,000	\$64,050	\$61,749
2025-2026	\$48,500		\$63,085

Sources: Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and Annual General Appropriation Acts.

According to the National Education Association's annual *Teacher Salary Benchmark Reports*, in school year 2017-2018 South Carolina ranked 47th nationally in the average starting salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree. In school year 2023-2024, South Carolina ranked 30th nationally.¹ Ratings for school year 2024-2025 will be released in the spring of 2026.

To attract, reward, and retain high-performing teachers, this budget also recommends the following:

- \$5 million in surplus Education Improvement Act (EIA) revenues for Phase 3 of the strategic compensation pilot program, which has been supported in the prior two Executive Budgets. This program allows schools to compensate educators above and beyond their salary and benefits for exemplary student academic growth; and
- \$1.4 million in EIA revenues for piloting a Teacher Career Ladder compensation model for teachers that retains high-quality teachers in the classroom and broadens their impact beyond the walls of their classroom. The program will establish leadership pathways that compensate and advance effective teachers, creating a rewarding environment that retains top teaching talent while improving the teacher workforce and benefitting students.

¹ <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/educator-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank>

Healthy Students. Research studies have documented that children who eat breakfast are better able to concentrate and pay attention in school. Consequently, the research shows a positive effect of breakfast on cognitive performance, including attention, memory, academic performance, and classroom behavior. This Executive Budget includes \$8.7 million in EIA revenues to ensure that all children, regardless of their income, can have a free breakfast every day during the school year. According to an analysis by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, this funding will provide over 4.1 million meals annually. By implementing this recommendation, South Carolina will join states such as Arkansas that offer free breakfast to all students.

School Safety. Governor McMaster has made protecting students, teachers, and school staff a top priority, positioning South Carolina as a national leader in school safety. In 2018, when Governor McMaster began calling for an armed, certified, full-time school resource officer (SRO) in every public school, only 406 schools had an SRO. In last year's budget, the General Assembly provided the final funding necessary to support an SRO in all 1,283 public schools statewide.

Since funding became available in July, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) has worked hard to place full-time SROs in 75 additional schools, bringing the total to 1,181 schools now staffed with a full-time SRO. SCDPS continues working with school districts to fill the remaining positions. With full funding available, this Executive Budget does not include new funding for SROs, but maintains the current recurring appropriation of \$56.2 million to sustain the program and preserve the progress already achieved.

Fiscal Year	Number of Full-Time SRO Positions in Public Schools	State Recurring Appropriations
2018-2019	406	\$2,000,000
2019-2020	No data reported by SC Department of Education	\$11,935,000
2020-2021*	714	\$11,935,000
2021-2022	879	\$18,935,000
2022-2023	982	\$18,935,000
2023-2024	1,109	\$33,102,500
2024-2025	1,106	\$35,102,500
2025-2026	1,181	\$56,233,747

*Department of Public Safety took over the administration of the program.

The number of full-time SROs includes SROs funded with state appropriations and local revenues.

To further strengthen school safety, this Executive Budget also includes \$20 million in surplus EIA revenues for the School Safety Grants Program. Successfully secured by Governor McMaster in each of the past three fiscal years, these grants provide school districts with resources for critical safety upgrades, including enhancing classroom and internal door locks, securing school entry points, window covers, bulletproof glass, and more.

High Quality Instructional Materials. This Executive Budget recommends \$10 million in EIA revenues and \$40 million in surplus EIA revenues for the purchase of instructional materials as requested by the South Carolina Department of Education in the following subject areas:

- Algebra 1 Materials - \$1 million
- Computer Education - \$3 million
- Maintenance of Orders with many in consumables like elementary mathematics, cursive writing, K-5 science, and K-5 social studies - \$30 million
- One-year extension for instructional materials that must be extended for one year while academic standards are being updated - \$16 million.

Summer Reading Camps. Act 114 of 2024 extended summer reading camps in school year 2025-2026 to first grade students who are not exhibiting grade-level reading proficiency. The early literacy skills that students need to have include phonemic awareness and the knowledge of letter names and sounds. Early interventions like summer reading camps can assist students in being on track for third grade reading proficiency. This Executive Budget recommends \$15 million in additional EIA funds for summer reading camps to serve an estimated 14,000 additional first and second graders who are not on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade. Parents have the option of enrolling their first or second grader in the summer reading camps.

Education Scholarship Trust Fund. Act 11 of 2025 amended the law regarding the Education Scholarship Trust Fund. For school year 2025-2026 the program was limited to 10,000 scholarship students. Beginning in school year 2026-2027 the program must be made available to at least 15,000 students. The law also requires the scholarship amount to be increased by the percentage increase in the average per pupil funding from state sources as provided by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs. The Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs has calculated that the scholarship amount should be increased from \$7,500 to \$7,634.

Due to the popularity of the program, this Executive Budget recommends \$20 million in lottery revenues and \$41.4 million in recurring General Fund revenues to fund 20,000 scholarships through the Education Scholarship Trust Fund.

Early Learning and Kindergarten Readiness. In 2021, Governor McMaster proposed funding for the statewide expansion of the full-day four-year-old kindergarten program and the General Assembly agreed. This investment in early childhood education continues to improve kindergarten readiness. A child in poverty who participates in the Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (CERDEP), the state-funded, full-day four-year-old kindergarten (4K) program offered in a public school, private childcare center, or private school is more likely to be ready for kindergarten than a peer who does not participate.

Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn

Fall	All Children	Children who Participated in CERDEP	Children in Poverty who did NOT Participate in CERDEP
2018	37%	36%	N/A
2019	39%	39%	N/A
2020	27%	21%	18%
2021	36%	33%	24%
2022	38%	41%	27%
2023	38%	37%	27%
2024	39%	35%	25%

N/A – Not available.

Enrollment in the program continues to increase. For school year 2026-2027, there are 18,411 children enrolled in the program, which is a 30% increase since the program was expanded statewide in school year 2021-2022. Now, with the addition of Beaufort County School District, Horry County Schools, and Clover School District (York 2) this school year, all but one school district in the state participates in the program.

Enrollment in State-Funded Full-day 4K Program by Type of Provider

Fiscal Year	Private Providers (First Steps)	Public Providers (SCDE)	Total
2017-2018	1,945	9,789	11,734
2018-2019	2,458	9,812	12,270
2019-2020	2,455	10,609	13,064
2020-2021	2,131	7,822	9,953
2021-2022	2,731	11,476	14,207
2022-2023	3,178	13,706	16,884
2023-2024	3,628	13,853	17,481
2024-2025	3,758	14,020	17,778
2025-2026 *	3,871	14,540	18,411

* Enrollment for Fiscal Years 2017-2018 through 2024-2025 is based on actual reimbursements for instructional costs. Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is based on fall 2025 enrollments and monthly payments to school districts.

South Carolina must continue to expand access to this program while improving the quality of instruction. To this objective, the Executive Budget includes \$9.9 million in surplus EIA revenues for the Office of First Steps to expand enrollment to children whose annual family income is 300% or less of the federal poverty guidelines, which is \$96,450 for a family of four. Currently, there exist approximately 1,899 available slots in 4K classrooms in private centers who are participating in the program. By expanding eligibility, more children and families can take advantage of this program. In addition, the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), which annually evaluates this program, will be required to determine if space exists in public schools to expand the program.

Sustainability, Access, and Affordability in Higher Education. According to a 2023 report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW), by 2031, 72% of all jobs nationally will require at least some postsecondary education and training beyond high school.² These requirements differ by state. For South Carolina, the CEW estimates that 64% (1,547,000 jobs) will require some postsecondary training beyond high school in 2031.

The CEW also projects for South Carolina that between 2021 and 2031, an average of 278,000 job openings will be created annually in South Carolina both from new jobs and jobs that come open for other reasons, most frequently retirement. This is how the vacancies will break down by education level:

- 179,000 of these annual job openings will be for workers with postsecondary credentials.
- 74,000 of these annual job openings will be for those with a high school diploma.
- 25,000 of these annual job openings will be for those with less than a high school diploma.

Given the increased demand for South Carolinians to have a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential, the Executive Budget includes a proviso requiring the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development at the Department of Employment and Workforce to procure a study to determine if our State’s higher education system and the postsecondary degree programs provided are meeting the current and future workforce needs of the State. This is the third year Governor McMaster has recommended this study.

Tuition Mitigation. To meet these workforce demands, South Carolina must continue its collaborative efforts to make public college and universities – technical, comprehensive, and research – more affordable and accessible for all South Carolinians.

This Executive Budget freezes college and university tuition for in-state resident students for the seventh consecutive year. The budget recommends \$39.2 million for tuition mitigation.

If the objective is to freeze tuition and mandatory fees at the current year’s level for in-state undergraduate students, then the Executive Budget again proposes the following methodology to calculate and appropriate funds for tuition mitigation to each public college and university using the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). HEPI measures inflation for colleges and universities and covers operational costs of colleges and universities, including salaries and fringe benefits for faculty, administration, and other employees, utilities, supplies and materials.

$$\frac{(\text{Total Tuition and Fees Charged to Undergraduate In-State Students}) \times 3.7\% (\text{HEPI})}{(\text{Total Number of In-State Undergraduate Students})} = \text{Tuition Mitigation}$$

The number of in-state, undergraduate students was the fall 2025 headcount by institution as provided by the Commission on Higher Education. In exchange for receiving these funds, each

² After Everything – Projections of Jobs, Education, and Training Requirements Through 2031. file:///H:/FY2026-27/Unemployment%20Rates/Projections_2031-State-Report.pdf

institution agrees that there is no in-state tuition or mandatory fee increase for the 2026-2027 academic year. In this Executive Budget, the tuition mitigation funds are allocated accordingly with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) receiving an allocation of \$6 million, which is in line with the other research universities:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Recurring Dollars</u>
The Citadel	\$ 802,683
Clemson University	\$ 8,050,890
College of Charleston	\$ 2,338,525
Coastal Carolina University	\$ 1,894,992
Francis Marion University	\$ 1,429,116
Lander University	\$ 1,589,609
South Carolina State University	\$ 918,290
USC - Columbia	\$ 8,621,090
USC - Aiken	\$ 1,191,584
USC - Upstate	\$ 1,884,698
USC - Beaufort	\$ 718,401
USC - Lancaster	\$ 676,464
USC - Salkehatchie	\$ 208,057
USC - Sumter	\$ 501,405
USC - Union	\$ 424,223
Winthrop University	\$ 1,937,656
Medical University of South Carolina	<u>\$ 6,000,000</u>
Total	\$ 39,187,683

Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects. The 12th edition of *The State of Facilities in Higher Education* published in 2025 revealed that the deferred capital renewal costs on higher education campuses in the United States have increased to over \$140 per gross square foot, a 2% increase from the prior year. In South Carolina there are 35,516,676 total square feet of assignable space in our public colleges and universities, which equates to \$4.9 billion in potential deferred maintenance costs.

The Executive Budget recommends \$1,000 for every in-state undergraduate student to be used for deferred maintenance and critical capital projects. The Executive Budget recommends \$9.2 million for MUSC to reflect in-state undergraduate students as well as the unique mission of MUSC. This formula results in \$81.7 million in nonrecurring funds to the following institutions for deferred maintenance and critical capital projects.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Nonrecurring Dollars</u>
The Citadel	\$ 1,651,000
Clemson University	\$14,111,000
College of Charleston	\$ 5,049,000
Coastal Carolina University	\$ 4,400,000
Francis Marion University	\$ 3,461,000
Lander University	\$ 3,672,000
South Carolina State University	\$ 2,244,000

USC - Columbia	\$18,364,000
USC - Aiken	\$ 3,007,000
USC - Upstate	\$ 4,434,000
USC - Beaufort	\$ 1,818,000
USC - Lancaster	\$ 2,419,000
USC - Salkehatchie	\$ 744,000
USC - Sumter	\$ 1,793,000
USC - Union	\$ 1,517,000
Winthrop University	\$ 3,746,000
Medical University of South Carolina	<u>\$ 9,236,000</u>
Total	\$ 81,666,000

For the South Carolina Technical College System, the Executive Budget recommends \$500 for every in-state undergraduate student, which equates to \$40.3 million for deferred maintenance and critical capital projects to the 16 technical colleges.

Scholarships and Grants. Lottery proceeds and investment earnings are currently projected to be \$30 million less than the amount appropriated in the current fiscal year. Consequently, this Executive Budget prioritizes lottery revenues on scholarships and grants that assist students in earning a postsecondary degree, which include the following:

- \$228.2 million in lottery revenues for LIFE scholarships, \$61.3 million in lottery revenue for Palmetto Fellows Scholarships, and \$9.5 million in lottery revenue for HOPE scholarships;
- \$95 million in lottery revenue and nonrecurring general funds for the South Carolina Workforce and Industrial Needs Scholarship (SCWINS) program;
- \$80 million in lottery revenue for need-based grants to provide tuition assistance;
- \$53 million in lottery revenue for tuition assistance at two-year institutions;
- \$10 million in lottery revenue for the continuation of the Nursing Initiative;
- \$6.2 million in lottery revenue for the National Guard Tuition Repayment Program; and
- \$3.5 million in lottery revenue for the College Transitions Programs, which provide scholarships for South Carolina residents with intellectual disabilities to complete a postsecondary education program, which includes academic coursework and career exploration, thereby preparing them for independent living and employment.

For students attending private colleges and universities, the Executive Budget recommends \$20 million in lottery dollars for Tuition Grants. Tuition Grants are awarded to eligible South Carolina students attending a private college or university in our State and can only be used toward the payment of tuition. In the 2024-2025 academic year, 12,975 financially and academically eligible students received South Carolina Tuition Grants. The maximum Tuition Grant increased to \$5,000 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This Executive Budget also recommends \$15 million in nonrecurring general funds for the Meeting Street College Scholarships. These funds will leverage private donations to ensure that South Carolina students in all 46 counties who are academically prepared and who are eligible for

a federal Pell Grant can receive up to \$10,000 annually for four years to attend an eligible South Carolina college or university.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND WORKFORCE

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$1.1 billion in funds for roads, bridges, and interstates
- \$95 million to support workforce industry needs scholarships (SCWINS)
- \$20 million for high demand job skill training equipment
- \$10 million for readySC

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Transportation (SCDOT)

- \$1 billion in nonrecurring and \$100 million in recurring funds for roads, bridges and interstate projects.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT)

- \$25 million nonrecurring funds for state parks maintenance;
- \$6.5 million nonrecurring funds for sports marketing grants;
- \$6 million nonrecurring funds for Welcome Centers construction projects;
- \$5.1 million recurring funds to operate the State's Welcome Centers;
- \$4 million nonrecurring funds for beach renourishment grants.

Technical College System

- \$95 million lottery and nonrecurring funds for South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships (SCWINS);
- \$20 million nonrecurring funds for high-demand job skill training equipment;
- \$10 million nonrecurring funds for readySC to support training needs for companies.

Economic Development. South Carolina’s strong and resilient economy is the direct result of Governor McMaster’s commitment to pro-business policies that encourage investment and job creation. In fact, South Carolina recorded the highest GDP growth in the country in the first quarter of 2025, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Since 2017, the Governor has announced more than 99,000 new jobs and over \$53.7 billion in capital investment, demonstrating sustained economic momentum across the State.

That success has accelerated in recent years. In 2024, South Carolina recorded one of the best years for economic development in state history, with \$8.2 billion in capital investment and 5,500 new jobs announced. This followed the second-best year in 2023 and the strongest year on record in 2022. Just as importantly, companies already operating in South Carolina continued to reinvest in the State, announcing more than \$5.3 billion in capital investment through expansion projects in 2024 alone – evidence of their confidence in the State’s workforce and business climate.

This momentum carried into 2025, with over \$8.9 billion in capital investment and more than 7,300 new jobs announced across both rural and urban counties. Some of the largest economic development announcements include:

- Eaton Corporation in Union will invest \$340 million and create 700 new jobs.
- Isuzu in Greenville will invest \$280 million and create 700 new jobs.
- Homanit USA in Clarendon will invest \$250 million and create 300 new jobs.
- Hampton Lumber in Allendale will invest \$225 million and create 125 new jobs.
- SODECIA AAPICO in Orangeburg will invest \$120 million and create 392 new jobs.
- Woodward in Spartanburg will invest \$200 million and create 27 new jobs.
- ElringKlinger in Pickens will invest \$68.5 million and create 294 new jobs.

National rankings continue to affirm the effectiveness of the Governor’s approach. In 2025, Area Development ranked South Carolina second in the nation for *Best State for Doing Business* for the third consecutive year. South Carolina continues to lead the nation in business incentive programs, site availability, and site readiness, which are key factors that drive job creation and capital investment, proving that the State is well prepared for continued economic prosperity.

Infrastructure. As South Carolina continues to attract new businesses and families at a record pace, the State’s infrastructure must keep up with demand. Reliable roads, bridges, and interstates are essential to economic competitiveness, public safety, and quality of life, and meeting rising demand requires sustained investment.

Over the last several years, South Carolina has made tremendous progress improving its transportation system, with major projects underway in every corner of the State. In the past four years alone, Governor McMaster and the General Assembly have approved state budgets that included \$1.4 billion for new construction and improvements to state-owned roads, bridges, highways, and interstates. As a result, nearly \$7 billion in transportation projects are currently under construction statewide, up from \$2.7 billion in 2017.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) reports that in year eight of the Ten-Year Plan the following progress has been made:

- Advancing to construction 1,209 miles of rural road safety projects, which has seen a 20% reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on corridors where projects have been completed;
- Putting under contract 10,017 miles of paving, getting work underway on approximately one-quarter of the State's 41,000-mile highway system;
- Replacing and rehabilitating 456 bridges to deal with South Carolina's rapidly aging bridge inventory and addressing closures and load postings. These efforts have been bolstered by one-time \$200 million appropriations in both FY 2024-2025 and FY2025-2026;
- Delivering on 121 miles of interstate improvement projects including completing improvements on I-85, I-20, and I-26 while also advancing the widening of I-26 between Charleston and Columbia, improving I-95 at the Georgia border, and untangling Malfunction Junction in Columbia. The efforts on I-26 and I-95 were accelerated thanks to the General Assembly's appropriations in FY 2022-2023 of \$453 million in America Rescue Plan dollars and \$133 million in nonrecurring General Fund dollars.³

Despite these accomplishments, rapid and unprecedented inflation threatens future progress. For example, SCDOT reports that when the Ten-Year Plan was adopted in FY 2017-2018, SCDOT could pave 114 miles of two-lane highway with one penny of the gas tax (\$34-\$36 million). In FY 2024-2025, SCDOT could only pave 87 miles of two-lane highway with one penny of the gas tax.

According to SCDOT, three prime examples of current construction budgets facing inflationary cost increases are:

- The widening of I-26 between Charleston and Columbia from \$2.02 billion to \$3.03 billion, or a 50% increase;
- The widening of I-95 from the Georgia border to South Point from \$977 million to \$2.27 billion, an increase of 132%; and
- Carolina Crossroads (Columbia's Malfunction Junction) from \$2.062 billion to \$2.751 billion, or a 33% increase.

SCDOT also has new interstate widening projects scheduled to break ground in the next few years, including I-85 in Anderson and Oconee counties and I-77 in York and Chester counties.

To advance major strategic initiatives and offset the impact of inflation, this Executive Budget recommends a total increase of \$1.1 billion for our State's roads, bridges and interstates. Of these funds, \$100 million are recurring funds and \$1 billion are nonrecurring funds.

Workforce. South Carolina's continued economic success depends on a skilled, prepared, and adaptable workforce. As new businesses locate in the State and existing employers expand,

³ Letter of December 4, 2025, from Justin P. Powell, Secretary of Transportation to Governor Henry D. McMaster.

workforce training must keep pace so that companies can find qualified workers and South Carolinians can access good-paying jobs.

More than any governor in modern times, Governor McMaster has prioritized workforce training and education, recommending hundreds of millions of dollars to expand skills training and career opportunities for South Carolinians. These strategic investments have been a cornerstone of South Carolina's economic prosperity. With the State's labor force at a record high and the unemployment rate remaining low, now is not the time to slow our progress. Tens of thousands of new jobs are being created across the state, and continued investment is essential to meet employer demand and sustain economic momentum.

To address the growing demand for skills and training, this Executive Budget recommends \$95 million to support the South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships (SCWINS) program at the State's technical colleges. Governor McMaster created the program in 2021 using federal COVID-19 pandemic funds to cover tuition and fees for students pursuing high-demand credentials. The General Assembly began funding the program four years ago, and since its inception, SCWINS has helped more than 120,000 South Carolinians earn post-secondary or industry credentials in critical fields such as manufacturing, nursing, computer science, information technology, transportation, logistics, and construction.

To further expand economic opportunity and strengthen South Carolina's competitive advantage, the Executive Budget also recommends \$20 million in nonrecurring funds for high-demand job skills training equipment and \$10 million in nonrecurring funds for readySC to support customized training needs for new and expanding businesses.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$203 million for State's Medicaid program, Healthy Connections
- \$115 million for a comprehensive cancer hospital at the Medical University of South Carolina
- \$83.7 million for services provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- \$46.9 million for foster care services
- \$34.1 million for changes in federal funding match requirements of the SNAP program

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- \$102.6 million for Medicaid maintenance of effort;
- \$53.1 million for Medicare premiums for elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients;
- \$47.3 million to increase home and community-based services.

Medical University of South Carolina

- \$115 million nonrecurring funds for a comprehensive cancer hospital.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- \$24.1 million for information technology and cybersecurity modernization;
- \$21 million for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

- \$20.3 million for inpatient mental health services and mental health crisis stabilization teams;
- \$10 million for the Unified Care Platform Technology of Act 3 of 2025;
- \$5.8 million for substance addiction recovery services;
- \$2.5 million for transportation contracts for mental health evaluations at state facilities.

Department of Social Services (DSS)

- \$46.9 million recurring funds for foster care services including increasing provider rates for foster care parents;
- \$34.1 million recurring funds for changes in federal funding match requirements for SNAP benefits;
- \$25.1 million nonrecurring funds for modernization of the SNAP eligibility system, the Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM).

Department of Public Health

- \$5 million recurring funds for maternal and child health home visitation program;
- \$1.4 million recurring funds for rabies and tuberculosis services;
- \$976,292 recurring and nonrecurring funds for Olmstead Act implementation.

Healthcare. To support Healthy Connections, the State’s Medicaid program, the Executive Budget recommends approximately \$203 million in recurring funds. Of this amount, approximately 91% is associated with maintenance of effort and annualization with the remaining 9% associated with reimbursement rate increases.

Of the increase, \$102.6 million represents the annualization necessary to keep the existing Medicaid program operating at the existing service and reimbursement levels. This annualization includes inflationary provider reimbursement pressures and estimated increases in enrollment and utilization. The increase also accounts for funding changes directed by the federal government to Medicaid programs and decreases in certain other fund revenue sources that require an offsetting source of funding to enable the Healthy Connections Medicaid program to continue operating in its current configuration. The annualization continues to reflect the savings associated with transition from multiple managed care-operated preferred drug lists to a single, state-directed list.

The increase includes \$53.1 million to annualize the Medicaid program’s portion of federally mandated Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D premium increases that are associated with dually eligible Medicaid members who are elderly or disabled. While Medicare premiums have increased substantially in recent years, paying these mandated premiums ensures Medicare is the primary payer for Part A and Part B expenditures. This investment lowers South Carolina’s Medicaid financial responsibility to only 6.5% of the total cost per recipient.

In addition, \$47.3 million is associated with maintaining adequate access to care and delivering the care in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting possible through the home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver. Increased utilization, acuity, and enrollment along with a local provider cost of living adjustment have resulted in the need for increased funds.

Reimbursement rates for personal care, nursing, and enhanced nursing services are included which will keep South Carolina's rates comparable to other Medicaid programs in the Southeast.

This Executive Budget also addresses services to improve public health. First, \$5 million in recurring funds appropriated to the Department of Public Health (DPH) is recommended to be allocated to Children's Trust to expand evidence-based home visiting programs for parents and children. These programs support families and link them to critical resources during pregnancy, postpartum, and in early childhood. The objective is to improve child development and maternal and child health. An annual report released by DPH in December 2025 shows the State's infant mortality rate increasing by 2.9% in 2023 over the previous year. These additional funds will double the number of individuals served through home visits from 3,000 to 6,000.

Also, \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is recommended in the Executive Budget to establish a pilot telecare and virtual maternal care navigation program for pregnant and postpartum women, including those in underserved and rural counties through the Human Coalition. This will strengthen maternal health outcomes by expanding access to personalized, technology-enabled care coordination for mothers who often face significant barriers to consistent care.

The Executive Budget includes 12 additional DPH positions and \$1.4 million to provide services for South Carolinians impacted by rabies and tuberculosis. The Executive Budget also recommends \$976,292 to comply with Act 3 of 2025. Section 1-30-150 of the South Carolina Code of Laws requires the Departments of Health and Human Services, Veterans' Affairs, Administration, Public Health, Social Services, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to develop and execute a cohesive and comprehensive plan that addresses how to ensure that services and support for South Carolinians with disabilities are, to the greatest extent possible, provided in the community instead of in an institutional setting in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581.

For the ninth year in a row, this Executive Budget includes a proviso preventing taxpayer dollars from going to abortion providers like Planned Parenthood. This policy is consistent with Governor McMaster's efforts to protect the sanctity of life and was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in June, which upheld South Carolina's authority to exclude abortion providers from receiving taxpayer-funded dollars. There are a variety of agencies, clinics, and medical entities in South Carolina that receive taxpayer funding to offer important women's health and family planning services without performing abortions. South Carolinians' tax dollars must not be funneled to organizations that do not represent South Carolina values or priorities.

Comprehensive Cancer Hospital. Between 2021 and 2025, Becker's Hospital Review projected that the United States would experience more than 2 million new cancer diagnoses. South Carolina was projected to have the fifth highest increase in the number of cancer diagnoses at 22.10% with 35,300 new diagnoses made. The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) estimates that South Carolina's incidence of cancer rate for adults ages 18 and over will be 18% between 2023 and 2028, surpassing the national growth rate of 12%. And, over the next 15 years, cancer rates are projected to increase by 30%.

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) are committed to transforming cancer care in South Carolina by becoming a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center. MUSC will partner with local communities to enable access to best-in-class cancer care and cutting-edge clinical trials for all South Carolinians, including those in rural and underserved communities. Critical to this objective is the construction of a new Comprehensive Cancer Hospital which will provide integrated patient-centered cancer care and support research to define new standards of care. The new hospital will transform cancer care treatment, positioning South Carolina as a national leader in cancer treatment and research.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. In May, Governor McMaster signed Act 3 of 2025, consolidating three separate agencies – the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services – into the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. With this action, Governor McMaster completed the most significant restructuring of South Carolina state government in more than 30 years. The consolidation has revealed the challenges and the opportunities for South Carolina to provide better access to our most vulnerable adults and children.

This Executive Budget recommends the following:

- \$24.1 million recurring and nonrecurring funds to modernize the agency’s information technology and cybersecurity systems as recommended by the Department of Administration;
- \$21 million recurring funds for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has experienced increased demands for services and rising workforce and provider costs over the last several years. The additional funds will address the State match requirements for Intermediate Care Facilities and provide funding for additional operational costs related to increased nursing contract rates, increased worker compensation rates, and increases due to inflation. The medical Consumer Price Index is between 4 and 6%;
- \$20.3 million recurring funds for inpatient mental health services and mental health crisis stabilization teams. The funds will provide a second mobile crisis team at every mental health center to respond to psychiatric emergencies, assign two certified peer support specialists at every mental health center, provide rent assistance for seriously mentally ill patients who meet financial requirements to live independently, expand forensic inpatient services; and fund the 988 suicide crisis call centers;
- \$10 million recurring and nonrecurring funds for a Unified Care Platform that is required by Act 3 of 2025. State law requires the agency to procure “collaboration technology that enables coordination and accountability across the department and with local partners. At a minimum, the technology should have the capability for authorized users to: securely access relevant information regarding the needs and care journey of individuals served; communicate bidirectionally with referring organizations using a secure chat feature; and send referrals on behalf of the individual, track and store the outcome of that referral, and track and store the outcome of services delivered within a single client record using an unique identifier”;

- \$5.8 million recurring funds for substance addiction recovery services;
- \$2.5 million recurring funds to continue to support transportation contracts for mental health evaluations at state facilities, reducing reliance on local law enforcement for transportation.

Foster Care Children. This Executive Budget recommends \$46.9 million to the Department of Social Services (DSS) to improve the services provided to children in foster care and children with behavioral and mental health needs while complying with the Michelle H. Final Settlement Agreement. Among the initiatives funded with these additional funds are increased foster care payments for children under sponsorship or kinship care; transitional day service programs and immediate therapeutic support for children and youth in crisis; and rate increases for therapeutic/medical foster care adjustment, group homes, and child placing agencies.

SNAP Program. DSS also administers the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Due to changes in federal requirements, the State cost share for administrative expenditures increased from 50% to 75%. DSS projects that the cost to comply with the federal changes and earnings verification requirements will be \$34 million. In addition, replacement of the mainframe system that supports SNAP and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) requires an additional investment of \$25.1 million in nonrecurring funds.



CONSERVATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$58 million for the preservation and conservation of land of cultural and environmental importance
- \$20 million for growing the Agribusiness Fund
- \$10 million for statewide mitigation projects

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- \$40 million nonrecurring funds for land conservation;
- \$10 million nonrecurring funds for Lake Paul Wallace Dam;
- \$3 million nonrecurring funds for Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping Project – Final Phase;
- \$2 million recurring funds for conservation education;
- \$750,000 recurring funds for abandoned boat removal.

Conservation Bank

- \$10 million nonrecurring funds for land conservation;
- \$3 million nonrecurring funds for agriculture – Farm Conservation Grants.

Forestry Commission

- \$8 million nonrecurring funds for land conservation;
- \$2 million nonrecurring funds for firefighting air water tanker contract;
- \$560,000 nonrecurring and \$260,000 recurring funds for new dedicated wireless network – GPS tracking for communications during wildfires.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

- \$4 million nonrecurring funds for beach renourishment grants.

Department of Agriculture (SCDA)

- \$20 million nonrecurring funds for growing the Agribusiness Fund;
- \$860,000 recurring funds for restaurant inspectors funding replacement;
- \$580,000 recurring funds for five additional Food Inspectors.

Office of Resilience

- \$10 million nonrecurring funds for statewide mitigation projects;
- \$1 million nonrecurring funds for bridge box flood monitoring program.

Department of Environmental Services

- \$2.9 million in recurring funds for recruitment and retention of key workforce.

Preservation and Conservation of Culturally and Environmentally Significant Lands.

Our State's history and culture are unsurpassed in the creation of this nation. It is well-documented in books and by hundreds of historical markers, monuments, buildings, and homes preserved and dedicated to telling our State's story. The names of our towns, streets, institutions, rivers, and families carry that history forward to this day.

We must protect and preserve our history and heritage. It is why we are who we are and why we are here. It is why we stay here and why others come here. It informs our strengths, purpose, and duty.

Vigorous economic growth and the preservation of our shared natural heritage and environment are not opposing objectives which must be balanced as in a competition, one against the other. Instead, they are complementary, intertwined, and inseparable, each dependent on the other. Each can be accomplished to the fullest if we plan now and act boldly.

This Executive Budget reflects Governor McMaster's commitment to conserving as much land as possible and investing in resilience to improve the quality of life in South Carolina. By prioritizing the protection of natural resources, wetlands, historical and archaeological properties, and urban parks, we aim to ensure future generations can enjoy the unparalleled landscapes that make South Carolina unique.

Since he took office, Governor McMaster has worked to preserve at least 229,000 acres of historically or environmentally significant lands, including the State's largest conservation easement in history, which permanently protected 62,000 acres in the Pee Dee. To continue building on this progress, the Executive Budget recommends \$58 million in nonrecurring funds for the preservation and conservation of land. In addition, \$10 million in nonrecurring funds will be used to deploy floodwater mitigation projects such as installation of flood reduction infrastructure, voluntary buyout of homes in flood-prone areas, and the development of plans and studies to identify and understand flooding issues.

This Executive Budget also renews and strongly supports the proviso language that requires resource agencies to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate to maximize the funds available for the greatest public benefit. Significant accomplishments in land preservation were achieved in 2025, showcasing the results of collective efforts to protect South Carolina’s natural heritage (pursuant to the Annual Report South Carolina Conservation Land Acquisitions 2025):

- Coosawhatchie Properties (Jasper County; 1,598 acres)
- South Saluda Wildlife Management Area/Saluda Bluffs (Pickens County; 1,090 acres)
- Meyer Lake Heritage Preservation (Jasper County; 974 acres)
- Glendale Nature Park – Tyger Oak Property (Spartanburg County; 946 acres)
- Landsford Canal State Park – Wren Tree Farm (Lancaster County; 501 acres)
- Lewis Ocean Bay (Horry County; 353 acres)
- Lee State Park (Lee County; 137 acres)
- Tillman Sand Ridge – Allcare Tract (Jasper County; 116 acres)
- Sea Island Cotton – Coosaw Island (Beaufort County; 121 acres)
- Forty Acre Rock – Baxley Tract (Lancaster County; 73 acres)
- Kings Mountain State Park – Metker (York County; 48 acres)

South Carolina is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Our 187 miles of ocean coastline provide the foundation of a thriving tourism industry that supports jobs and local businesses in communities such as Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Hilton Head and Beaufort, contributing tens of billions of dollars to our economy each year. Safeguarding these natural resources is critical to our State’s economic strength and quality of life. To protect our beaches, the Executive Budget provides \$4 million in nonrecurring funds for beach renourishment grants, ensuring our coastline remains resilient for future generations.

South Carolina’s Agriculture Community. South Carolina has over 22,000 farms, and 4.7 million acres of farmland. As more businesses and people move here, we must find innovative ways to protect our state’s most valuable farmlands. In 2024, Governor McMaster signed the Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act into law to support South Carolina’s farmers and protect the agriculture industry. This bill has been effective in helping landowners preserve working agricultural lands through voluntary conservation easements, with 1,650 acres already protected through the Conservation Bank. This Executive Budget recommends \$3 million nonrecurring funds to protect our farming and agricultural heritage while ensuring that South Carolina is not taken over by overdevelopment.

Agribusiness and farmers have shaped South Carolina since our earliest days and served as the backbone of our state. We must ensure that this industry remains strong. The Agribusiness Fund continues economic development efforts for agribusiness expansion in rural counties using reimbursable grants through county government. Previous funds have been used for beef, dairy, food and beverage processing, seafood, poultry, and grain storage projects. This fund provides new opportunities for our state’s farmers and allows for a stronger agriculture and forestry supply chain. This Executive Budget recommends \$20 million nonrecurring funds for growing

agribusiness. A strong agribusiness fund means a healthy South Carolina economy and environment.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

FY 2026-2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$45.5 million recurring funds to implement a \$2,000 nonrefundable individual income tax credit for individuals employed as sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) beginning in tax year 2026
- \$35 million for Sheriff Local Law Enforcement Grants
- \$17 million to hire additional staff at the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC)
- \$15 million for increased operating costs of prisons due to inflation at SCDC
- \$15 million to modernize the judicial case management system
- \$6.8 million to modernize equipment for the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Regional Dispatch Command Center
- \$4.7 million for 30 additional Bureau of Protective Service's (BPS) Officers and Dispatchers at the Capitol Complex and Governor's Mansion

AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

- \$35 million nonrecurring funds for Sheriff Local Law Enforcement Grants;
- \$6.8 million nonrecurring funds for modernization of the Regional Dispatch Command Center;
- \$4.7 million recurring funds for 30 additional BPS officers and dispatchers at the Capitol Complex and Governor's Mansion;
- \$3 million nonrecurring funds for bodycam local grants;
- \$2 million recurring funds for new employee intranet communication technology shared services;
- \$1.3 million recurring funds for law enforcement officer step increases;
- \$1 million recurring funds for workers' compensation and insurance reserve fund rate increases;

- \$1 million nonrecurring funds for replacement of radios.

State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

- \$2.1 million recurring funds for inflationary increases in operating costs;
- \$1.3 million recurring funds for law enforcement agent step increases;
- \$1.2 million recurring and nonrecurring funds to hire and equip 11 additional agents and support staff;
- \$998,066 recurring funds for workers' compensation and insurance reserve fund rate increases.

Department of Corrections (SCDC)

- \$17.5 million nonrecurring funds for deferred maintenance;
- \$17 million recurring funds to hire additional staff;
- \$15 million recurring funds for inflationary increases in operating costs;
- \$2.5 million nonrecurring funds for mainframe computer replacement;
- \$895,074 recurring funds for workforce recruitment and retention.

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

- \$4.5 million recurring funds for inflationary increases in operating cost.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- \$2 million recurring funds for workforce recruitment and retention.

Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP)

- \$2 million nonrecurring funds for digital fingerprinting contract renewal;
- \$2 million for Technology Shared Services;
- \$1.2 recurring funds for the Domestic Violence and Mental Health Program expansion;
- \$47,055 recurring funds for law enforcement agent step increases.

Judicial Department

- \$15 million nonrecurring funds for case management software system modernization;
- \$2.2 million recurring funds for three additional Circuit Court Judges and their staff;
- \$673,000 recurring funds for pay increase for Family Court Judges.

Attorney General

- \$1.5 million recurring funds for workforce recruitment and retention;
- \$130,000 nonrecurring funds for witness protection funding;
- \$129,000 recurring for an additional State Grand Jury Investigator;
- \$115,272 recurring funds for an additional attorney in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Forestry Commission

- \$2 million nonrecurring funds for a firefighting air water tanker contract;
- \$560,000 nonrecurring and \$260,000 recurring funds for new dedicated wireless network – GPS tracking for communications during wildfires.

Law Enforcement Training Council

- \$103,810 recurring funds for one additional investigator;
- \$88,354 recurring funds for law enforcement instructor step increase.

Ensuring Safe Communities. Since taking office, Governor McMaster has made public safety one of his top priorities, backing that commitment with sustained investments in law enforcement that reflects their key role in protecting our communities. As a result of this continued support, and our dedicated law enforcement officers, violent crime in South Carolina decreased by 8.4% from 2023 to 2024 – marking the fourth consecutive year of decline and the lowest violent crime rate in 30 years. To ensure the state maintains this progress, the Executive Budget recommends the following investments in our law enforcement agencies:

In 2022, Governor McMaster tasked the South Carolina Department of Administration with conducting a comprehensive analysis of law enforcement pay within state government. This effort was aimed at ensuring salaries are competitive to attract and retain top-tier talent. As a result, South Carolina's law enforcement officers have received substantial pay raises – with minimum starting salaries increasing as much as 73% since Governor McMaster took office.

Increase in Minimum Starting Salaries for State Law Enforcement Since 2017

Agency	State Class Title	Rank	Minimum Starting Salary 2017	Projected Minimum Starting Salary 2026
SLED	Law Enforcement Officer II	Special Agent I	\$35,160	\$61,000
Department of Public Safety	Law Enforcement Officer I	Trooper	\$38,273	\$57,361
Department of Natural Resources	Law Enforcement Officer II	Officer	\$33,608	\$59,611
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services	Law Enforcement Officer I	Probation and Parole Agent Noncertified	\$35,000	\$52,147

This Executive Budget continues to build upon prior investments in law enforcement and reinforcing public safety by investing \$4.8 million in compensation to recruit and retain law enforcement personnel at SLED, DPS, SCDC, PPP, DJJ, DNR, and the Law Enforcement Training Council.

To add to the law enforcement recruitment and pay raise efforts and to continue to ensure that South Carolina is home to the best first responders in the country, the Executive Budget once again calls for a \$2,000 nonrefundable state income tax credit for every active-duty law enforcement officer, firefighter, first responder, and emergency medical technician employed by a public entity.

State Protection, Transparency, and Efficiency. At the State Law Enforcement Division, there is a growing demand for law enforcement personnel. SLED's primary mission is to provide quality manpower and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies. In addition, it is critical that we continue to ensure high-level executive protection coverage, support operational readiness, and maintain safety during public engagements. This Executive Budget recommends \$1.2 million to hire and equip 11 FTEs to SLED for the following:

- One Employee Relations Consultant
- Four Criminal Justice Information Program Assistants
- One Joint Terrorism Task Force Agent
- Two Administrative Assistants
- One Law Enforcement Officer III
- Two Counter Terrorism Agents.

Public safety is one of the foundations for economic growth. Safety remains one of the top priorities of companies and families when choosing where to locate. With this, it is imperative that sheriff offices are able to meet the rising public safety demand without delay. This Executive Budget recommends \$35 million in nonrecurring funds to be appropriated to the Department of Public Safety for Local Law Enforcement Grants. To be eligible to receive a grant, the sheriff or a member of the command staff must have completed, be enrolled in, or attest that at least one qualified employee will enroll in and complete the Excellence in Policing and Public Safety Program at the Joseph F. Rice School of Law. These funds would be used for officer equipment, body cameras, firearms, technological upgrades, laboratory and forensic needs, and infrastructure, safety, and security improvements.

South Carolina Public Safety. The need for front line supervision to continue ensuring the effectiveness and responsiveness of our security infrastructure is critical for government officials, state government properties, and the public visiting these properties. In light of a comprehensive security assessment conducted by BPS, SLED, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Homeland Security Unit, it is imperative that staffing at the Statehouse, Governor's Mansion Complex, and Statehouse Operations Center be enhanced. This Executive Budget recommends \$4.7 million to fund 30 FTEs for BPS Officers and Dispatchers at the Capitol Complex and Governor's Mansion.

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety in conjunction with telecommunications staff and various outside entities use radios supplied by the agency for effective communication, collaboration, and cooperation during daily emergencies, inclement weather, and natural disasters throughout South Carolina. The Regional Dispatch Command Center assists these agencies by communicating effectively with emergency personnel inside and outside the agency. It is critical that South Carolinians continue to have a safe and secure environment throughout

our State. The Executive Budget recommends \$6.8 million to modernize the Regional Dispatch Command Center.

Correctional Operations. As the cost of food, healthcare, and housing rises with inflation, so does the cost to operate our correctional system. As of 2025, the annual cost per inmate was \$34,673, a 24% increase from 2021. Additionally, SCDC has seen a 25% increase in inmates 55 years of age and older since 2021, which leads to higher healthcare costs within the agency. In response to this, the Executive Budget recommends \$15 million in recurring funds for increased operating cost.

Furthermore, in 2021, there were five validated or suspected security threat group inmates for every uniform security staff. That ratio has now increased to nine to one. This Executive Budget recommends \$17 million to hire additional staff at our correctional facilities.

An Efficient and Effective Judicial Case Management System. This Executive Budget recommends \$15 million in nonrecurring funds to be directed toward modernizing our judicial case management system. As South Carolina's population continues to grow, trial courts increasingly rely on automation to resolve cases in a timely fashion. These funds would ensure that our Judicial System is able to productively collect data and ensures transparency across our entire judicial system.

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Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objectives

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Statewide Strategic Objectives

South Carolina Government has a number of goals, priorities and key initiatives that transcend agency and other organizational boundaries. These enterprise-level strategic objectives seek to capture the core functions and responsibilities of state government into five strategic areas. They provide important input into agencies' planning processes, serve as a baseline for assessing progress on key issues and require cooperative efforts in order to affect performance in a meaningful way.

Education, Training and Human Development

- **Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.**

Healthy and Safe Families

- **Enhance public well-being by delivering efficient and cost-effective public health and support services.**

Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security

- **Protect the safety, integrity and security of statewide public resources, infrastructure and citizens including timely response to emergencies and disasters.**

Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

- **Build a world-class and safe public infrastructure to enhance the quality of life of our citizens and to promote the state in global competitiveness as a location for business, investment, talent, innovation and visitors.**

Government and Citizens

- **Deliver a government that serves the needs of South Carolinians and achieves inter-agency collaboration to deliver highly effective, efficient and innovative programs.**

Note:

Copies of each agency's Accountability Report and Strategic Plan may be found at:

<https://admin.sc.gov/services/budget/agency-accountability-reports>

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Financial Overview

Financial Overview

GENERAL FUND – RECURRING	
SOURCES:	
Sales and Use Tax.....	\$ 5,408,120,000
Individual Income Tax.....	6,490,874,000
Corporate Income Tax.....	1,204,382,000
Other Recurring Sources.....	1,710,309,000
	<u>14,813,685,000</u>
Less: Income Tax Revenues Credited to the Tax Relief Trust Fund (§11-11-150).....	(824,641,979)
Less: Revenue Transferred from Nonrecurring Appropriations.....	<u>48,844,000</u>
Net General Fund Revenues.....	\$ 14,037,887,021
USES:	
General Fund Appropriations.....	\$ 14,037,887,021
GENERAL FUND – NONRECURRING	
SOURCES:	
FY2024-25 Contingency Reserve Fund	\$ 725,892,730
FY2025-26 Litigation Recovery.....	2,394,062
FY2025-26 Projected General Fund Surplus.....	600,781,836
FY2025-26 Excess Debt Service.....	2,261,872
FY2025-26 Excess Employer Contributions.....	2,779,854
Homestead Exemption Fund General Fund Payback.....	175,000,000
FY2026-27 Debt Service Appropriations Above Obligations.....	<u>125,000,000</u>
	\$ 1,634,110,354
USES:	
Transfer to General Reserve Fund.....	\$ 144,779,082
Income Tax Reduction (6.0% to 5.9%).....	5,346,000
Proviso 117.213 Aid to Fire Districts Formula.....	96,261,319
Nonrecurring Appropriations.....	<u>1,387,723,953</u>
	\$ 1,634,110,354
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	
SOURCES:	
Capital Reserve Fund.....	\$ 387,352,137
USES:	
Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations.....	\$ 387,352,137
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT	
SOURCES:	
Education Improvement Act Sales Tax.....	\$ 1,410,011,000
USES:	
EIA Appropriations.....	\$ 1,410,011,000
EDUCATION LOTTERY EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	
SOURCES:	
Lottery Proceeds.....	\$ 473,200,000
Investment Earnings.....	8,000,000
Unclaimed Prizes.....	22,000,000
Undesignated Fund Balance / FY2024-25 Estimated Revenue Surplus.....	<u>29,315,091</u>
Total:	\$ 532,515,091
USES:	
Lottery Appropriations.....	\$ 532,515,091

STATEMENT OF REVENUES
ESTIMATE OF GENERAL, SCHOOL, TRANSPORTATION,
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT AND EDUCATION LOTTERY REVENUES
FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

	Appropriations Act FY 2025-26	Board of Economic Advisors Estimate FY 2026-27 November 18, 2025	Governor's Estimate FY 2026-27
General Fund Revenues:			
Sales and Use Tax.....	\$ 5,086,141,000	\$ 5,408,120,000	\$ 5,408,120,000
Individual Income Tax.....	6,226,288,000	6,638,154,000	6,490,874,000
Corporate Income Tax.....	1,204,382,000	1,204,382,000	1,204,382,000
Insurance Taxes.....	362,995,000	448,569,000	399,725,000
Admissions Tax.....	42,170,000	43,304,000	43,304,000
Alcoholic Liquor Tax.....	123,052,000	125,223,000	125,223,000
Bank Tax.....	54,911,000	71,105,000	71,105,000
Beer and Wine Tax.....	112,737,000	109,020,000	109,020,000
Business Filing Fees.....	11,604,000	12,296,000	12,226,000
Circuit & Family Court Fines.....	6,013,000	7,208,000	7,208,000
Corporation License Tax.....	196,255,000	213,627,000	213,627,000
Documentary Tax.....	125,713,000	134,767,000	134,767,000
Earned on Investments.....	449,948,024	405,000,000	405,000,000
Indirect Cost Recoveries.....	16,542,000	15,025,000	15,025,000
Motor Vehicle Licenses.....	12,010,000	11,832,000	11,832,000
Nursing Home Licenses/Fees.....	2,923,000	2,801,000	2,801,000
Parole & Probation Supervision Fees.....	3,393,000	3,393,000	3,393,000
Private Car Lines Tax.....	7,280,000	8,461,000	8,461,000
Public Service Authority.....	19,985,000	21,936,000	21,936,000
Purchase Card Rebates.....	4,411,000	4,946,000	4,946,000
Record Search Fees.....	4,461,000	4,461,000	4,461,000
Savings & Loan Association Tax.....	1,005,000	997,000	997,000
Security Dealer Fees.....	36,684,000	37,693,000	37,693,000
Tobacco Tax.....	27,055,000	25,777,000	25,777,000
Unclaimed Property Fund Transfer.....	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Workers' Compensation Insurance Tax.....	13,698,000	14,371,000	14,371,000
Other Source Revenues.....	18,572,940	22,411,000	22,411,000
Subtotal.....	14,185,228,964	15,009,879,000	14,813,685,000
Less:			
Transfer to Tax Relief Trust Fund (§11-11-150).....	(814,021,523)	(824,641,979)	(824,641,979)
Revenue transferred to Recurring Appropriations.....	124,319,000	-	48,844,000
Total General Fund Revenues.....	13,495,526,441	14,185,237,021	14,037,887,021
Education Improvement Act Fund Revenues.....	1,332,079,000	1,410,011,000	1,410,011,000
Nonrecurring:			
FY2023-24 EIA Surplus.....	131,528,000	-	-
FY2024-25 EIA Surplus.....	-	26,273,494	26,273,494
FY2025-26 Projected EIA Surplus.....	-	-	57,787,087
Total Education Improvement Act Fund Revenues.....	1,463,607,000	1,436,284,494	1,494,071,581
Transportation Fund Revenues.....	2,653,614,054	-	3,086,906,976
Education Lottery Account Revenues.....	518,573,000	503,200,000	503,200,000
Nonrecurring:			
FY2024-25 Projected Surplus Lottery Proceeds.....	44,013,859	-	-
FY2025-26 Undesignated Fund Balance.....	-	18,715,091	18,715,091
FY2025-26 Projected Surplus Lottery Proceeds.....	-	10,600,000	10,600,000
Total Education Lottery Account Revenues.....	562,586,859	532,515,091	532,515,091
Total Estimated Revenues (§11-11-410)	\$ 18,989,355,877	\$ 16,978,678,585	\$ 19,927,178,648

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EIA, Lottery, CRF, and Nonrecurring Recommendations

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT	FY 2025-26 H.4025	FY 2026-27 Executive Budget	Executive Budget Notes
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A. STANDARDS, TEACHING, LEARNING, ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Student Learning

EEDA	\$ 8,413,832	\$ 8,413,832	
State Aid to Classrooms	\$ 770,826,434	\$ 748,521,551	1
Industry Certifications/Credentials	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	
Adult Education	\$ 17,073,736	\$ 17,073,736	
Arts Curricula	\$ 1,487,571	\$ 1,487,571	
Career & Technology Education	\$ 29,572,135	\$ 111,419,064	1
Computer Science Cert and Prof Learning	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	
Instructional Support for Districts	\$ 3,794,751	\$ 12,000,000	2
Summer Reading Camps	\$ 14,551,375	\$ 29,551,375	3
Reading Coaches	\$ 9,922,556	\$ 9,922,556	
Child Nutrition Program	\$ -	\$ 8,717,000	4
Subtotal:	\$ 861,642,390	\$ 953,106,685	

2. Student Testing

Assessment/Testing	\$ 27,561,400	\$ 27,561,400	
Subtotal:	\$ 27,561,400	\$ 27,561,400	

3. Curriculum & Standards

Classified Positions	\$ 126,232	\$ 126,232	
Other Personal Service	\$ 4,736	\$ 4,736	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 41,987	\$ 41,987	
Instructional Materials	\$ 33,114,241	\$ 43,114,241	5
Math Resources and Support	\$ 11,500,000	\$ 11,500,000	
Reading	\$ 3,271,026	\$ 3,271,026	
Subtotal:	\$ 48,058,222	\$ 58,058,222	

4. Assist, Intervention & Reward

EAA Technical Assistance	\$ 23,801,301	\$ 23,801,301	
PowerSchool/Data Collection	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 7,500,000	
School Value Added Instrument	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	
Subtotal:	\$ 32,701,301	\$ 32,701,301	

B. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Alloc EIA - 4 YR Early Childhood	\$ 8,513,846	\$ 8,513,846	
CERDEP - SCDE	\$ 78,465,168	\$ 78,465,168	
Early Literacy Training	\$ 2,975,000	\$ 2,975,000	
Intensive Developmental Education & Therapy	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 3,300,000	
Subtotal:	\$ 93,254,014	\$ 93,254,014	

C. TEACHER QUALITY

1. Retention & Reward

Teacher of the Year Award	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	
Teacher Quality Commission	\$ 372,724	\$ 372,724	
Teacher Supplies	\$ 20,455,350	\$ 20,455,350	
National Board Certification	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 29,500,000	6
Rural Teacher Recruitment	\$ 8,348,392	\$ 8,348,392	
TeachSC	\$ 727,650	\$ 727,650	
Teacher Strategic Compensation	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	7
Subtotal:	\$ 64,559,116	\$ 60,959,116	

2. Professional Development

ADEPT	\$ 873,909	\$ 873,909	
Professional Development	\$ 2,771,758	\$ 2,771,758	
Subtotal:	\$ 3,645,667	\$ 3,645,667	

D. LEADERSHIP

Classified Positions	\$ 6,058,244	\$ 6,058,244	
Other Personal Service	\$ 84,700	\$ 84,700	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 10,373,123	\$ 10,373,123	
Technology	\$ 12,271,826	\$ 12,271,826	

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT	FY 2025-26 H.4025	FY 2026-27 Executive Budget	Executive Budget Notes
High-Quality Charter School Leadership Program	\$ 272,750	\$ 272,750	
Subtotal:	\$ 29,060,643	\$ 29,060,643	

E. EIA EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Employer Contributions	\$ 1,397,821	\$ 1,397,821	
Subtotal:	\$ 1,397,821	\$ 1,397,821	

F. PARTNERSHIPS

2. Other Agencies & Entities

Literacy and Distance Learning (P360)	\$ 415,000	\$ 415,000	
Reach Out and Read (A850)	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	
S.C. Youth Challenge Academy (E240)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
Arts Education Programs (H910)	\$ 1,170,000	\$ 1,170,000	
First Steps To School Readiness (H620)	\$ 49,236,562	\$ 49,236,562	
Education Oversight Committee (A850)	\$ 2,187,264	\$ 2,187,264	
Science PLUS (A850)	\$ 919,906	\$ 919,906	
STEM Centers SC (H120)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	
Teach for America South Carolina (A850)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	
Gov. School for Arts & Humanities (H640)	\$ 2,386,897	\$ 2,474,635	Special schools salary increase
Wil Lou Gray Opp. School (H710)	\$ 979,061	\$ 1,020,180	Special schools salary increase
School for Deaf & Blind (H750)	\$ 9,627,770	\$ 9,817,770	Special schools salary increase
Dept. of Disabilities & Special Needs (J160)	\$ 408,653	\$ 408,653	
S.C. Council on Economic Education (H270)	\$ 300,000	\$ 450,000	8
John de la Howe School (L120)	\$ 827,035	\$ 830,950	Special schools salary increase
Clemson Agriculture Education Teachers (P200)	\$ 2,140,308	\$ 2,140,308	
Center for Educational Partnerships (H270)	\$ 715,933	\$ 715,933	
Centers of Excellence (H030)	\$ 1,137,526	\$ 1,137,526	
Teacher Recruit Program (H030)	\$ 4,243,527	\$ 4,243,527	
Teacher Loan Program (E160)	\$ 5,089,881	\$ 5,089,881	
BabyNet Autism Therapy (J020)	\$ 3,926,408	\$ 3,926,408	
Call Me Mister (H120)	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 1,195,000	
Regional Education Centers (R600)	\$ 1,975,913	\$ 2,005,251	9
Family Connection S.C. (H630)	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	
SDE Grants Committee	\$ 9,004,313	\$ 9,004,313	
Gov. School for Math & Science (H650)	\$ 2,165,779	\$ 2,358,484	Special schools salary increase
Center for Educ. Recruit, Reten., & Adv. (CERRA) (H470)	\$ 2,231,680	\$ 2,231,680	
Dept. of Juvenile Justice (N120)	\$ 2,834,000	\$ 2,942,000	
The Continuum (H630)	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	
Carolina Collaborative for Alternative Preparation (H270)	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	
Education Data Dashboard (A850)	\$ 3,605,978	\$ 3,605,978	
Jobs for America's Graduates (H590)	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	
Dept. of Corrections (N040)	\$ 379,750	\$ 406,727	Special schools salary increase
SC Teacher (H270)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	
South Carolina FFA Property Maintenance & Renovation	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Save the Children (A850)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
Project HYPE (H270)	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	
Project READ	\$ 100,000	\$ 350,000	8
Transform SC (A850)	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	
Subtotal:	\$ 127,154,144	\$ 128,233,936	

G. TRANSPORTATION

Other Operating	\$ 22,032,195	\$ 22,032,195	
SCDE - School Buses			
Subtotal:	\$ 22,032,195	\$ 22,032,195	

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT	FY 2025-26 H.4025	FY 2026-27 Executive Budget	Executive Budget Notes
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EIA NON-RECURRING by Proviso

SCDE - Instructional Materials	\$ 29,614,175	\$ 40,000,000	10
SCDE - School Buses	\$ 35,000,000	\$ -	
SCDE - School Safety Grants	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	10
SCDE - Summer Reading Camps	\$ 23,519,825	\$ -	
Teaching Transformation Pilot Program	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	10
Agriculture in the Classroom	\$ 750,000	\$ -	
SCDE - Teacher Strategic Compensation	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	10
SCDE-Child Nutrition Program	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	
Tech-to-Teach	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	
Imagination Library	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -	
OFS- CERDEP Expansion in Private Centers	\$ -	\$ 9,860,581	10
OFS - Innovation Investments	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	10
SCDE - Statewide Education Finance Data Platform	\$ -	\$ 3,200,000	10
Subtotal	\$ 123,984,000	\$ 84,060,581	

TOTAL :	\$ 1,311,066,913	\$ 1,494,071,581
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Available FY 2026-27 EIA Revenue (Recurring):	\$ 1,410,011,000
Available FY 2026-27 EIA Revenue (Non-Recurring):	\$ 84,060,581
Available FY 2026-27 EIA:	\$ 1,494,071,581
Surplus / (Deficit):	\$ -

Notes:

- Transferred from State Aid to Classrooms to Career and Technology Education is \$81,846,929. These funds represent the amount of funds generated by the Precareer and Career Technology weight of 1.20, which had been funded through State Aid to Classrooms but is deleted in this Executive Budget.
- 1 In addition, the EIA line item for State Aid to Classrooms is increased by \$59,542,046 and the general fund line item for State Aid to Classrooms is increased by \$90,457,954 for a total of \$150 million to increase the minimum starting average salary from \$48,500 to \$50,500 and to increase every cell in the State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule by \$2,000.
- 2 As requested by the Department of Education, these funds will be used to minimize costs associated with maintaining a digital classroom environment that allows students to safely use resources, digital textbooks, videos, and other high quality instructional materials.
- 3 These funds will expand summer reading camps to additional first and second graders who are not on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade and whose participate voluntarily in the summer reading camps.
- 4 To improve student attendance and support student learning, the Executive Budget recommends appropriating funds to provide a free, nutritious breakfast to any student who wants one.
- 5 As requested by the Department of Education, these funds are to purchase high quality instructional materials.
- 6 Based on expenditure data for the past two fiscal years, the amount of funds needed to provide the National Board supplement is declining.
- 7 As requested by the Department of Education and recommended by the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), the funds will establish leadership pathways that compensate and advance the most effective teachers, ensuring that teachers remain in the classroom. South Carolina will be following the examples of North Carolina, Louisiana and Texas to create a career ladder program for teachers.
- 8 As recommended by the EOC, these funds will increase professional development opportunities for teachers in reading and in personal finance.
- 9 These funds cover the cost of the current year's 2 percent salary increase for the Regional Workforce Advisors who are funded with EIA revenues.
- 10 Proviso 1A.61. details the allocation of surplus EIA revenues.

EDUCATION LOTTERY ACCOUNT

Certified Net Lottery Proceeds, Investment Earnings, Certified Surplus and Fund Balance

(1) Commission on Higher Education - LIFE Scholarships (Chapter 149, Title 59)	\$ 228,179,029
(2) Commission on Higher Education - HOPE Scholarships (Section 59-150-370)	\$ 9,550,710
(3) Commission on Higher Education - Palmetto Fellows Scholarships (Section 59-104-20)	\$ 61,367,805
(4) Commission on Higher Education and State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education - Tuition Assistance	\$ 53,000,000
(5) Commission on Higher Education - Need-Based Grants	\$ 80,000,000
(6) Higher Education Tuition Grant Commission - Tuition Grants	\$ 20,000,000
(7) Commission on Higher Education - National Guard Tuition Repayment Program (Section 59-111-75)	\$ 6,200,000
(8) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education - SC WINS	\$ 17,717,547
(9) South Carolina State University	\$ 2,500,000
(10) Commission on Higher Education - Nursing Initiative	\$ 10,000,000
(11) Commission on Higher Education - PASCAL	\$ 2,000,000
(12) Department of Education - K12 Education Scholarships	\$ 20,000,000
Subtotal:	\$ 510,515,091

Unclaimed Prizes

(1) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education - SC WINS	\$ 18,348,954
(2) Commission on Higher Education - College Transition Program Scholarships	\$ 3,551,046
(3) Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services - Gambling Addiction Services	\$ 100,000
Subtotal:	\$ 22,000,000

Total: \$ 532,515,091

Capital Reserve Fund		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
13	The Citadel	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 1,651,000
14	Clemson University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 14,111,000
15	University of Charleston	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 5,049,000
16	Coastal Carolina University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 4,400,000
17	Francis Marion University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 3,461,000
18	Lander University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 3,672,000
19	South Carolina State University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 2,244,000
20A	University of South Carolina - Columbia	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 18,364,000
20B	University of South Carolina - Aiken	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 3,007,000
20C	University of South Carolina - Upstate	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 4,434,000
20D	University of South Carolina - Beaufort	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 1,818,000
20E	University of South Carolina - Lancaster	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 2,419,000
20F	University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 744,000
20G	University of South Carolina - Sumter	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 1,793,000
20H	University of South Carolina - Union	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 1,517,000
21	Winthrop University	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 3,746,000

Capital Reserve Fund		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
23	Medical University of South Carolina	
	Comprehensive Cancer Hospital	\$ 115,000,000
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 9,236,000
25	State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education	
	Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects	\$ 40,306,000
	Equipment for High Demand Job Skills Training	\$ 20,000,000
	readySC	\$ 10,000,000
47	Department of Natural Resources	
	Lake Paul Wallace Dam	\$ 10,000,000
49	Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism	
	State Parks Facilities Maintenance	\$ 15,000,000
50	Department of Commerce	
	Inflationary Construction Cost - Scout Motors Inc. Site	\$ 50,048,662
63	Department of Public Safety	
	Regional Dispatch Command Center Equipment Modernization	\$ 6,656,720
65	Department of Corrections	
	Deferred Maintenance	\$ 7,500,000
92D	Office of Resilience	
	Statewide Mitigation Projects	\$ 10,000,000
102	Election Commission	
	Statewide Voting System Loan Repayment	\$ 21,174,755
Capital Reserve Fund Total:		\$ 387,352,137

Nonrecurring Funds		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
1	State Department of Education	
	School Buses	\$ 5,000,000
6	School For The Deaf And The Blind	
	Grounds Maintenance Equipment Replacement	\$ 300,000
7	Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe	
	Branch House Renovation	\$ 2,125,000
8	Educational Television Commission	
	Tower Monitoring and Analysis System	\$ 400,000
9	Governor's School for Arts and Humanities	
	Campus Access/Security Controls Replacement	\$ 250,000
11	Commission On Higher Education	
	Meeting Street College Scholarships	\$ 15,000,000
	South Carolina AI Initiative - ASCEND	\$ 500,000
25	Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education	
	South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship (SCWINS)	\$ 58,933,499
26	Department of Archives and History	
	Historic Building Preservation Grants	\$ 3,000,000
	SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission	\$ 2,000,000
29	State Museum Commission	
	New HVAC Monitoring System	\$ 250,000
31	Department of Public Health	
	Olmstead Act Compliance - Act 3 of 2025	\$ 577,157
	Human Coalition Crisis Pregnancy Pilot	\$ 500,000
32	Department Of Vocational Rehabilitation	
	Beaufort VR Center Repaving	\$ 168,750
	State Office Building - Replacement of VAV Boxed	\$ 147,500
34	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities	
	Information Technology and Cyber Security Enhancement	\$ 14,100,000
	Unified Care Platform Technology - Act 3 of 2025	\$ 5,000,000
38	Department Of Social Services	
	SNAP Eligibility System Modernization	\$ 25,116,538
39	Commission for the Blind	
	Contract for Blind and Visually Impaired Services	\$ 361,450
41	Department of Children's Advocacy	
	Children's Trust Federal Match	\$ 750,000

Nonrecurring Funds		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
		\$
43	Forestry Commission	
	Land Conservation	\$ 8,000,000
	Firefighting Air Water Tanker Contract	\$ 2,000,000
	New Dedicated Wireless Network - GPS Tracking for Communications During Wildfires	\$ 560,000
44	Department of Agriculture	
	Growing Agribusiness Fund	\$ 20,000,000
45	Clemson University - Public Service Activities.	
	Multi-Agency Regional Complex	\$ 3,000,000
	Agriwellness Pilot	\$ 100,000
46	South Carolina State University - Public Service Activities	
	Multi-Agency Regional Complex	\$ 3,000,000
47	Department of Natural Resources	
	Land Conservation	\$ 40,000,000
	Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping Project - Final Phase	\$ 3,000,000
49	Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism	
	State Parks Facilities Maintenance	\$ 10,000,000
	Sports Marketing Grants	\$ 6,500,000
	New Welcome Centers Inflationary Construction Costs	\$ 6,000,000
	Beach Renourishment Grants	\$ 4,000,000
	Santee State Park Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 4,000,000
	Venues at Arsenal Hill Construction Project	\$ 2,500,000
	South Carolina Songwriters Hall of Fame	\$ 500,000
50	Department of Commerce	
	LocateSC	\$ 5,000,000
53	Conservation Bank	
	Land Conservation	\$ 10,000,000
	Agriculture - Farm Conservation Grants	\$ 3,000,000
57	Judicial Department	
	Case Management System Modernization	\$ 15,000,000
59	Attorney General's Office	
	Witness Protection Funding	\$ 130,000
62	State Law Enforcement Division	
	New Equipment - New Agents and Support Staff	\$ 332,301
63	Department of Public Safety	
	Sheriffs' Equipment - Local Law Enforcement Grants	\$ 35,000,000
	Extension of Security Infrastructure Beyond Capital Complex	\$ 3,100,000
	Body Cam Local Grants	\$ 3,000,000
	Radio Replacement Life Cycle	\$ 1,000,000
	Regional Dispatch Command Center Equipment Modernization	\$ 212,415

Nonrecurring Funds		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
64	Law Enforcement Training Council	
	East Dorm Restrooms Renovation and HVAC Replacement	\$ 400,000
65	Department Of Corrections	
	Deferred Maintenance	\$ 10,000,000
	Mainframe Computer Replacement	\$ 2,500,000
66	Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services	
	Digital Fingerprinting Contract Renewal	\$ 2,065,830
	Technology Shared Services	\$ 2,000,000
71	Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement	
	Native American Grants Program	\$ 250,000
	Small Business Grants Program	\$ 250,000
80	Department of Consumer Affairs	
	211 Call Center	\$ 200,000
81	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	
	Technology Shared Services	\$ 2,978,357
82	Department of Motor Vehicles	
	Armored Car Transportation Contracts	\$ 4,500,000
83	Department Of Employment And Workforce	
	Technology Shared Services	\$ 887,000
84	Department of Transportation	
	Roads, Interstates, and Bridges	\$ 1,000,000,000
92A	Governor's Office - Executive Control of the State	
	Transition Costs - New Administration	\$ 1,000,000
92D	Office of Resilience	
	Bridge Box Flood Monitoring Program	\$ 1,000,000
93	Department of Administration	
	New Office of Statewide Data and Chief Data Officer	\$ 4,000,000
94	Inspector General	
	Equipment for Additional Investigators	\$ 38,156
100	Adjutant General	
	SCEMD - SC Public Assistance Program	\$ 20,000,000
	Armory Revitalization Funding	\$ 5,000,000
	SCEMD - New Emergency Operations Center - Inflationary Construction Costs	\$ 5,000,000
	State Guard – Repairs to Dominion Building	\$ 200,000
102	Election Commission	
	Curbside Voting Carts	\$ 2,040,000

Nonrecurring Funds		
Sect.	Agency/Item	Amount
Non-Recurring Funds Total:		<u>\$ 1,387,723,953</u>

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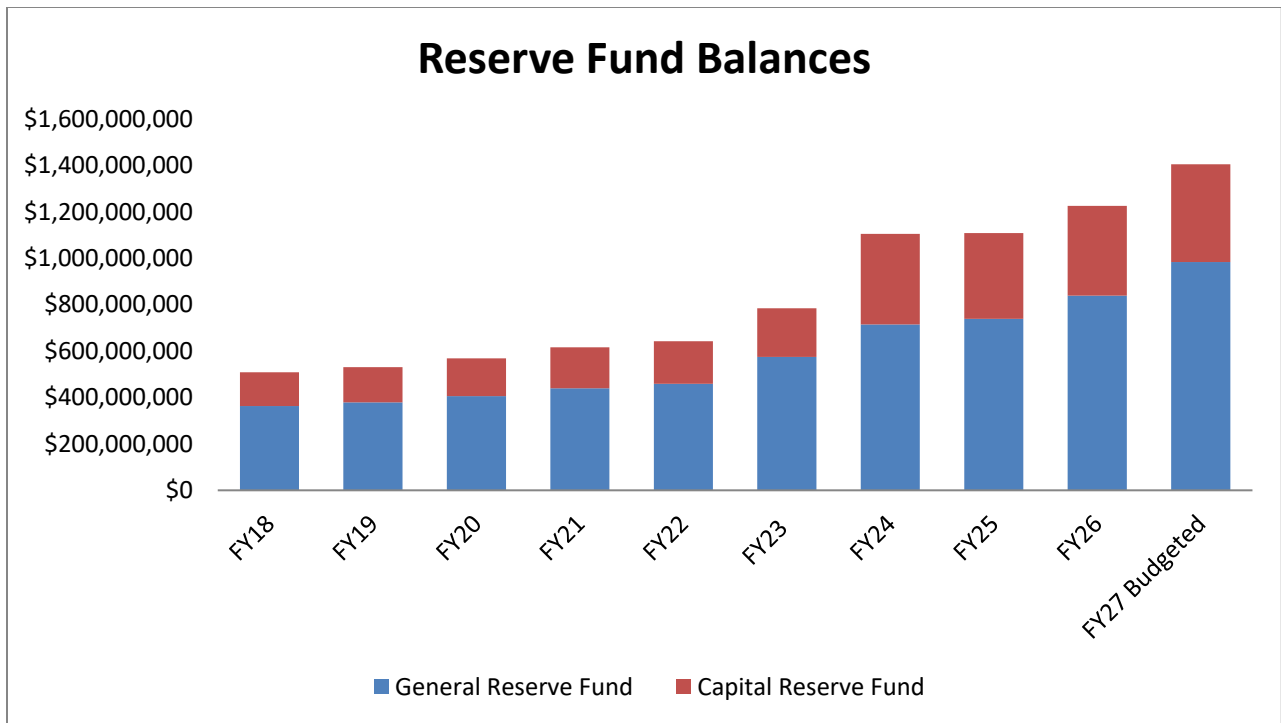
Reserve Funds & Debt

Reserve Funds

Act 238 of 2022 placed two Constitutional Amendments on the ballot in November 2022 regarding the General Reserve Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). Voters approved the amendments which increase the reserve fund contribution requirements.

Previously, the General Reserve Fund was required to be 5% of the revenues of the most recently completed fiscal year. Beginning in FY24, the General Reserve Fund contribution will be raised by one half percent annually until it reaches 7%. The half percent increase is contingent on General Fund revenues growing by 5% each year. For FY 2026-27, 7.0% of revenues is \$984,042,046. The Executive Budget fully funds this amount for FY 2026-27.

The Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a recurring appropriation that previously had to equal 2% of General Fund revenue. Act 238 of 2022 increased the mandatory percentage to 3%. If a year-end deficit is forecast, the CRF is reduced to the extent necessary before mandating operating reductions. If no year-end deficit is projected, the CRF may be appropriated in separate legislation for capital improvements or nonrecurring projects. For FY 2026-27, \$421,732,306 is set aside for the Capital Reserve Fund in the Executive Budget per the statutory funding level.



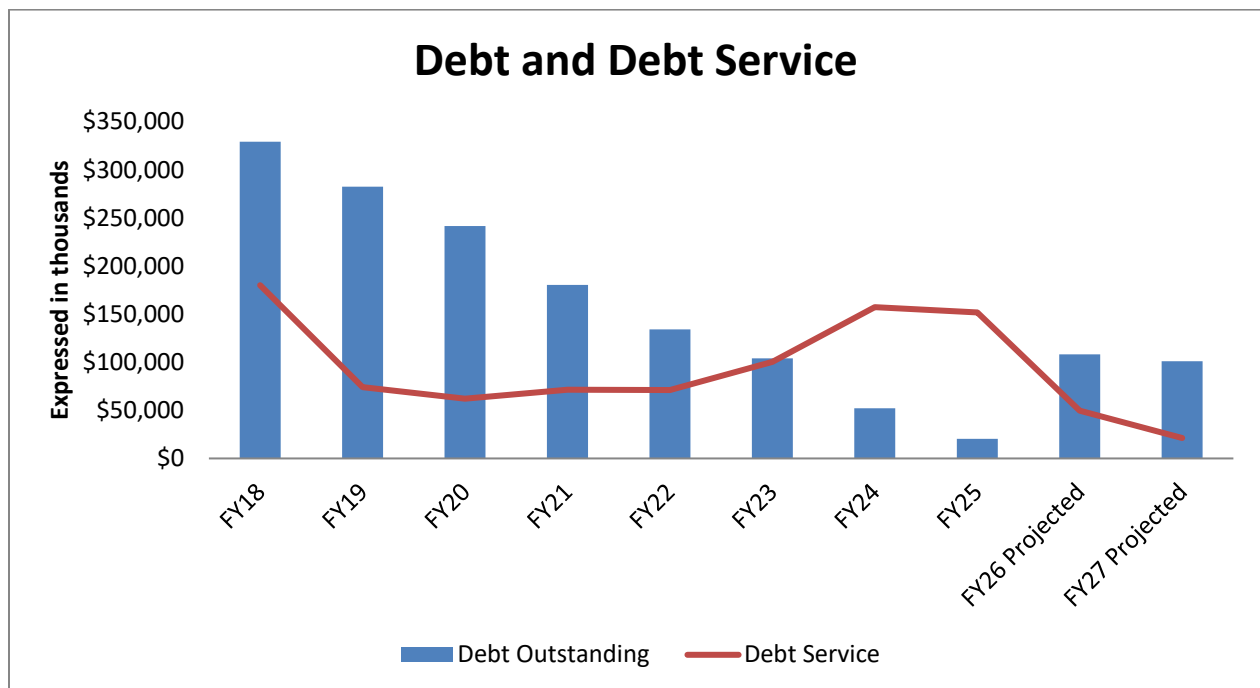
Debt and Debt Service

The State of South Carolina issues debt in the following categories:

- Capital Improvement Bonds
- State Highway Bonds (excluded from the chart below)
- State School Facilities Bonds
- Infrastructure Bank Bonds (excluded from the chart below)
- State Economic Development Bonds
- Research University Infrastructure Bonds
- Air Carrier Hub Terminal Facilities Bonds

The chart below displays debt that is serviced by the General Fund.

More information about debt can be found at: <https://treasurer.sc.gov/government/bond-debt-information/>



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Executive Budget Summary

Executive Budget Summary

APPROPRIATIONS OVERVIEW

The Executive Budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026-27 total \$42.8 billion, of which \$14.0 billion is from General Funds:

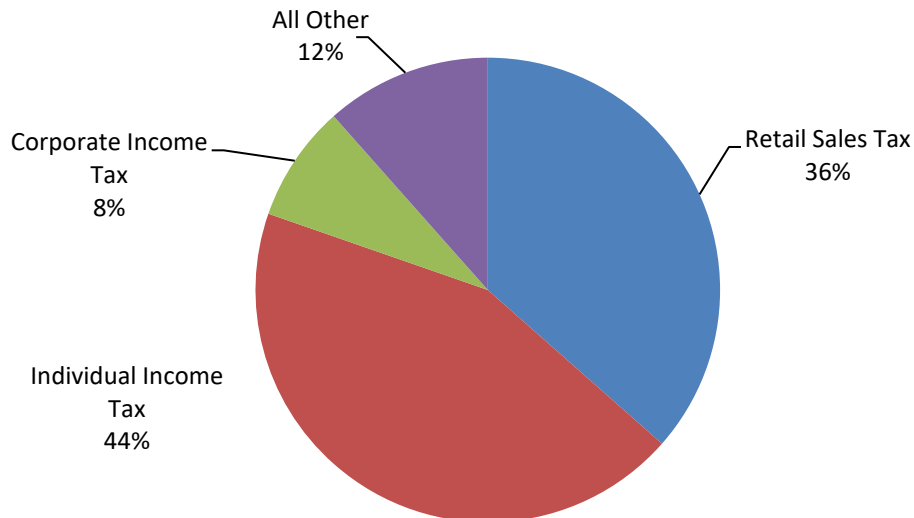
	FY26 Budget	FY27 Exec. Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Funds	\$13,246,162,593	\$14,037,887,021	\$791,724,428	5.98%
Federal Funds	\$12,487,697,316	\$14,063,649,265	\$1,575,951,949	12.62%
Other Funds	\$13,426,560,958	\$14,660,291,814	\$1,233,730,856	9.19%
Total	\$39,160,420,867	\$42,761,828,100	\$3,601,407,233	9.20%

REVENUE

Over 80% of South Carolina's General Fund revenue comes from individual income and retail sales taxes.

General Fund Revenue Sources	FY2026-27	%
Retail Sales Tax	\$5,408,120,000	36.51%
Individual Income Tax	\$6,490,874,000	43.82%
Corporate Income Tax	\$1,204,382,000	8.13%
All Other	\$1,710,309,000	11.55%
Total Regular & Misc Revenue	\$14,813,685,000	100.00%

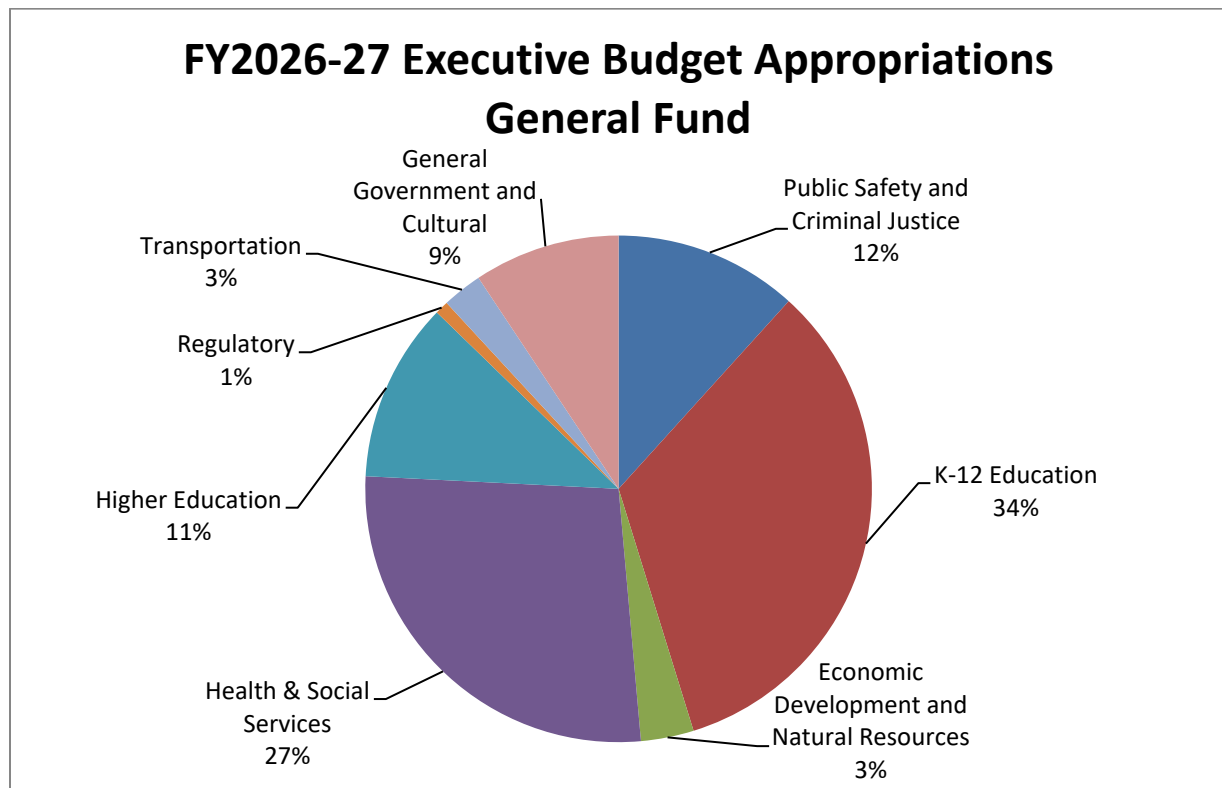
FY2026-27 Executive Budget General Fund Revenue Sources



AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Budget recommends 45% of General Funds for K-12 and higher education, 27% for health and social rehabilitation agencies, 12% for public safety agencies, and 16% for all other agencies.

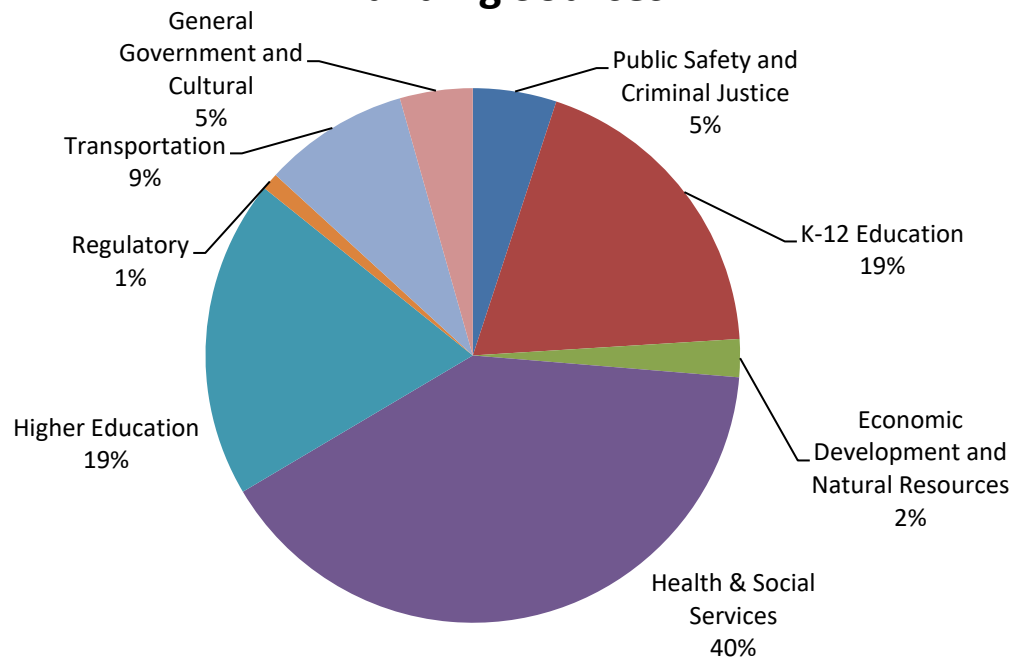
General Fund Appropriations	FY2026-27	%
Public Safety and Criminal Justice	\$1,645,289,445	11.7%
K-12 Education	\$4,702,137,726	33.5%
Economic Development and Natural Resources	\$473,856,253	3.4%
Health & Social Services	\$3,818,617,676	27.2%
Higher Education	\$1,609,840,484	11.5%
Regulatory	\$120,507,374	0.9%
Transportation	\$357,617,157	2.5%
General Government and Cultural	\$1,310,020,906	9.3%
Total General Fund	\$14,037,887,021	100.0%



The Executive Budget recommends 38% of Total Funds for K-12 and higher education, 40% for health and social rehabilitation agencies, 5% for public safety agencies, 9% for transportation agencies, and 8% for all other agencies.

All Funding Sources	<u>FY2026-27</u>	<u>%</u>
Public Safety and Criminal Justice	\$2,163,040,920	5.1%
K-12 Education	\$8,106,942,879	19.0%
Economic Development and Natural Resources	\$979,719,701	2.3%
Health & Social Services	\$17,180,369,286	40.2%
Higher Education	\$8,243,723,408	19.3%
Regulatory	\$441,421,816	1.0%
Transportation	\$3,764,493,493	8.8%
General Government and Cultural	\$1,882,116,597	4.4%
Total General Fund	\$42,761,828,100	100.0%

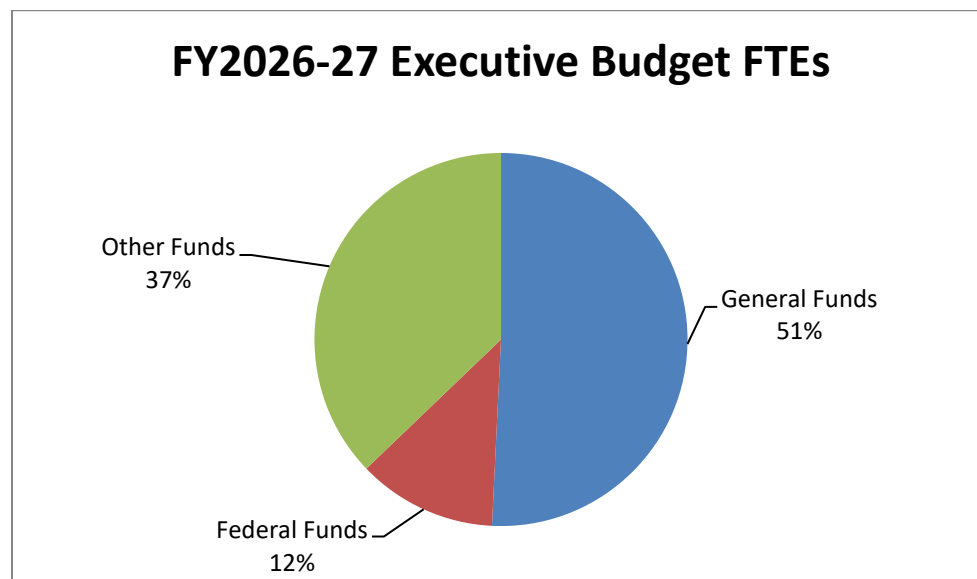
FY2026-27 Executive Budget Appropriations All Funding Sources



AUTHORIZED FTEs

The Executive Budget recommends a total of 73,512.59 authorized FTEs for Fiscal Year 2026-27 from all funding sources.

Source	FY26 Authorized	FY27 Executive Budget	# Chg	% Chg
General Funds	37,922.85	37,324.02	-598.83	-1.58%
Federal Funds	9,145.62	8,868.55	-277.07	-3.03%
Other Funds	27,298.82	27,320.02	21.20	0.08%
Total	74,367.29	73,512.59	-854.70	-1.15%



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Recapitulation

Appropriations by Agency		FY 2026-27 Executive Budget					GF Change in Appropriations	
		General	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Grand Total	Dollars	Percentage
Public Safety & Criminal Justice								
57	Judicial Department	118,848,900	617,993	18,475,300		137,942,193	115,973,900	2.48%
58	Administrative Law Court	5,627,282		1,655,986		7,283,268	5,557,282	1.26%
59	Attorney General's Office	32,926,067	42,807,554	23,110,711		98,844,332	31,181,795	5.59%
60	Commission on Prosecution Coordination	52,340,605	311,383	8,325,000		60,976,988	52,340,605	0.00%
61	Commission On Indigent Defense	53,475,409		3,847,600	12,449,272	69,772,281	53,444,695	0.06%
62	Governor's Off-State Law Enforcement Division	112,437,087	25,000,000	25,919,445		163,356,532	107,075,683	5.01%
63	Department Of Public Safety	230,129,370	33,028,517	41,455,544	6,196,886	310,810,317	220,510,625	4.36%
64	Law Enforcement Training Council	11,115,312	687,745	7,742,653		19,545,710	10,923,148	1.76%
65	Department Of Corrections	657,616,605	2,252,585	55,892,233	722,477	716,483,900	624,721,531	5.27%
66	Department Of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services	74,438,976	726,100	20,154,891		95,319,967	73,119,603	1.80%
67	Department Of Juvenile Justice	179,452,101	3,835,300	17,514,384	707,415	201,509,200	174,212,101	3.01%
100	Adjutant General's Office	21,568,832	92,925,912	6,198,661	79,000	120,772,405	21,568,832	0.00%
101	Department of Veterans' Affairs	95,312,899		65,010,928	100,000	160,423,827	95,312,899	0.00%
Public Safety & Criminal Justice Total		1,645,289,445	202,193,089	295,303,336	20,255,050	2,163,040,920	1,585,942,699	
K-12 Education								
1	Department Of Education	4,609,128,814	1,874,838,744	31,734,038	1,410,011,000	7,925,712,596	4,477,249,610	2.95%
2	First Steps	20,599,694	7,989,212	14,477,540		43,066,446	20,599,694	0.00%
4	Education Oversight Committee				2,187,264	2,187,264	0	0.00%
5	Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School	9,808,437	172,500	669,721	35,000	10,685,658	9,808,437	0.00%
6	School For The Deaf And The Blind	21,219,144	1,432,300	9,179,055	200,000	32,030,499	20,219,144	4.95%
7	Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe	9,910,804	176,127	481,512	302,535	10,870,978	9,910,804	0.00%
9	Governor's School for Arts and Humanities	12,960,233		1,004,771		13,965,004	12,960,233	0.00%
10	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics	18,510,600		1,246,500	0	19,757,100	18,510,600	0.00%
K-12 Education Total		4,702,137,726	1,884,608,883	58,793,137	1,461,403,133	8,106,942,879	4,569,258,522	
Economic Development & Natural Resources								
43	Forestry Commission	36,493,220	7,043,160	10,692,513		54,228,893	36,233,220	0.72%
44	Department Of Agriculture	29,665,781	19,033,266	11,178,024	2,575,680	62,452,751	28,225,781	5.10%
47	Department Of Natural Resources	92,482,069	36,587,278	21,238,787	46,299,018	196,607,152	87,732,069	5.41%
48	Sea Grant Consortium	1,413,164	4,365,900	253,800		6,032,864	1,413,164	0.00%
49	Department Of Parks, Recreation & Tourism	75,311,847	4,398,610	82,770,069	4,542,000	167,022,526	68,574,446	9.82%
50	Department Of Commerce	71,170,062	12,800,815	32,944,200	22,510,500	139,425,577	71,170,062	0.00%
51	Jobs-Economic Development Authority		36,000	1,005,150		1,041,150	0	0.00%
52	Patriots Point Development Authority				20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
53	SC Conservation Bank	23,778,960	5,200,000	25,000,000	5,000,000	58,978,960	23,778,960	0.00%
54	Rural Infrastructure Authority	36,202,666	720,098		22,386,920	59,309,684	36,202,666	0.00%
55	Department of Environmental Services	107,338,484	51,819,760	41,281,185	14,180,715	214,620,144	104,453,618	2.76%
Economic Development & Natural Resources Total		473,856,253	142,004,887	226,363,728	137,494,833	979,719,701	457,783,986	
Health & Social Services								
31	Department of Public Health	146,279,896	230,818,278	130,778,567	7,129,506	515,006,247	139,499,296	4.86%
32	Department Of Vocational Rehabilitation	20,501,326	117,335,157	31,850,301		169,686,784	20,501,326	0.00%
33	Department Of Health & Human Services	2,475,816,919	8,838,805,387	741,041,185	1,391,771,105	13,447,434,596	2,272,816,752	8.93%
34	Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities	570,033,737	94,387,816	507,945,791	100,000	1,172,467,344	505,389,446	12.79%
38	Department Of Social Services	423,841,240	712,558,641	48,916,437	849,986	1,186,166,304	342,895,134	23.61%
39	Commission For The Blind	7,671,393	17,347,771	66,331,500		91,350,664	7,005,084	9.51%
40	Department on Aging	39,534,676	44,804,388	2,849,397	1,184,100	88,372,561	37,034,676	6.75%
41	Department of Children's Advocacy	14,132,441	235,980	2,464,114	7,360,225	24,192,760	14,195,296	-0.44%
42	Housing Finance & Development Authority		253,221,817	33,430,183	12,000,000	298,652,000	0	0.00%
70	Human Affairs Commission	4,709,040	455,417	1,026,156		6,190,613	4,709,040	0.00%
71	Commission for Community Advancement & Engagement	3,728,269		219,314		3,947,583	3,728,269	0.00%
99	Retirement System Investment Commission				18,503,000	18,503,000	0	0.00%
108	Public Employee Benefit Authority	112,368,739			46,030,091	158,398,830	112,368,739	0.00%
Health & Social Services Total		3,818,617,676	10,309,970,652	1,566,852,945	1,484,928,013	17,180,369,286	3,460,143,058	
Higher Education								
12	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission	28,431,352		250,000	30,000,000	58,681,352	28,431,352	0.00%
13	The Citadel	32,115,529	42,112,385	134,168,873		208,396,787	31,312,846	2.56%
14	Clemson University - Education & General	232,756,411	296,524,730	1,204,696,335	227,583,438	1,961,560,914	224,705,521	3.58%
15	University Of Charleston	63,338,048	19,500,000	194,062,766	29,000,000	305,900,814	60,999,523	3.83%
16	Coastal Carolina University	39,882,069	21,000,000	280,314,644	0	341,196,713	37,987,077	4.99%
17	Francis Marion University	40,208,183	12,988,495	52,668,968		105,865,646	38,779,067	3.69%
18	Lander University	28,836,279	11,615,741	72,901,104	13,730,321	127,083,445	27,246,670	5.83%
19	South Carolina State University	35,881,029	65,000,000	57,056,047		157,937,076	34,962,739	2.63%
20A	University Of South Carolina	343,785,429	273,603,631	1,220,529,343		1,837,918,403	335,164,339	2.57%
20B	USC - Aiken Campus	29,922,519	14,500,000	41,457,362		85,879,881	28,730,935	4.15%
20C	USC - Upstate	41,334,198	23,650,838	68,376,142		133,361,178	39,449,500	4.78%
20D	USC - Beaufort Campus	18,156,369	9,477,915	27,307,011		54,941,295	17,437,968	4.12%
20E	USC - Lancaster Campus	12,047,716	4,390,048	13,784,453		30,222,217	11,371,252	5.95%
20F	USC - Salkehatchie Campus	6,739,309	3,880,454	8,373,545		18,993,308	6,531,252	3.19%
20G	USC - Sumter Campus	11,323,497	4,206,397	10,419,706		25,949,600	10,822,092	4.63%
20H	USC - Union Campus	7,422,179	1,928,258	7,661,055		17,011,492	6,997,956	6.06%
21	Winthrop University	42,626,361	51,197,500	87,348,235	13,968,320	195,140,416	40,688,705	4.76%
23	Medical University Of South Carolina	184,950,124	221,666,246	606,626,383		1,013,242,753	178,950,124	3.35%
24	Area Health Education Consortium	14,645,770	844,700	2,808,927		18,299,397	14,645,770	0.00%
25	State Board For Technical & Comprehensive Education	270,888,213	52,614,581	502,130,285		825,633,079	270,888,213	0.00%
45	Clemson University - Public Service Activities	71,613,858	27,375,000	23,395,568		122,384,426	70,863,858	1.06%
46	South Carolina State University - Public Service Activities	10,797,814	5,500,395			16,298,209	10,047,814	7.46%
3	Lottery Expenditure Account				532,515,091	532,515,091	0	0.00%
11	Commission On Higher Education	42,138,228	500,000	5,786,404	885,284	49,309,916	41,977,884	0.38%
Higher Education Total		1,609,840,484	1,164,077,314	4,622,123,156	847,682,454	8,243,723,408	1,568,992,457	

Appropriations by Agency		FY 2026-27 Executive Budget					GF Change in Appropriations	
		General	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Grand Total	Dollars	Percentage
Regulatory								
72	Public Service Commission	543,614		7,708,165		8,251,779	543,614	0.00%
73	Office Of Regulatory Staff	3,196,686	932,261	17,234,408	4,639,446	26,002,801	3,196,686	0.00%
74	Workers' Compensation Commission	6,096,329		5,607,845		11,704,174	6,096,329	0.00%
75	State Accident Fund			12,254,625		12,254,625	0	0.00%
78	Department Of Insurance	15,004,302		12,475,754	2,355,000	29,835,056	11,069,307	35.55%
80	Department Of Consumer Affairs	2,527,059		2,907,289		5,434,348	2,447,620	3.25%
81	Department Of Labor, Licensing & Regulation	14,110,407	4,523,994	57,124,260		75,758,661	11,477,383	22.94%
83	Department Of Employment And Workforce	14,690,683	115,376,824	16,444,984	550,000	147,062,491	13,094,073	12.19%
109	Department Of Revenue	61,847,297		60,082,093	95,000	122,024,390	61,847,297	0.00%
110	State Ethics Commission	2,250,080		599,960		2,850,040	2,250,080	0.00%
111	Procurement Review Panel	240,917		2,534		243,451	205,665	17.14%
Regulatory Total		120,507,374	120,833,079	192,441,917	7,639,446	441,421,816	112,228,054	
Transportation								
82	Department Of Motor Vehicles	126,286,512	2,000,000	15,747,596		144,034,108	124,386,512	1.53%
84	Department Of Transportation	223,057,270		128,000	3,086,778,976	3,309,964,246	123,057,270	81.26%
85	Infrastructure Bank Board				125,269,870	125,269,870	0	0.00%
86	County Transportation Funds				160,721,027	160,721,027	0	0.00%
87	Division Of Aeronautics	8,273,375	1,833,067	14,397,800		24,504,242	8,273,375	0.00%
Transportation Total		357,617,157	3,833,067	30,273,396	3,372,769,873	3,764,493,493	255,717,157	
General Government & Cultural								
8	Educational Television Commission	10,767,404	80,000	18,700,719	5,514,281	35,062,404	10,767,404	0.00%
26	Department Of Archives & History	12,678,029	597,183	921,958		14,197,170	12,503,029	1.40%
27	State Library	26,150,189	1,775,946	80,200	80,000	28,086,335	24,623,921	6.20%
28	Arts Commission	10,603,268	534,341	148,707	0	11,286,316	10,603,268	0.00%
29	State Museum Commission	10,550,360		2,161,600		12,711,960	10,550,360	0.00%
30	Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission	1,369,615		419,252		1,788,867	1,369,615	0.00%
79	State Board Of Financial Institutions			7,708,164		7,708,164	0	0.00%
91A	Leg Dept - The Senate	25,837,645		475,000		26,312,645	25,837,645	0.00%
91B	Leg Dept - House Of Representatives	32,559,895				32,559,895	32,559,895	0.00%
91C	Leg Dept - Codification Of Laws & Legislative Council	7,158,182		300,000		7,458,182	7,158,182	0.00%
91D	Leg Dept - Legislative Services Agency	12,180,863				12,180,863	12,180,863	0.00%
91E	Leg Dept - Legislative Audit Council	2,515,188		160,000		2,675,188	2,515,188	0.00%
92A	Governor's Office - Executive Control Of State	5,750,268				5,750,268	4,750,268	21.05%
92C	Governor's Office - Mansion And Grounds	947,909		200,000		1,147,909	647,909	46.30%
92D	Office of Resilience	6,925,192	135,000,000		348,284	142,273,476	6,925,192	0.00%
93	Department of Administration	132,074,088	93,592,173	185,578,032	1,240,268	412,484,561	129,866,908	1.70%
94	Office Of Inspector General	2,635,292				2,635,292	1,987,983	32.56%
96	Secretary Of State's Office	1,663,606		3,949,251		5,612,857	1,663,606	0.00%
97	Comptroller General's Office	6,091,657		1,085,434		7,177,091	6,091,657	0.00%
98	State Treasurer's Office	2,804,321		11,706,809		14,511,130	2,650,321	5.81%
102	Election Commission	22,589,094	3,544,077	1,640,700		27,773,871	22,589,094	0.00%
103	Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office	7,406,506	1,004,574	7,569,274	50,000,000	65,980,354	7,406,506	0.00%
104	State Fiscal Accountability Authority	2,045,275		23,979,920	8,221,905	34,247,100	2,045,275	0.00%
105	SFAA - State Auditor's Office	7,376,634		3,777,639		11,154,273	7,141,634	3.29%
106	Statewide Employee Benefits	37,280,815				37,280,815	2,779,854	1241.11%
107	Capital Reserve Fund	421,732,306				421,732,306	387,352,137	8.88%
112	Debt Service	153,914,766				153,914,766	153,914,766	0.00%
113	Aid To Subdivisions - State Treasurer	346,412,539				346,412,539	347,614,180	-0.35%
General Government & Cultural Total		1,310,020,906	236,128,294	270,562,659	65,404,738	1,882,116,597	1,236,096,660	
Grand Total		14,037,887,021	14,063,649,265	7,262,714,274	7,397,577,540	42,761,828,100	13,246,162,593	5.98%

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Governor's Recommended Appropriations



GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS

Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Judicial Department (Sec. 57)

- \$15,000,000 in one-time funds for Case Management System Modernization
- \$2,200,000 for Additional Circuit Court Judges and Staff
- \$675,000 for a pay raise for Family Court Judges

Administrative Law Court (Sec. 58)

- \$70,000 for Judges and Solicitors Retirement System (JSRS) Employer Contribution

Attorney General's Office (Sec. 59)

- \$1,500,000 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- \$129,000 for 1 FTE - State Grand Jury Investigator
- \$115,272 for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force - Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs
- \$130,000 in one-time funds for Witness Protection

Commission On Indigent Defense (Sec. 61)

- \$30,714 for Technology Shared Services

State Law Enforcement Division (Sec. 62)

- \$2,100,000 for inflationary increase in operating costs
- \$1,358,889 for Law Enforcement Agent Step increases
- \$998,066 for Worker's Compensation and Insurance Reserve Fund Rate Increases
- \$904,449 for 11 FTEs for New Agents and Support Staff
- \$332,301 in one-time funds for New Equipment for New Agents and Support Staff

Department of Public Safety (Sec. 63)

- \$35,000,000 in one-time funds for Sheriff's Equipment – Local Law Enforcement Grants

- \$6,869,135 in one-time funds for Regional Dispatch Command Center Equipment Modernization
- \$4,775,165 for 30 FTEs for Bureau of Protective Services Officers and Dispatch at the Capital Complex and Governor's Mansion
- \$3,100,000 in one-time funds for the extension of Security Infrastructure beyond the Capital Complex
- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for Body Cam Local Grants
- \$2,081,700 for Technology Shared Services for a new employee intranet communication system
- \$1,667,081 for Law Enforcement Officer Step Increases
- \$1,094,799 for Worker's Compensation and Insurance Reserve Fund Rate Increases
- \$1,000,000 in one-time funds for the radio replacement life cycle

Law Enforcement Training Council (Sec. 64)

- \$400,000 in one-time funds for the East Dorm Restrooms Renovation and HVAC Replacement
- \$103,810 for 1 FTE - Additional Investigator
- \$88,354 for Law Enforcement Instructor Step Increase

Department of Corrections (Sec. 65)

- \$15,000,000 for Inflationary Increase in Operating Costs
- \$17,000,000 for Funding for Positions and Vacancies
- \$17,500,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance
- \$2,500,000 in one-time funds for Mainframe Computer Replacement
- \$895,074 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Department Of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (Sec. 66)

- \$2,065,830 in one-time funds for Digital Fingerprinting Contract renewal
- \$2,000,000 in one-time funds for Technology Shared Services
- \$1,272,318 for the Domestic Violence and Mental Health Program Expansion
- \$47,055 for Law Enforcement Agent Step Increases

Department of Juvenile Justice (Sec. 67)

- \$4,500,000 for Inflationary Increase in Operating Costs
- \$740,000 for Workforce Retention and Recruitment

Adjutant General's Office (Sec. 100)

- \$20,000,000 in one-time funds for SCEMD's SC Public Assistance Program
- \$5,000,000 in one-time funds for SCEMD's new Emergency Operations Center for Inflationary Construction Costs
- \$5,000,000 in one-time funds for Armory Revitalization
- \$200,000 in one-time funds for the State Guard for repairs to the Dominion Building

K-12 Education

Department of Education (Sec. 1)

- \$90,457,954 in recurring funds for State Aid to Classrooms - Teacher Salary Increase
- \$41,421,250 in recurring funds for Education Scholarship Trust Fund
- \$5,000,000 in one-time funds for School Buses
- \$81,846,929 in EIA funds for Career & Technology Education
- \$8,205,249 in EIA funds for Instructional Support for Districts
- \$15,000,000 in EIA funds for Summer Reading Camps
- \$8,717,000 in EIA funds for Child Nutrition Program
- \$10,000,000 in EIA funds for Instructional Materials
- 1,400,000 in EIA funds for Teacher Strategic Compensation
- \$87,738 in EIA funds for the Governor's School for Arts & Humanities
- \$41,119 in EIA funds for the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- \$190,000 in EIA funds for the School for Deaf & Blind
- \$150,000 in EIA funds for the S.C. Council on Economic Education
- \$3,915 in EIA funds for the John de la Howe Governor's School of Agriculture
- \$29,338 in EIA funds for the Regional Education Centers
- \$192,705 in EIA funds for the Governor's School for Math & Science
- \$108,000 in EIA funds for the Department of Juvenile Justice
- \$26,977 in EIA funds for the Department of Corrections
- \$250,000 in EIA funds for Project READ
- \$40,000,000 in one-time EIA funds for Instructional Materials
- \$20,000,000 in one-time EIA funds for School Safety Grants
- \$1,000,000 in one-time EIA funds for the Teaching Transformation Pilot Program
- \$5,000,000 in one-time EIA funds for the Teacher Strategic Compensation Program
- \$3,200,000 in one-time EIA funds for the Statewide Education Finance Data Platform

Office of First Steps (Sec. 2)

- \$9,860,581 in one-time EIA funds for the CERDEP Expansion in Private Centers
- \$5,000,000 in one-time EIA Funds for Innovation Investments

School for the Deaf and The Blind (Sec. 6)

- \$1,000,000 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- \$300,000 in one-time funds for Ground Maintenance Equipment Replacement

Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe (Sec. 7)

- \$2,125,000 in one-time funds for Branch House Renovation

Governor's School for Arts and Humanities (Sec. 9)

- \$250,000 in one-time funds for Campus Access/Security Controls Replacement

Economic Development and Natural Resources

Forestry Commission (Sec. 43)

- \$260,000 in recurring support and \$560,000 in one-time funds for New Dedicated Wireless Network - GPS Tracking for Communications During Wildfires
- \$8,000,000 in one-time funds for Land Conservation
- \$2,000,000 in one-time funds for Firefighting Air Water Tanker Contract

Department of Agriculture (Sec. 44)

- \$860,000 for Restaurant Inspectors Funding Replacement
- \$580,000 for 5 FTEs - Food Inspectors
- \$20,000,000 in one-time funds for Growing Agribusiness Fund

Department of Natural Resources (Sec. 47)

- \$2,000,000 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- \$2,000,000 for Conservation Education
- \$750,000 for Abandoned Boat Removal
- \$40,000,000 in one-time funds for Land Conservation
- \$10,000,000 in one-time funds for Lake Paul Wallace Dam
- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for Statewide Flood Inundation Mapping Project - Final Phase

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Sec. 49)

- \$5,140,727 for Changing Welcome Center Funding to State Funding from Gas Tax
- \$1,596,674 for Workforce Recruitment & Retention
- \$25,000,000 in one-time funds for State Parks Facilities Maintenance
- \$6,500,000 in one-time funds for Sports Marketing Grants
- \$6,000,000 in one-time funds for New Welcome Centers Inflationary Construction Costs
- \$4,000,000 in one-time funds for Santee State Park Boat Ramp Improvements
- \$4,000,000 in one-time funds for Beach Renourishment Grants
- \$2,500,000 in one-time funds for Venues at Arsenal Hill Construction Project
- \$500,000 in one-time funds for South Carolina Songwriters Hall of Fame

Department of Commerce (Sec. 50)

- \$50,048,662 in one-time funds for Inflationary Construction Cost - Scout Motors Inc. Site
- \$5,000,000 in one-time funds for LocateSC

SC Conservation Bank (Sec. 53)

- \$10,000,000 in one-time funds for Land Conservation
- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for Agriculture - Farm Conservation Grants

Department of Environmental Services (Sec. 55)

- \$2,884,866 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Health and Social Services

Department of Public Health (Sec. 31)

- \$5,000,000 for Maternal and Child Health Home Visitation Program
- \$1,381,465 for 12 FTEs for Critical Public Health Services - Rabies and TB
- \$399,135 for 2 FTEs - Act 3 of 2025 - Olmstead Act and \$577,157 in one-time funds for Olmstead Act Compliance - Act 3 of 2025
- \$500,000 in one-time funds for Human Coalition Crisis Pregnancy Pilot

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (Sec. 32)

- \$168,750 in one-time funds for Beaufort VR Center Repaving
- \$147,500 in one-time funds for State Office Building Replacement of VAV Boxes

Department of Health and Human Services (Sec. 33)

- \$102,637,899 for Maintenance of Effort
- \$53,088,540 for Federally required Medicare Premiums for Elderly and Disabled Medicaid Recipients
- \$47,273,728 for Increased Access for Home & Community-Based Services

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (Sec. 34)

- \$21,000,000 for Office of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Operations Sustainability
- \$15,576,202 for Sustaining Inpatient Mental Health Service Enhancements
- \$10,000,000 in recurring support and \$14,100,000 in one-time funds for Information Technology and Cyber Security Modernization
- \$5,845,000 for Substance Addiction Recovery Services (OSUS)
- \$5,000,000 in recurring support and \$5,000,000 in one-time funds for Unified Care Platform Technology - Act 3 of 2025
- \$4,723,089 for Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Teams
- \$2,500,000 for Transportation Contracts for Mental Health Evaluation at State Facilities

Department of Social Services (Sec. 38)

- \$46,887,106 for Enhancing Foster Care Services
- \$34,059,000 for Changes in Federal Funding Match Requirements for SNAP Benefits
- \$25,116,538 in one-time funds for the SNAP Eligibility System Modernization

Commission for the Blind (Sec. 39)

- \$553,301 for an Increase in Elderly Blind Population Requiring Services
- \$361,450 in one-time funds for Contract for Blind and Visually Impaired Services
- \$113,008 for Technology Shared Services

Department on Aging (Sec.40)

- \$2,500,000 for an Increase in Elderly Population Requiring Services

Department of Children’s Advocacy (Sec. 41)

- \$1,500,000 for New Guardians ad Litem
- \$84,105 for 1 FTE for the Foster Care Review Board
- \$1,646,960 reduction in FTE Authorization
- \$750,000 in one-time funds for the Children’s Trust Federal Match

Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement (Sec. 71)

- \$250,000 in one-time funds for the Small Business Grants Program
- \$250,000 in one-time funds for the Native American Grants Program

Higher Education

Commission on Higher Education (Sec. 11)

- \$15,000,000 in one-time funds for Meeting Street College Scholarships
- \$500,000 in one-time funds for the South Carolina AI Initiative – ASCEND
- \$160,344 for Technology Shared Services

The Citadel (Sec. 13)

- \$1,651,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$802,683 for Tuition Mitigation

Clemson University (Sec. 14)

- \$14,111,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$8,050,890 for Tuition Mitigation

University of Charleston (Sec. 15)

- \$5,049,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$2,338,525 for Tuition Mitigation

Coastal Carolina University (Sec. 16)

- \$4,400,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,894,992 for Tuition Mitigation

Francis Marion University (Sec. 17)

- \$3,461,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,429,116 for Tuition Mitigation

Lander University (Sec. 18)

- \$3,672,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,589,609 for Tuition Mitigation

South Carolina State University (Sec. 19)

- \$2,244,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$918,290 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina (Sec. 20A)

- \$18,364,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$8,621,090 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Aiken Campus (Sec. 20B)

- \$3,007,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,191,584 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Upstate (Sec. 20C)

- \$4,434,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,884,698 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Beaufort Campus (Sec. 20D)

- \$1,818,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$718,401 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Lancaster Campus (Sec. 20E)

- \$2,419,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$676,464 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Salkehatchie Campus (Sec. 20F)

- \$744,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$208,057 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Sumter Campus (Sec. 20G)

- \$1,793,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$501,405 for Tuition Mitigation

University of South Carolina – Union Campus (20H)

- \$1,517,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$424,223 for Tuition Mitigation

Winthrop University (Sec. 21)

- \$3,746,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$1,937,656 for Tuition Mitigation

Medical University of South Carolina (Sec. 23)

- \$115,000,000 in one-time funds for a Comprehensive Cancer Hospital
- \$9,236,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$6,000,000 for Tuition Mitigation

State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (Sec. 25)

- \$58,933,499 in one-time funds for South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship (SCWINS)
- \$40,306,000 in one-time funds for Deferred Maintenance and Critical Capital Projects
- \$20,000,000 in one-time funds for Equipment for High Demand Job Skills Training
- \$10,000,000 in one-time funds for readySC

Clemson University- Public Service Activities (Sec. 45)

- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for the Multi-Agency Regional
- \$750,000 for Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs
- \$100,000 in one-time funds for an Agriwellness Pilot

South Carolina State University - Public Service Activities (Sec. 46)

- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for the Multi-Agency Regional
- \$750,000 for Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs

Regulatory

Department of Insurance (Sec.78)

- \$3,934,995 for Insurance Fraud Division Expansion (Phase 2)

Department of Consumer Affairs (Sec. 80)

- \$79,439 for Technology Shared Services
- \$200,000 in one-time funds for 211 Call Center

Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (Sec. 81)

- \$1,908,024 in recurring support and \$2,978,357 in one-time funds for Technology Shared Services
- \$725,000 for Firefighter Cancer Healthcare Benefit Plan Rate Increase

Department of Employment and Workforce (Sec. 83)

- \$1,596,610 in recurring support and \$887,000 in one-time funds for Technology Shared Services

Procurement Review Panel (Sec. 111)

- \$23,252 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- \$12,000 for Technology Shared Services

Transportation

Department of Motor Vehicles (Sec. 82)

- \$4,500,000 in one-time funds for Armored Car Transportation Contracts
- \$1,900,000 for Technology Shared Services

Department of Transportation (Sec. 84)

- \$100,000,000 in recurring support and \$1,000,000,000 in one-time funds for Roads, Interstates, and Bridges

General Government and Cultural

Educational Television Commission (Sec. 8)

- \$400,000 in one-time funds for Tower Monitoring and Analysis System

Department of Archives & History (Sec. 26)

- \$175,000 for Technology Shared Services and Insurance Rate Increase
- \$3,000,000 in one-time funds for Historic Building Preservation Grants
- \$2,000,000 in one-time funds for SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission

State Library (Sec. 27)

- \$300,000 for Technology Shared Services
- \$1,226,268 for Increase Aid to Public Library Systems

State Museum Commission (Sec. 29)

- \$250,000 in one-time funds for New HVAC Monitoring System

Governor's Office (Sec. 92A)

- \$1,000,000 for 2 FTEs - New System and Technology Upgrades - Boards & Commissions
- \$1,000,000 in one-time funds for Transition Costs - New Administration

Governor's Mansion & Grounds (Sec. 92C)

- \$300,000 for Inflationary Increases in Operating Costs

Office of Resilience (Sec. 92D)

- \$10,000,000 in one-time funds for Statewide Mitigation Projects
- \$1,000,000 in one-time funds for Bridge Box Flood Monitoring Program

Department of Administration (Sec. 93)

- \$2,207,180 for recurring support and \$4,000,000 in one-time funds for New Office of Statewide Data and Chief Data Officer

Office Of Inspector General (Sec. 94)

- \$647,309 in recurring support and \$38,156 in one-time funds for 5 FTEs – Investigators and Equipment

State Treasurer's Office (Sec. 98)

- \$154,000 for Technology Shared Services

Election Commission (Sec. 102)

- \$21,174,755 in one-time funds for Statewide Voting System Loan Repayment
- \$2,040,000 in one-time funds for Curbside Voting Carts

State Auditor's Office (Sec. 105)

- \$235,000 for Lease, Technology, and Required Financial Reporting Costs

Procurement Review Panel (Sec. 111)

- \$23,252 for Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- \$12,000 for Technology Shared Services

Statewide Employee Benefits (Sec. 106)

- \$36,694,000 for the employer's share of the State Health Plan annualization

Capital Reserve Fund (Sec. 107)

- \$34,380,169 to meet the statutory funding level for Capital Reserve Fund

Aid to Subdivisions – State Treasurer (Sec. 113)

- \$15,294,812 to meet statutory funding requirements for the Local Government Fund
- \$16,496,453 reduction for the Aid to Fire Districts - Shift to Other Funds

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Governor's Proviso Recommendations

1.3**State Aid to Classrooms**

Amend

This proviso allocates funds for State Aid to Classrooms. The amendment raises the starting minimum teacher salary from \$48,500 to \$50,500 and adjusts the State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule accordingly. The salary used to determine funding required for the state effort is based on a teacher having a master's degree and twelve years of experience, which equates to \$80,378 including fringe benefits. The amendment deletes the review by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office of the student weights because the review has been completed and recommendations made, many of which are also included in this amendment.

1.6**Educational Responsibility/Foster Care**

Amend (Technical)

This proviso amends the name of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to the Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities and in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities as required by Act 3 of 2025.

1.46**Full-Day 4K**

Amend

This proviso specifies funding levels for public and private full-day 4K providers. The amendment excludes school districts who are participating in the wait list pilot from the September 1 requirement to share wait lists. The amendment also requires the Education Oversight Committee to evaluate annually the ability of public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms to serve students whose annual family income is three hundred percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines.

1.69**Teacher Salaries/SE Average**

Amend

This proviso establishes the southeastern average teacher salary. This amendment updates the projected southeastern average teacher salary from \$61,964 in 2025-2026 to \$65,545 in 2026-2027 and updates the fiscal year reference.

1.72	ESSER Monthly Funding Report
Delete	<i>This proviso requires the Department of Education to submit a monthly report to the Executive Budget Office documenting the expenditure of federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief Fund and the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program. All funds have been expended; therefore, the reports are no longer needed.</i>
1.74	Funding for Schools Safety
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso establishes an application process by which funds appropriated for school safety upgrades can be allocated to public school districts and charter school authorizers. The amendment updates year references to conform to the fiscal year.</i>
1.76	Retired Teacher Salary Negotiation
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows school districts when hiring retired teachers to negotiate their salaries below the district salary schedule. The amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
1.84	Surplus Property
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso requires school district to transfer or offer for sale or lease any surplus property that has been vacant, unused, or unused for direct student instruction for the previous four years and to publish such property on the district website. The amendment updates year references to conform to the fiscal year.</i>

1.87	Reporting Requirements
Delete	<i>This proviso suspends the college freshman reporting requirement and directs the Department of Education to streamline data collection for several statutory reports. Act 12 of 2025 codified the proviso; therefore, the proviso can be deleted.</i>
1.96	District Accounting Systems and Best Practices
Delete	<i>This proviso creates a study committee to examine and propose improvements to the existing district accounting systems used by school districts. The study committee issued a report on May 31, 2025; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>
1.103	Child Nutrition Programs
Amend	<i>This proviso prohibits the charging of fees for reduced-price meals under the School Lunch Program. The amendment directs that funds included in this Executive Budget for school breakfast programs must provide each student with breakfast each day at no cost to the student upon his request without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.</i>
1.110	SDE: Assessments and Final Grade Determination
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso prohibits any school district from requiring the inclusion of student performance on any district-selected benchmark assessment in calculating a student's final grade in any course or subject. The amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

1.112	Employment Contracts
Add New	<i>At the request of the Department of Education, this proviso is added to require a local school district board of trustees who enters a contract with the district superintendent after July 1 of the current fiscal year to ensure that in the case of mutual dissolution of the contract the amount paid by the district cannot exceed one year's salary.</i>
1.113	Special Education
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding a proviso to assess special education in schools identified with needing to improve education services to students with special education.</i>
1A.6	CHE/Teacher Recruitment
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the allocation of Education Improvement Act (EIA) appropriations for teacher recruitment initiatives. The amendments that expand the responsibilities and duties of the Teacher Loan Advisory Committee were recommended by the Education Oversight Committee after the Committee's annual evaluation of the Teacher Loan Program.</i>
1A.9	Teacher Supplies
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso directs the distribution of Education Improvement Act (EIA) revenues for teacher supplies. The amendment updates the tax year references.</i>

1A.25	Full-Day 4K
Amend	<i>This proviso specifies funding levels for public and private full-day 4K providers. The amendment excludes school districts who are participating in the wait list pilot from the September 1 requirement to share wait lists. The amendment also requires the Education Oversight Committee to evaluate annually the ability of public and private providers to increase the number of CERDEP classrooms to serve students whose annual family income is three hundred percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines.</i>
1A.30	Teacher Salaries/SE Average
Amend	<i>This proviso establishes the southeastern average teacher salary. This amendment updates the projected southeastern average teacher salary from \$61,964 in 2025-26 to \$65,545 in 2026-27 and updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
1A.44	Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive
Amend	<i>The proviso allocates funds to assist rural school districts in recruiting and retaining teachers. The amendment deletes references to an evaluation of the program by the Education Oversight Committee that will be completed during the current fiscal year.</i>
1A.50	Career and Technology Education
Amend	<i>This proviso establishes how funds appropriated for Career and Technology Education are allocated. The Executive Budget reallocates approximately \$81.8 million from State Aid to Classrooms to this line item. The amendment establishes a formula to allocate these funds to school districts, charter school authorizers and multi-district career centers based on the prior year's 135 day average daily membership.</i>

1A.61	Surplus
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the allocation of non-recurring EIA revenues. The amendment establishes funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2026-27.</i>
1A.71	CERDEP Foundational Literacy Skill Training
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the Department of Education to train public educators and class aides working in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) in foundational literacy skills. At the request of the Department of Education, the proviso is amended to clarify that educators taking the training will earn the R2S CERDEP Literacy Teacher Endorsement, which is one course.</i>
1A.72	Teacher Loan Program
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation to create two programs to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers using funds in the revolving loan account. The amendments incorporate recommendations of the 2025 Teacher Loan Report as adopted by the Education Oversight Committee.</i>
1A.73	Strategic Teacher Career Ladder Pilot Implementation
Add New	<i>This proviso directs the Department of Education to pilot a strategic Teacher Career Ladder (TCL) Program that would reward high performing teachers with career advancement through advanced license designations. The proviso and funds in this Executive Budget were recommended by the Department of Education.</i>

3.5 **FY 2026-27 Lottery Funding**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso directs the allocation of lottery revenues. This amendment removes prior year allocations and conforms to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Executive Budget recommendations. The amendment eliminates the transfer of funds from the SC Institutions of Innovation and Information to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEP) since the transfer has been completed. The amendment also allows unexpended funds from the College Transition Program appropriation to be used to develop additional programs.*

8.6 **Local Programming**

Add New *The Executive Budget recommends a proviso directing that general funds and state FTEs authorized in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to South Carolina ETV must be dedicated to increasing local, state, and regionally-produced news, educational, cultural, sports, entertainment, and state government transparency programing.*

11.12 **Other Funded FTE Revenue**

Delete *This proviso requires the Executive Budget Office to inform the Commission on Higher Education when an institution of higher learning requests other funded positions and if the institution has sufficient revenue to fund the positions. At the request of the Commission on Higher Education, the proviso is deleted because the Commission does not need the data.*

11.20 **Review of Tuition Mitigation Calculations**

Delete *The proviso required the Commission on Higher Education to review the calculation of tuition mitigation funding to public institutions of higher education. The report was submitted; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.*

11.21	College of Veterinary Medicine
Add New	<i>At the requestion of Clemson University, the Executive Budget includes a proviso to transfer \$1.7 million from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) contract program to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Clemson University. These funds had been used to ensure South Carolina residents attending out-of-state veterinary medicine programs were assessed using in-state tuition.</i>
19.2	SCSU: Loan Forgiveness
Delete	<i>The proviso forgave the principal balance and all associated interest and costs of the South Carolian Budget Control Board Operating Loan issued to South Carolina State University in 2015. Therefore, the proviso can be deleted.</i>
20.6	Permanent Improvement Projects
Delete	<i>The proviso redirected funds for permanent improvement projects. Because the funds have been redirected, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>
20.7	Harper Elliott Honors College
Delete	<i>The proviso redirected funds from the one capital project to another at the University of South Carolina. The funds have been redirected; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>

20.9	Substance Abuse Prevention
Delete	<i>The proviso encourages the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education at the University of South Carolina to apply for local, state and/or federal grants funds to support a program that would increase availability of over-the-counter opioid reversal medications. At the request of the University of South Carolina, the proviso is deleted because the University of South Carolina is an established community distributor of over-the-counter opioid reversal medications and is pursuing new avenues for distributing the medications.</i>
23.4	Blood Borne Virus Screening
Delete	<i>This proviso directs the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to develop a pilot blood borne virus screening program. The Executive Budget recommends deleting the proviso because a new proviso is proposed for implementation by the Department of Public Health.</i>
23.5	Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Assessment
Delete	<i>This proviso directs the MUSC Hospital Authority to assess the need for long-term inpatient residential treatment programs for alcohol and substance abuse treatment. The report has been completed, and MUSC requests deletion of the proviso.</i>
27.1	Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment
Amend	<i>This proviso allocates funds to county libraries. The amendment increases the minimum amount per county from \$150,000 to \$200,000.</i>

31.47	Nursing Home Review
Delete	<i>This proviso directs the Department of Public Health to conduct a study regarding requirements for memory care facilities and assisted living facilities within nursing homes. The report will be completed during the current fiscal year; consequently, the proviso can be deleted.</i>

31.48	Florence Health Department HVAC
Delete	<i>This proviso redirects funds from the Department of Public Health's Florence Office for the HVAC for relocation projects. The funds have been redirected; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>

31.49	Health Systems Modernization
Add New	<i>This proviso requires the Department of Administration's Office of Technology Information Services to provide project oversight related to any upgrades to the electronic health records system that the Department of Public Health conducts.</i>

31.50	Partnerships
Add New	<i>This proviso requires the Department of Public Health to partner with providers to augment and increase access to clinical high quality reproductive healthcare services.</i>

31.51

Blood Borne Virus Screening

Add New

This proviso requires the Department of Public Health to collaborate with the Frontlines of Communities in the United States Initiative and the South Carolina Hospital Association to develop, implement and sustain a program to improve the screening, diagnosis and linkage to care for blood borne viruses through routine screening services in hospital emergency departments.

31.52

Maternal and Child Health Home Visitation

Add New

This proviso directs the Department of Public Health to allocate \$5.0 million in additional state funds recommended in this Executive Budget to Children's Trust to expand the State's home visiting programs.

33.20

Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative

Amend

The proviso directs the Department of Health and Human Services to implement accountability and quality improvement initiatives. At the request of DHHS, the proviso is amended to stipulate that up to \$4,000,000 in funds created through Act 301 of 1973 will be distributed for capital improvements to facilities based on a grants process that ensures funds are provided on a needs-based approach. And the amendment changes the name of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to the Office of Substance Use Services in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities as required by Act 3 of 2025.

33.33

Defunding Planned Parenthood

Add New

The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso prohibiting the Department of Health and Human Services from accepting federal funding for family planning. The Department is also given guidance regarding the prohibition of expending state funds for family planning that directly or indirectly subsidizes abortion services, procedures, or administrative functions.

34.1	Patient Fee Account	
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the Office of Mental Health to allocate funds from its Patient Fee Account to various functions. The Executive Budget recommends amending the proviso to eliminate the transfer of \$400,000 to the Continuum of Care because the responsibilities of the Continuum of Care are now being performed by contracted Managed Care Organizations.</i>	
34.10	Orangeburg Crisis Stabilization Unit Facility	
Amend	<i>This proviso directs up to \$2.0 million in funds previously appropriated to create a crisis stabilization unit facility in Orangeburg County. The amendment redirects the funds to be used for supportive housing rather than a crisis stabilization unit facility to meet the needs of the residents.</i>	
34.20	Unlicensed Medication Providers	
Amend	<i>This proviso allows designated unlicensed persons in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities operated by the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and community-based programs sponsored, licensed or certified by the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to administer prescribed selected medications. The amendment expands the proviso to include specified tasks and requires that the provision of medication must be performed under the supervision of a licensed nurse working within his or her scope of practice.</i>	
34.22	Debt Service Account	
Delete	<i>This proviso requires the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to utilize uncommitted dollars in their debt service account for operations and services that are not funded in the appropriations bill. All funds have been expended; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>	

34.35	FTE Management
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso that defines at-will employees at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.</i>
34.36	Collaboration Technology
Add New	<i>This proviso directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to consult with the Department of Administration regarding the procurement of collaboration technology required by state law.</i>
38.14	Family Foster Care Payments
Amend	<i>This proviso directs payments to foster families for the care of foster children. The proviso amendment increases the designated amounts.</i>
38.27	Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM)
Amend	<i>This proviso allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to carry forward any unexpended funds for the Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM) Project. The proviso is amended to require DSS to work with the Department of Administration's Office of Technology and Information Services regarding the design, development, security, privacy controls and implementation of the ESSAM application.</i>

38.28	Faith-Based Private Child Placing Agencies
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this new proviso to provide guidance to the Department of Social Services regarding faith-based child placing agencies.</i>
39.5	Carry Forward
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso, allowing the Commission for the Blind to carry forward unexpended funds that were appropriated for direct services and to expend these funds for the same purpose.</i>
40.5	Home and Community Based Services
Amend	<i>At the request of the Department on Aging, the Executive Budget recommends amending the proviso to limit services to meals and transportation in the event of a funding emergency to include a mid-year reduction, delay or elimination of federal funding.</i>
40.11	Reserve Funds
Add New	<i>At the request of the Department on Aging, the Executive Budget recommends adding a new proviso that allows the agency to allocate carryforward funds to Area Agencies on Aging in the event of a delay or elimination of federal funds and to return any unused funds to the Department on Aging.</i>

41.3	Continuum of Care Carry Forward
Delete	<i>This proviso allows the Department of Children's Advocacy to carry forward funds from the Continuum of Care Program. Because the responsibilities of the Continuum of care are now being performed by contracted Managed Care Organizations, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>
43.7	Response to Declared Emergencies
Amend	<i>This proviso authorizes the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General to direct funds from the Disaster Trust Fund or General Fund of the State to the Forest Commission to cover the costs incurred during a declared emergency. The amendment would increase the total amount that could be transferred from the Disaster Trust Fund or General Fund of the state from \$3.0 million to \$5.0 million due to the increased costs of wildfire suppression.</i>
47.16	Grant Matching Programs
Amend	<i>This proviso allows state funds to be used to match grants for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act or similar wetland enhancement and restoration projects as well as for the state match for the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration grant program. At the request of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the proviso is amended to update the reference to the grant program.</i>
47.19	Deer Processing Pilot Program
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso creates the Pilot Deer Donation program at the DNR. The proviso contains a reporting date, which must be updated.</i>

49.19	PRT: Local Film Carry Forward
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to carry forward up to \$2 million in funds for the South Carolina Film Commission. The amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
49.23	Regional Promotions Carry Forward
Add New	<i>This proviso was requested by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to allow the agency to carry forward any prior year unexpended general operation funds for Regional Promotions and to expend these funds for the same purpose.</i>
50.25	Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso directs the Department of Commerce to partner with a public research institution to conduct a study on the viability of sustainable aviation fuel production. It contains a fiscal year reference, which must be updated.</i>
50.26	Nuclear Advisory Council
Add New	<i>This proviso directs funds from the South Carolina Energy's Office radioactive waste funds to reimburse the Nuclear Advisory Council for travel expenses. Because Act 41 of 2025 moved the Nuclear Advisory Council from the Department of Administration to the Department of Commerce, the corresponding proviso is also being moved from the Department of Administration to the Department of Commerce.</i>

55.22	York Water Filtration Fund
Delete	<i>This proviso redirected funds appropriated for the York Water Filtration Plan to the Lincoln Road Sidewalk Project. The funds have been expended, and the Department of Environmental Services requests that the proviso be deleted.</i>
55.23	PFAS Pilot Program
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso creates the PFAS Removal Evaluation Fund and requires a report with a due date that must be updated.</i>
55.25	State Water Planning
Add New	<i>At the request of the Department of Environmental Services, the Executive Budget recommends adding a proviso to redirect funds previously appropriated for the hydrology program at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to be utilized for the development and implementation of the SC State Water Plan by the Department of Environmental Services pursuant to Act 60 of 2023.</i>
57.20	JUD: Judicial Branch Office Space Renovations
Delete	<i>This proviso redirects funds for the renovation of the Calhoun Building and Supreme Court Building. The funds have been redirected; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>

64.4	East Dorm Renovations
Add New	<i>At the request of the Law Enforcement Training Council, the Executive Budget recommends establishment of this proviso to repurpose approximately \$911,256 in funds previously appropriated for an emergency generator at the Council for renovations to the East Dorm restroom and HVAC system.</i>
66.6	Reentry Transition Services
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allocates up to \$500,000 in fund balances to reentry transition programs. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
71.7	Carry Forward of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification Budget
Amend	<i>The proviso allows the agency to carry forward unexpended funds. The amendment changes the name of the Commission for Minority Affairs to the Commission for Community Advancement as required by Act 56 of 2025.</i>
72.4	Avoided Cost Experts
Amend	<i>At the request of the Public Service Commission, the proviso is amended to allow unexpended funds that may be used for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts to be carried forward into the next fiscal year and expended for the same purpose.</i>

81.10 **Illegal Immigration Hotline Assistance**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso amends the name of the Commission for Minority Affairs to the Commission for Community Advancement & Engagement as required by Act 56 of 2025.*

83.5 **REED Act Spending Authority**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso allows the Department of Employment and Workforce to dispose of unused property that has federal equity, and in compliance with the Reed Act, use the funds for the Unemployment Insurance program. This amendment updates a date reference.*

83.7 **Systemic Study of Higher Education**

Add New *The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso for a study of public higher education programs to be managed by the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development. The study should ensure that academic programs offered in our public institutions of higher education are aligned with the current and future workforce needs of our State.*

84.17 **Waiver Valuations**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso requires the Department of Transportation to report to the Senate Transportation Committee and to the House Education and Public Works Committee on waiver valuations as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. The amendment updates a year reference.*

88.1	Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso directs the State Ports Authority to pay the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank \$1,000,000 to continue the Charleston Cooper River Bridge Project. This amendment updates fiscal year references.</i>
88.7	Funds for Logistics Site in Jasper County
Add New	<i>As requested by the State Ports Authority, this proviso directs the State Ports Authority to distribute up to \$1.8 million in funds previously appropriated for the Jasper Ocean Terminal Facility Permitting and Infrastructure Fund to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance to construct a port logistics facility. The facility would serve warehousing and cold storage needs. The proviso further requires the Department of Commerce to approve the distribution of the funds.</i>
92D.1	Catastrophic Weather Event
Amend	<i>This proviso allows that any improvements made to homes damaged in Hurricane Matthew of 2016 or Hurricane Florence of 2018 will not be reassessed at a higher tax rate because of the assistance that was provided from the CDBG-DR funds. At the request of the Office of Resilience, the proviso is amended to update a year reference. In the event the assisted owner later sells the home after the lien period, then the amendment allows the property to no longer be subject to the protections provided.</i>
93.11	Nuclear Advisory Council
Delete	<i>This proviso allows the Office of Regulatory Staff to reimburse the Department of Administration for travel expenses associated with the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council from the SC Energy Office's radioactive waste funds. Act 41 of 2025, the South Carolina Energy Security Act, moved the Nuclear Advisory Council to the Department of Commerce, and the proviso has been moved as well.</i>

93.12	QECB Allocation
Delete	<i>This proviso directs the director of the Department of Administration to develop and implement a plan to utilize the state's remaining Qualified Energy Conservation Bond allocation to fund energy conservation projects on state-owned buildings. The federal tax bill eliminated the bonds so the project can no longer be pursued.</i>
93.14	SCEIS Carryforward
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows the Department of Administration to carry forward funds for the SCEIS conversion project. This amendment updates a fiscal year reference.</i>
93.16	Colleton County
Delete	<i>This proviso redirects funds appropriated in Act 239 of 2022 for the Colleton County industrial shell building and road engineering to Colleton County for the purchase of additional land at the Colleton Mega Site. The funds have been disbursed; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>
93.21	Office of Statewide Data
Add New	<i>This proviso creates the Office of Statewide Data at the Department of Administration. The objective of the Office is to improve the management, transparency and utilization of state data across all state agencies to improve public policy, enhance citizen services and foster transparency in state operations.</i>

96.1	UCC Filing Fees
Amend	<i>This proviso allows the Secretary of State's Office to retain up to \$180,000 from fees collected to administer the Uniform Commercial Code. The amendment would increase the amount of fees that can be retained by \$70,000.</i>
98.9	Penalties for Non-Reporting
Amend	<i>This proviso directs the State Treasurer to withhold all state payments to a municipality that fails to submit audited financial statements as required by state law. At the request of the State Treasurer, the amendment conforms the language of the proviso to Sections 5-7-240 and 14-1-208 to include compiled financial statements.</i>
99.1	Fiduciary Audit
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso suspends the solicitation for a fiduciary audit by the Retirement System Investment Commission. The amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
100.24	SC Public Assistance Program
Amend	<i>This proviso creates the South Carolina Public Assistance Program to support disaster recovery for localized hazard events that do not meet the thresholds for a federal disaster declaration. The proviso is amended to allow state and local governmental agencies and utilities to be eligible for reimbursement for eligible costs. In addition, SCEMD may use up to five percent of the appropriated funds to administer the program.</i>

105.7	Auditing Moratorium
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows the State Auditor or a member of his staff to conduct an audit of program activity or agency for which he managed or was employed by after one year has passed. The amendment updates a fiscal year reference.</i>

105.8	Carry Forward
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso authorizes the State Auditor to carry forward all unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year. The amendment updates a fiscal year reference.</i>

108.5	State Health Plan
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso establishes the employer and subscriber premiums for the State Health Plan. This amendment updates the date reference and rates.</i>

108.11	South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund
Delete	<i>This proviso suspends provisions of Section 1-11-705(I)(2) and allows surplus funds that would otherwise have been transferred to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund from the operating account for the State's employee health insurance program to remain in the operating account for the State's employee health insurance program. The proviso was needed when health care services were delayed during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is no longer evidence of any material delay in care; therefore, at the request of the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA), the proviso is deleted.</i>

108.12	Fiduciary Audit
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso suspends bid solicitations for the fiduciary audit for the current fiscal year. The Executive Budget recommends updating the fiscal year reference.</i>
108.13	PORS and SCRS Return to Work
Amend	<i>This proviso addresses the compensation earnings for the Police Officer Retirement System (PORS). The Executive Budget recommends amending the timeframe for return to work upon retirement of a PORS member from twelve months to 30 days.</i>
108.14	PORS Return to Work
Amend	<i>This proviso addresses the Return to Work program offered under the Police Officer Retirement System. The Executive Budget recommends amending the timeframe for return to work upon retirement of a PORS member from twelve months to 30 days.</i>
108.16	Cost Containment
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso to request cost containment review of the third-party administrators of the medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and prescription drug plans under the Public Employee Benefit Authority.</i>

109.17	Emergency Commodity Assistance Program
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso exempts from state income taxes federally-earned emergency commodity assistance funds. The amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>
109.18	Active First Responder Tax Credit
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso providing a \$2,000 nonrefundable income tax credit for tax year 2026 to active sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.</i>
110.3	Lobbyists and Lobbyist Principal Registration
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this new proviso to require any individual paid to influence decisions or actions of officials or employees of any local political subdivision of the State, to include county, city, town, municipality, school district, or special purpose district to register as a lobbyist, and their employer must likewise register as a lobbyist principal.</i>
112.1	Excess Debt Service
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso directs the State Treasurer's Office to utilize excess debt service funds to pay down general obligation bond debt. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

113.2 **Quarterly Distributions**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso provides guidance on the quarterly distribution of funds to local governments. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.*

113.11 **Employment Contracts and Political Subdivisions**

Add New *The Executive Budget recommends adding a proviso that prohibits a political subdivision that receives aid from the Local Government Fund from including a term in any contract of employment for a settlement amount that exceeds one year's salary or the remainder of the contract value, whichever is less.*

117.2 **Appropriations From Funds**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso states that funds appropriated in this General Appropriations Act are for the current fiscal year. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.*

117.3 **Fiscal Year Definitions**

Amend (Technical) *This proviso defines "current fiscal year" and "prior fiscal year." This amendment updates the year references.*

117.99	South Carolina Welcome Centers
Delete	<i>The Executive Budget recommends a direct appropriation to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the operation of Welcome Centers; therefore, the transfer of funds from the Department of Transportation as directed by this proviso is no longer needed.</i>

117.110	Retail Facilities Revitalization Act Repeal Suspension
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso suspends the repeal of Chapter 34 of Title 6 of the 1976 Code related to property and income tax credits for rehabilitation expenses incurred during renovation of former retail or service facilities. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

117.114	SCRS & PORS Trust Fund
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso directs the use of funds appropriated to the Public Employee Benefit Authority for credit given to participating employers of the South Carolina Retirement System and the Police Officers Retirement System. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

117.116	Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment Plan
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso amends the name of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and Department of Mental Health to the Office of Substance Use Services and the Office of Mental Health in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities as required by Act 3 of 2025.</i>

117.123	Medical Marijuana Research
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows the university of South Carolina College of Pharmacy and the Medical University of South Carolina to conduct research on medical marijuana. This proviso contains a date reference that must be updated.</i>

117.138	Employee Compensation
Amend	<i>The Executive Budget recommends amending this proviso to conform to funding.</i>

117.143	Electricity Market Reform
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso established the Electricity Market Reform Study Committee. This amendment updates the reporting year reference.</i>

117.144	Homestead Exemption Fund
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso was first introduced in the FY2021-22 General Appropriations Act and suspends Section 11-11-156(C) of the 1976 Code. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

117.149	In-State Tuition Mitigation
Amend	<i>This proviso provides the amount that public institutions of higher education receive for tuition mitigation and the requirements to receive the funding. The Executive Budget recommends updating these amounts to conform to funding.</i>

117.156	Millage Calculation
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso allows municipalities to make a millage rate adjustment due to a delay in the release of the 2020 Census. It contains a fiscal year reference, which must be updated.</i>

117.157	Employee Retention and Recruitment
Delete	<i>This proviso requires the Circuit Solicitor and Circuit Public Defender for each judicial circuit to provide semi-annual reports on pending warrants to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense. This requirement is a duplication of reporting efforts. The reporting of pending warrants is already being collected and reported centrally by the South Carolina Judicial branch and is publicly available on its website.</i>

117.159	Abandoned Textile Mills
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso sets parameters for tax credits for abandoned textile mills. It includes a date reference that must be updated.</i>

117.164	Prostate Cancer Study Committee
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso requires the Prostate Cancer Study Committee to submit a report. The due date must be updated.</i>

117.168	Credit Unions
Amend (Technical)	<i>The Executive Budget recommends updating the fiscal year reference in this proviso regarding credit unions acting as a qualified public depository for deposits held by a municipality under specified conditions.</i>

117.173	Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso, which creates the Rice Fields and Wetlands Pilot Program, contains a fiscal year reference, which must be updated.</i>

117.179	GP: Transfer of Physical Assets
Delete	<i>This proviso directed the transfer of the building and grounds at 1 National Guard Road in Columbia from the Department of Administration to the Office of the Adjutant General. The transfer will be completed this fiscal year; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>

117.182	FTE Management
Delete	<i>This proviso directed the Executive budget Office in consultation with the State Division of Human Resources to eliminate 25 percent of each agency's vacant FTE positions. The FTEs have been eliminated; therefore, the proviso should be deleted.</i>

117.184	Program Transfer
Delete	<i>This proviso transferred from the Commission on Higher Education all funds and positions associated with the Educator Report Card program to the Department of Education. The transfers have been made; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>

117.187	Coordination of Disaster Mitigation Efforts
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso requires the Office of Resilience and the Department of Natural Resources to collaborate on disaster mitigation efforts. Fiscal year and date references are updated.</i>

117.188	Safe Home Program
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso requires the Department of Insurance in collaboration with the Office of Resilience to evaluate the operation of the Safe Homes Program.</i>

117.193	Aid to Fire District Planning
Delete	<i>The proviso required the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to develop and submit options for addressing the Aid to Fire District open-ended status. The options have been submitted and adopted in this Executive Budget; therefore, the proviso is no longer needed.</i>
117.195	Media Reliability & Bias Monitoring
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso to prohibit state funds from being used to contract with an advertising agency or other contractors who acts as or uses the services of media reliability or bias monitors.</i>
117.196	Aid to Fire Districts Fund
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso to create an Aid to Fire Districts Fund that is separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State for distributing fire premium tax revenues and the State portion for the broker premium tax revenues to county treasurers for local fire service.</i>
117.197	Collaboration Technology
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso directing the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to consult with the Department of Administration regarding the procurement of collaboration technology required by state law.</i>

117.198	Comprehensive Analysis of Future Infrastructure Needs
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso directing the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to issue a request for information (RFI) to determine the cost of a comprehensive analysis of the ten and twenty-year impact of projected population changes on major government infrastructure services.</i>
117.199	TikTok
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso prohibiting the State's public colleges or universities from managing or having TikTok as a dedicated social media platform presence for communication purposes. A public college or university that has the social media platform TikTok shall return to the State an amount equal to ten percent of the funds appropriated to the college or university.</i>
117.200	IT Information Technology Project Oversight
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso requiring any technology project with an expected cost of \$5 million or greater to be reviewed by the Division of Technology Operations at the Department of Administration prior to the project's initiation and prior to the expenditure of any funds. The proviso allows exemptions.</i>
118.1	Year End Cutoff
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso sets the year end cut-off dates for processing payments. This amendment updates the fiscal year reference.</i>

118.9	Tax Relief Reserve Fund
Amend (Technical)	<i>This proviso establishes the Tax Relief Reserve Fund to provide tax relief to businesses and individuals. This amendment updates the date year reference.</i>
118.19	Homestead Exemption Fund
Amend	<i>The Executive Budget recommends amending this proviso to conform to funding recommendations.</i>
118.20	Nonrecurring Revenue
Delete	<i>The Executive Budget recommends deleting this proviso that contains the nonrecurring appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025-26.</i>
118.21	Income Tax Reduction
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso to reduce the top individual income tax rate from 6.0% to 5.9% in tax year 2026.</i>
118.22	Nonrecurring Revenue
Add New	<i>The Executive Budget recommends adding this proviso to appropriate nonrecurring revenue sources for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.</i>

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Summary Control Document

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Appendices

Appendices

- January 9, 2026 letter from Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, certifying that the FY 2026-27 Executive Budget is balanced.
- January 5, 2026 letter from Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, assessing the revenue impact of reducing the top marginal income tax rate to 5.9% for tax year 2026.
- October 22, 2025 letter from Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, assessing the prospective revenue impact of providing a \$2,000 individual income tax credit for individuals employed as sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) beginning in tax year 2026.
- December 10, 2025 letter from Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, assessing the fiscal impact of the State reimbursing school districts to provide free school breakfast to all students.



SOUTH CAROLINA
REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

EDWARD B. GRIMBALL, Chairman
C. CURTIS HUTTO
G. MICHAEL MIKOTA, Ph.D.

FRANK A. RAINWATER
Executive Director

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor, State of South Carolina
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

This letter is to certify that the proposed FY 2026-27 Executive Budget is in balance as required by Proviso 117.63 of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act.

For this certification, the Executive Budget Office verified the following information:

- The Summary Control Document provided to Revenue and Fiscal Affairs reflects the base budget as determined by the Executive Budget Office.
- All expenditures and revenues contained in the FY 2026-27 Executive Budget, including any impacts of provisos, are reported in the Summary Control Document provided to Revenue and Fiscal Affairs.
- The total number of permanent state positions in the Executive Budget does not exceed the limit as determined by the Executive Budget Office pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 11-11-420.

Based upon the information provided by the Executive Budget Office as noted, the Executive Budget is in balance as follows:

General Fund Revenue	<u>\$14,037,887,021</u>
(BEA forecast as of November 18, 2025, Net of Tax Relief Trust Fund and other revenue adjustments)	
Appropriation of General Funds (Part IA)	<u>\$14,037,887,021</u>
Balance	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

The Honorable Henry McMaster

January 9, 2026

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If we may be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director

FAR/lhj

cc: Ms. Melanie Barton, Governor's Office
Mr. Kevin Etheridge, Executive Budget Office

January 5, 2026

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor, State of South Carolina
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

This letter is in response to a request by staff for the estimated revenue impact of lowering the top individual income tax marginal rate from 6 percent to 5.9 percent in tax year 2026.

Currently, South Carolina has a marginal tax rate structure of 0 percent, 3 percent, and 6 percent for tax year 2026. We estimate that reducing the 6 percent tax rate to 5.9 percent would decrease tax liability by \$101,822,000 in tax year 2026. Our calculations of the impact are based on the November 2025 forecast by the Board of Economic Advisors and tax return data through tax year 2024. Additionally, the estimate by taxable income range is provided in the attached table.

We assume taxpayers will adjust their estimated tax payments for the tax decrease. As such, 5.25 percent of the total tax year impact is recognized in the prior fiscal year, FY 2025-26, for decreased payments. Total collections in FY 2026-27 will decrease by the full decrease in tax liability including the remaining impact for tax year 2026 and the decreased payments for tax year 2027 that will be collected in FY 2026-27. The impact on a fiscal year basis is shown below.

**Estimated Fiscal Year Impact of Individual Income Tax
Rate Reduction from 6% to 5.9% for Tax Year 2026**

Fiscal Year	General Fund Impact of Rate Reduction
FY 2025-26	(\$5,346,000)
FY 2026-27	(\$101,822,000)

The Honorable Henry McMaster
January 5, 2026
Page 2

If we may be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director

FAR/lhj

Enclosure: 1

cc: Ms. Melanie Barton, Governor's Office
Mr. Kevin Etheridge, Executive Budget Office

ESTIMATED TAX YEAR 2026 INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX IMPACT

Proposal: Set tax rates to 0.0%, 3.0%, and 5.9%.

Impact: With these brackets and rates, 47.6% of returns have a lower liability and 52.4% are unchanged.
The General Fund impact is (\$ 101,822,000).

2024 Taxable Income Range	Current Tax Structure				Estimate of Tax Year Impact			
	Projected # of Returns 2026	Cumulative # of Returns	Cumulative % of Returns	Projected Average Taxable Income 2026	Average Tax Liability 2026	Proposed Average Tax Liability 2026	Average Tax Increase/ (Decrease) 2026	Total Dollar Increase/ (Decrease) 2026
col 1	col 2 (/a)	col 3	col 4	col 5 (/b)	col 6	col 7	col 8	col 9
0	880,579	880,579	31.9%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1-10,000	366,085	1,246,664	45.2%	\$4,818	\$60	\$60	\$0	\$0
10,000-20,000	277,118	1,523,782	55.3%	\$15,820	\$378	\$377	(\$0)	(\$112,008)
20,000-30,000	225,327	1,749,109	63.4%	\$26,393	\$927	\$919	(\$9)	(\$1,839,264)
30,000-40,000	179,866	1,928,975	70.0%	\$37,017	\$1,565	\$1,546	(\$19)	(\$3,379,188)
40,000-50,000	141,807	2,070,782	75.1%	\$47,668	\$2,204	\$2,175	(\$30)	(\$4,174,523)
50,000-75,000	237,105	2,307,887	83.7%	\$65,209	\$3,256	\$3,209	(\$47)	(\$11,139,012)
75,000-100,000	141,253	2,449,139	88.8%	\$92,044	\$4,867	\$4,793	(\$74)	(\$10,426,463)
100,000-150,000	146,782	2,595,922	94.1%	\$129,119	\$7,091	\$6,980	(\$111)	(\$16,276,549)
150,000-200,000	64,702	2,660,624	96.5%	\$182,891	\$10,317	\$10,153	(\$165)	(\$10,653,909)
200,000-300,000	50,908	2,711,531	98.3%	\$255,891	\$14,697	\$14,460	(\$238)	(\$12,098,796)
300,000-500,000	28,670	2,740,202	99.4%	\$399,166	\$23,294	\$22,913	(\$381)	(\$10,921,633)
500,000-1,000,000	12,529	2,752,731	99.8%	\$712,864	\$42,116	\$41,421	(\$695)	(\$8,703,329)
Over 1,000,000	4,843	2,757,574	100.0%	\$2,516,275	\$150,320	\$147,822	(\$2,499)	(\$12,096,886)
Total	2,757,574			\$47,270	\$2,180	\$2,151	(\$29)	(\$101,822,000)
2026 Current Tax Brackets				0.00%	\$0 to 3,640	Proposed Tax Brackets		
				3.00%	\$3,640 to 18,230	0.00%		
				6.00%	Over \$18,230	3.00%		
						5.90%		
						\$0 to 3,640		
						\$3,640 to 18,230		
						Over \$18,230		

Columns may not add to totals due to rounding
/a 2024 Base Year Grown by 1.7% per year.
/b 2024 Base Year Taxable Income Grown by 5.6% and 4.2%.



EDWARD B. GRIMBALL, Chairman
C. CURTIS HUTTO
G. MICHAEL MIKOTA, Ph.D.

SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

FRANK A. RAINWATER
Executive Director

October 22, 2025

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor, State of South Carolina
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

This letter is in response to a request by staff for the estimated revenue impact of providing a \$2,000 nonrefundable individual income tax credit for individuals employed as active sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) beginning in tax year 2026.

We estimate that allowing a \$2,000 income tax credit for active sworn law enforcement, firefighters, and EMTs will reduce General Fund individual income tax revenue by approximately \$45,458,000 in FY 2026-27. Based on a projected average tax liability of approximately \$2,303 in tax year 2026, this credit would eliminate almost all of the tax liability for the average taxpayer. The following is a detailed analysis of this estimate.

We estimate that there are approximately 18,101 active law enforcement officers employed in South Carolina. This figure includes 16,286 state and local Class 1, 2, and 3 officers based on data from the SC Criminal Justice Academy and an estimated 1,815 federal law enforcement officers in South Carolina who would also qualify for the credit. To estimate the number of South Carolina federal officers, we determined that there are approximately 139,638 federal law enforcement officers in the US based on historical data published by the US Department of Justice.¹ The proportion of federal government employees in South Carolina relative to the US is approximately 1.30 percent according to the latest data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Applying this percentage to the total federal officers, we arrived at an estimated 1,815 federal law enforcement officers in South Carolina who would qualify for the tax credit.

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2020-Statistical Tables," Revised September 29, 2023 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/fleo20st.pdf>

Additionally, the SC Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (LLR) reported in its 2023-24 annual report that there are approximately 18,000 firefighters in South Carolina. According to the Office of State Fire Marshall within LLR, approximately 33 percent are paid (5,940), and 67 percent are volunteer (12,060). For the purposes of this analysis, we have included both paid and volunteer firefighters.

Lastly, the SC Department of Public Health reported 14,879 certified EMTs and paramedics for 2025. We have assumed for the purposes of this analysis that all currently certified EMTs will qualify for the credit, as data are unavailable to determine whether any certified EMTs are not currently employed as EMTs.

Providing a \$2,000 nonrefundable individual income tax credit for the approximately 50,980 qualifying taxpayers would reduce General Fund individual income tax revenue by approximately \$45,458,000 in FY 2026-27. This estimate factors in the utilization rate of approximately 44.6 percent for a \$2,000 income tax credit across all income levels with wage or salary income, which accounts for returns with insufficient tax liability to utilize the full amount of the credit. The table below outlines these calculations. Please note, the estimates are based on the projected tax rates for tax year 2026 of 3 percent and 6 percent.

Estimated Impact of a \$2,000 Nonrefundable Income Tax Credit for Active Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians – FY 2026-27

Active Law Enforcement Officers	18,101
Firefighters	18,000
<i>Paid</i>	5,940
<i>Volunteer</i>	12,060
Emergency Medical Technicians	14,879
Estimated Total Eligible Individuals	50,980
Credit Amount	\$2,000
Estimated Total Credits for Eligible Individuals	\$101,960,000
Utilization Rate	44.6%
Estimated General Fund Revenue Impact for Credit	(\$45,458,000)

Source: Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

The Honorable Henry McMaster

October 22, 2025

Page 3

If we may be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Rainwater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Rainwater" clearly distinguishable.

Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director

FAR/lhj

cc: Ms. Melanie Barton, Governor's Office
Mr. Kevin Etheridge, Executive Budget Office



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

EDWARD B. GRIMBALL, Chairman
C. CURTIS HUTTO
G. MICHAEL MIKOTA, Ph.D.

FRANK A. RAINWATER
Executive Director

December 10, 2025

Ms. Melanie Barton
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State of South Carolina
1201 Main Street, Suite 710
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Barton,

This letter is in response to your request for the fiscal impact of the State reimbursing districts to provide free school breakfast to all students.

Currently, federal child nutrition programs provide funding for breakfast for students from households with qualifying incomes. The federal reimbursement rate for a free breakfast is \$2.46 and \$0.40 for paid breakfasts. At schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), districts cover the difference in the cost of breakfasts for students that are not fully covered by federal reimbursements. Students that do not meet income requirements pay the cost for breakfasts at non-CEP schools. For this analysis, we assume that the State will reimburse for all breakfasts not currently reimbursed at the federal free breakfast rate of \$2.46, including breakfasts that districts are currently paying for in CEP schools and breakfasts currently paid for by students in non-CEP schools. The SC Department of Education (SCDE) anticipates reimbursing districts \$2.00 per breakfast.

To estimate the total reimbursements, we used October 2024 data provided by SCDE for this analysis. October data are typically used by the Office of Health and Nutrition and the US Department of Agriculture because October is the one month of the school year in which there are no holidays when meals may not be served in schools. Additionally, October 2025 data are not yet available.

Based on the October 2024 data, approximately 4,035,000 breakfasts served will be reimbursed by the State annually. The cost for reimbursing the districts in the amount of \$2.00 per breakfast for these breakfasts totals \$8,070,000.

Additionally, once free breakfasts are available to all students, we anticipate an increase in breakfast participation of 8 percent in non-CEP schools based on research from other states.¹ Assuming an increase of 8 percent, we estimate approximately 136,000 additional breakfasts will be served over the course of the school year. At a rate of \$2.00 per breakfast, reimbursing districts for these additional breakfasts will total approximately \$272,000. Based on these assumptions, providing a State reimbursement of \$2.00 per breakfast results in a total cost of \$8,342,000 to reimburse districts for breakfasts currently paid for by students or the district.

Further, SCDE reports that school districts were reimbursed approximately \$375,000 for the \$0.30 copay for reduced price breakfasts that students were not charged pursuant to Proviso 1.115 of FY 2024-25. These costs were covered by surplus EIA funds. We anticipate these costs will be included in the total breakfast reimbursement.

Overall, the total State cost for reimbursing districts for all breakfasts not currently reimbursed at the federal free breakfast rate is approximately \$8,717,000.

Please note, based on the limited anticipated increase in breakfast participation of 8 percent, we do not expect that this change will have a significant impact on district operations. However, if a district cannot absorb the increase in breakfasts served with existing staff and resources, there may be additional costs that are not covered by these reimbursements.

If we may be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director

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¹ Pokorney, P. E., Chandran, A., & Long, M. W. (2019). "Impact of the Community Eligibility Provision on Meal Counts and Participation in Pennsylvania and Maryland National School Lunch Programs." *Public Health Nutrition* 22(17): 3281–87; Ramponi, F., Zhou, H., & Gosliner, W. (2025). "Universal Free School Meal Policies and Participation in the US National School Meal Programs." *JAMA Pediatrics* 179(10): 1108-18.