

# SCBEA

## Legislative Quarterly



### SCBEA Legislative Committee

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### Plan to join us at the 2011 SCBEA Convention!

February 17-19, 2011  
Marriott Grande Dunes Resort  
Myrtle Beach, SC

### Session Begins January 11th

The first regular session of the 119<sup>th</sup> South Carolina General Assembly is scheduled to convene at noon on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. On this day, the members of both the House and the Senate will begin working on legislative issues this year. Many bills have already been pre-filed. A list of those bills that pertain to education are summarized for you in this newsletter.

The best way to keep up with what is going on in the State House is to become a regular visitor to [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net). There you can sign-up to track and follow bills that interest you. You can also view streaming video of the House and Senate when they are in session.

This is the perfect time to begin contacting your legislators about those issues which are important to you. In October's newsletter, there was some information about contacting your legislators. There is some further information in this newsletter about some creative ways that you can get in touch with those who represent you.

In addition to members of the General Assembly, South Carolina voters chose new statewide office holders, including Governor and State Superintendent of Education. Information on these two key offices is also included in the next pages.

Please share your legislative news, information, and concerns with us! Send an email to [mpatterson@scvcs.org](mailto:mpatterson@scvcs.org).

## 2011 Pre-filed Bills Related to Education

### A Brief Summary

You may click on the bill number to be linked to the full text of each bill.

Bill #	Brief Description	Bill #	Brief Description
<a href="#">S.18</a>	The South Carolina Teacher Protection Act of 2011 allowing teachers to bring civil actions against students	<a href="#">S.283</a>	The State Superintendent of Education shall have responsibility for and jurisdiction over all interscholastic athletic activities
<a href="#">S.66</a>	The General Assembly shall establish public institutions of learning that will provide a high quality education	<a href="#">S.310</a>	Revising the method of calculating the index of taxpaying ability by imputing an index value for owner-occupied residential property assessed at four percent of value.
<a href="#">S.72</a>	Term limits for state officers, including Superintendent of Education	<a href="#">S.311</a>	The "South Carolina Transparency In Education Act" requires the Department of Education to post certain information regarding educational materials and products on its internet website
<a href="#">S.88</a>	The South Carolina School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Disabilities Act of 2011	<a href="#">H.3002</a>	The Education Finance Act Of 2011
<a href="#">S.90</a>	Closes the TERI program to new participants effective 7/1/10	<a href="#">H.3014</a>	The number of units required for a state high school diploma is 20, and to re-designate a 24 credit diploma as an advanced diploma
<a href="#">S.132</a>	Superintendent of Education to be appointed by the Governor	<a href="#">H.3017</a>	Revise the definition of "teacher", by requiring certain minimum time in the classroom among other criteria.
<a href="#">S.149</a>	The Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities act, allowing home school, Governor's school, and charter school students to participate in interscholastic activities	<a href="#">H.3018</a>	Administrators in a school with 500 students or less to spend time in a classroom as the primary instructor, to exclude principals, career counselors, and guidance counselors
<a href="#">S.171</a>	The Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities act, allowing home school, Governor's school, and charter school students to participate in interscholastic activities	<a href="#">H.3024</a>	A child of a public official who is required to live on state property may continue to attend schools within the school district he attended previously
<a href="#">S.217</a>	Mandatory school attendance until age 18; loss of driver's license for truancy	<a href="#">H.3028</a>	Increasing the induction contract period from one year to five years.
<a href="#">S.219</a>	Deletes provisions allowing smoking in certain private offices and teacher lounges at schools.	<a href="#">H.3030</a>	A public school district must offer swimming lessons if the district has a public swimming pool in a 10 mile radius, and require students to complete 2 years of swimming instruction
<a href="#">S.227</a>	Provides nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold in school	<a href="#">H.3031</a>	Requires every public middle school and high school to offer at least five career and technology courses
<a href="#">S.241</a>	A Joint Resolution To Create The South Carolina Dyslexia Taskforce	<a href="#">H.3034</a>	An exemption from the administration of the high school exit exam for students who achieve certain high scores on the SAT or ACT

Bill #	Brief Description	Bill #	Brief Description
<a href="#">H.3037</a>	Requires every public middle school and high school of this state that is located within a school district that is located within a county that has a port to offer at least five career and technology courses	<a href="#">H.3133</a>	The South Carolina Teacher Protection Act Of 2011 providing protection from civil liability for teachers acting in the scope of their employment; also provides that a person associated with a school in an official capacity who is injured and unable to return to his former position by a student convicted of assault and battery must be allowed to continue in all retirement, insurance, and deferred compensation programs in which the person was enrolled at the time of the injury
<a href="#">H.3039</a>	New construction of elementary, middle, and high school facilities must comply with specified design and architectural requirements	<a href="#">H.3142</a>	Provides a penalty for a person who violates the safe schools climate act regarding harassment, intimidation, or bullying.
<a href="#">H.3040</a>	Requires a student who participates on a school-sponsored athletic team to be administered an electrocardiogram test and a test to determine if the student has sickle cell anemia or carries the sickle cell anemia trait	<a href="#">H.3186</a>	Provides that the election must be held on the date of a general election or on the date of a primary election.
<a href="#">H.3041</a>	Provides that the election must be held on the date of a general election or on the date of a primary election.	<a href="#">H.3236</a>	Provides that South Carolina Association Of Christian Schools is an authorizer of schools that children may attend within the compulsory education requirement.
<a href="#">H.3043</a>	The State Board of Education shall require a GED candidate to participate in the work keys program or another similar work skills program	<a href="#">H.3239</a>	Revises the definition of "index of taxpaying ability" to provide that the index for each school district is based on the wages of the county in which the district is located.
<a href="#">H.3057</a>	The State Superintendent of Education shall have responsibility for and jurisdiction over all interscholastic athletic activities of public high schools of this state	<a href="#">H.3241</a>	Charter Schools
<a href="#">H.3064</a>	Allows a state income tax credit of \$100 to a taxpayer who sends his child to private school or home schools his child to be used for books and supplies.	<a href="#">H.3242</a>	Requires creation of a program whereby a person may be awarded a high school equivalency diploma if he earns 24 credits at an institution of higher learning in this state
<a href="#">H.3070</a>	The Superintendent of Education to be appointed by the Governor	<a href="#">H.3244</a>	Increases the age of the child at which a parent or guardian no longer has responsibility to cause the child to attend school.

## Using Facebook to Connect with Policy Makers

Social networking is a tool that grows each and every day. According to Facebook's membership statistics ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)), there are currently more than 500 million active users on Facebook, with more than half of those active users logging on the site each day. Their membership continues to grow by hundreds of thousands on any given day. It is no surprise with such a captive audience that legislators and candidates for office have turned to social networking to reach voters and constituents.

South Carolina lawmakers are also using social networking to connect with residents of the state. Many statewide officers, including incoming Governor Nikki Haley and State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais, are users on Facebook. In addition, top officials in both the House and Senate are also Facebook users, including House Speaker Bobby Harrell and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Dan Cooper.

If you are a Facebook user, do a search for your local legislators, and chances are good that you will be able to connect with them. Once you have become "friends", you can use Facebook's wall and messaging utilities to post comments, ask questions, and voice your concerns.

State lawmakers are not the only ones you can connect with through Facebook. Representatives to the US House and Senate are using Facebook. You can even connect with the White House. This year, the opening day of Congress was even streamed live on Facebook. Your main concern may be that the lawmaker may not be the one behind the screen. According to a report by ACB News (2010), "while many politicians rely on staffers to update their Facebook pages," many do update and respond themselves.

There are many ways to connect with lawmakers. Social network is a new way to do that. As educators, we should make contacting lawmakers a priority, whatever method we choose to use.

### Upcoming Dates

First day of the US Congressional Session  
January 11, 2011

First day of the SC Legislative Session  
January 11, 2011

SCBEA Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC  
February 17-19, 2011

NBEA Convention in New Orleans, LA  
April 19-23, 2011

### Helpful Links

[SC Statehouse Homepage](#)

[Members of the Senate](#)

[Members of the House](#)

[2010-2011 House Freshman Members](#)  
May take a minute or two to load