



## South Carolina Legislative Update for week ending May 3, 2013

This week, both the Senate and House of Representatives debated a large number of bills in order to give third reading to as many bills as possible by the May 1<sup>st</sup> crossover deadline. Any bill that did not receive third reading by its originating chamber will now require a 2/3 vote by the receiving chamber to be considered. The House of Representatives will be on furlough next week.

### Access to Care:

The Senate Finance Committee completed its work on the \$6.3 billion dollar budget, a plan which does not include a provision for Medicaid expansion. In a 13 – 10 vote on Thursday, the Committee voted against an amendment to include expansion. Earlier in the week, Tony Keck, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), returned to the Committee to provide additional testimony and respond to questions from Committee members about expansion and the agency as a whole.

H. 4095 Medicaid Expansion Alternative Bill was introduced by Representative Kris Crawford (R – Florence, a physician). The bill has 75 bipartisan cosponsors. The bill would enact the Truth in Health Financing and Responsible Consumer Health Care Act. Representative Crawford says this bill is a “viable alternative” to cover the same population and was drafted based on a similar bill in Indiana. The bill would provide healthcare to uninsured people through managed care plans and medical spending accounts using Medicaid expansion funds provided for in the Affordable Care Act. H.4095 was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and awaits a subcommittee hearing.

H.3096 Enact the Healthcare Freedom Act, has passed the House and currently resides in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

H. 3355 Prohibiting South Carolina from Expanding Medicaid currently resides in the House Ways and Means Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing. *This bill is likely stalled for the year.*

H. 3101 Nullification of the Affordable Care Act/Fine passed the House with an amendment.

H. 3983 Rural Emergency Care which would provide rural counties with free emergency hospital care and allows closed rural hospital to regain licensure as freestanding emergency health care facilities under certain circumstances was sent to the contested bill calendar after a motion was made by Representative Gilda Gobb- Hunter (D-Orangeburg) to commit the bill to the House 3M Committee. The motion was tabled and debate was requested. Debate has been adjourned on the bill until Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

For more information, please visit: [www.acscan.org/southcarolina](http://www.acscan.org/southcarolina) or contact Nancy Cheney, Government Relations Director: 803.750.1693 or [nancy.cheney@cancer.org](mailto:nancy.cheney@cancer.org)

**Tobacco Control and Smoke Free:** ACS CAN South Carolina is working to protect \$5 million for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation that was created by the 2010 cigarette tax fund. The \$5 million remains intact at this point.

S. 566 Taxation on little cigars, roll your own, and pipe tobacco resides in the Committee on Finance.

H. 3538 Youth Smoking, Includes alternative nicotine products (e-cigarettes) in the statute relating to the sale or purchase of tobacco products by minors continues to await a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

H. 4074 E- Cigarette Tax was introduced this week by Representative Brian White. The bill would add five cents tax on certain products containing nicotine commonly used in electronic cigarettes. The bill would also limit the rate to no more than ten percent of the excise tax and surcharge on a pack of cigarettes, to require that an invoice for such products clearly states that the amount of product included, and to make conforming changes. The bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee which Rep. White chairs.

**Breast and Cervical Funding:** ACS CAN South Carolina will continue to advocate for \$2 million from sources other than the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation fund. The Best Chance Network has not been funded at the state level since 2010. The Senate Finance Committee approved a proviso by Senator Alexander that would provide \$1.5 million for Best Chance Network. The proviso moves to the full Senate the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

H. 3236 Cervical Cancer Prevention Act introduced by Rep. Sellers (D- Bamberg) would allow DHEC to offer the cervical cancer vaccination series to any students entering the seventh grade in any public or private school on a voluntary basis. The bill resides in the House awaiting a second reading.

**Colorectal Cancer:** ACS CAN South Carolina continues to advocate for funding for colorectal cancer screenings in the amount of at least \$500,000 while protecting the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Fund. The Senate Finance Committee approved a proviso by Senator Alexander that would provide \$500,000 for colorectal cancer screenings. The proviso moves to the full Senate the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Raffle Law in South Carolina:** S.213 and S.239 Allow Charitable Raffles/Constitutional Amendment was signed into law on April 23<sup>rd</sup> by Governor Haley. South Carolinians have the ability to vote on the law during the 2014 election.

**Nutrition and Physical Activity:** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), charged with coordinating a multi-agency initiative to combat obesity in the state met for an update last week. The Governor and DHHS Director would like to regulate what foods Supplemental Nutritional Aid Program (SNAP) recipients can purchase with the allotted amount given monthly.