



SC Legislative News

December 9th, 2022

This update is prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) Legislative Liaison to keep you informed of bills introduced in the General Assembly that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare issues, or state employee issues. In addition, budget information and pertinent general news from the General Assembly will be provided. You can also access the complete text of each bill listed by clicking the link at the end of each description, or visiting www.scstatehouse.gov and searching them by bill number. To learn which legislators represent you, visit www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php.

This publication is also available on the SCDMH internet and intranet sites. If you have questions or need more information about bills or other legislative issues, contact Robin Crawford, SCDMH Legislative Liaison at (803) 898-8391 or robin.crawford@scdmh.org.

Agency leadership recently met with the Governor's Executive Budget Office to present SCDMH's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget request and answer questions for the Governor's staff. The next step in the budget request process is a presentation to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee and Senate Finance Healthcare Subcommittee in the late winter/early spring.

The Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children (JCLCC) held a planning meeting on Monday, December 5th, to discuss their legislative priorities for the 125th legislative session. The Committee plans to propose a bill to change the statute affecting Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) by striking the requirement that CSUs are operated by, or in partnership with, SCDMH and also opens CSU services to individuals age five and above. SCDMH will work with the legislature, DHEC, and other stakeholders to ensure that licensing requirements and regulations for CSUs will require children and adults to be housed separately. The Committee also held elections for their 2023 officers, choosing Representative [Raye Felder](#) (R-York) as chair and Senator [Katrina Shealy](#) (R-Lexington) as vice-chair.

The SC House of Representatives convened on Tuesday, December 6th, for an organizational session to swear-in members, including 27 newly elected members, and to hold elections for multiple leadership positions. Representative [Murrell Smith](#) (R-Sumter) was elected into his first term as Speaker of the House, replacing Representative Jay Lucas (R-Darlington) who did not seek reelection this year. Representative [Tommy Pope](#) (R-York) was reelected as President Pro Tempore, a position he has held since 2015. Representative [Todd Rutherford](#) (D-Richland) was reelected as House Minority Leader, a position he has held since 2013. Representative [Davey Hiott](#) (R-Pickens) was selected to serve as House Majority Leader, replacing Gary Simrill (R-York) who did not seek reelection.

The House met again on Wednesday, December 7th, for members to receive their committee assignments and elect committee officers. Subcommittee assignments will be forthcoming. Information about standing committees can be found on the [State House website](#). The following chairs were elected:

House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee – Representative [Bill Hixon](#) (R-Edgefield)
House Education and Public Works Committee – Representative [Shannon Erickson](#) (R-Beaufort)
House Ethics Committee – Representative [Jay Jordan](#) (R-Florence)
House Judiciary Committee – Representative [Weston Newton](#) (R-Beaufort)
House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee – Representative [Bill Sandifer](#) (R-Oconee)
House Legislative Oversight Committee – Representative [Jeff Johnson](#) (R-Horry)
House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee – Representative [Sylleste Davis](#) (R-Berkeley)
House Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee – Representative [Jeff Bradley](#) (R-Beaufort)
House Rules Committee – Representative [Anne Thayer](#) (R-Anderson)
House Ways and Means Committee – Representative [Bruce Bannister](#) (R-Greenville)

The Senate and House are in the process of prefiling legislation this week to be considered when both bodies convene in January. Prefiling legislation allows staff to have ample time to draft the legislation so that when the legislative session begins, the House and Senate can get to work quickly. Legislation that is filed that is relevant to SCDMH and its mission will be communicated with you in a future legislative update.

The House and Senate will return to Columbia convene for the start of the 125th legislative session on the second Tuesday in January per the state constitution, January 10th, 2023.