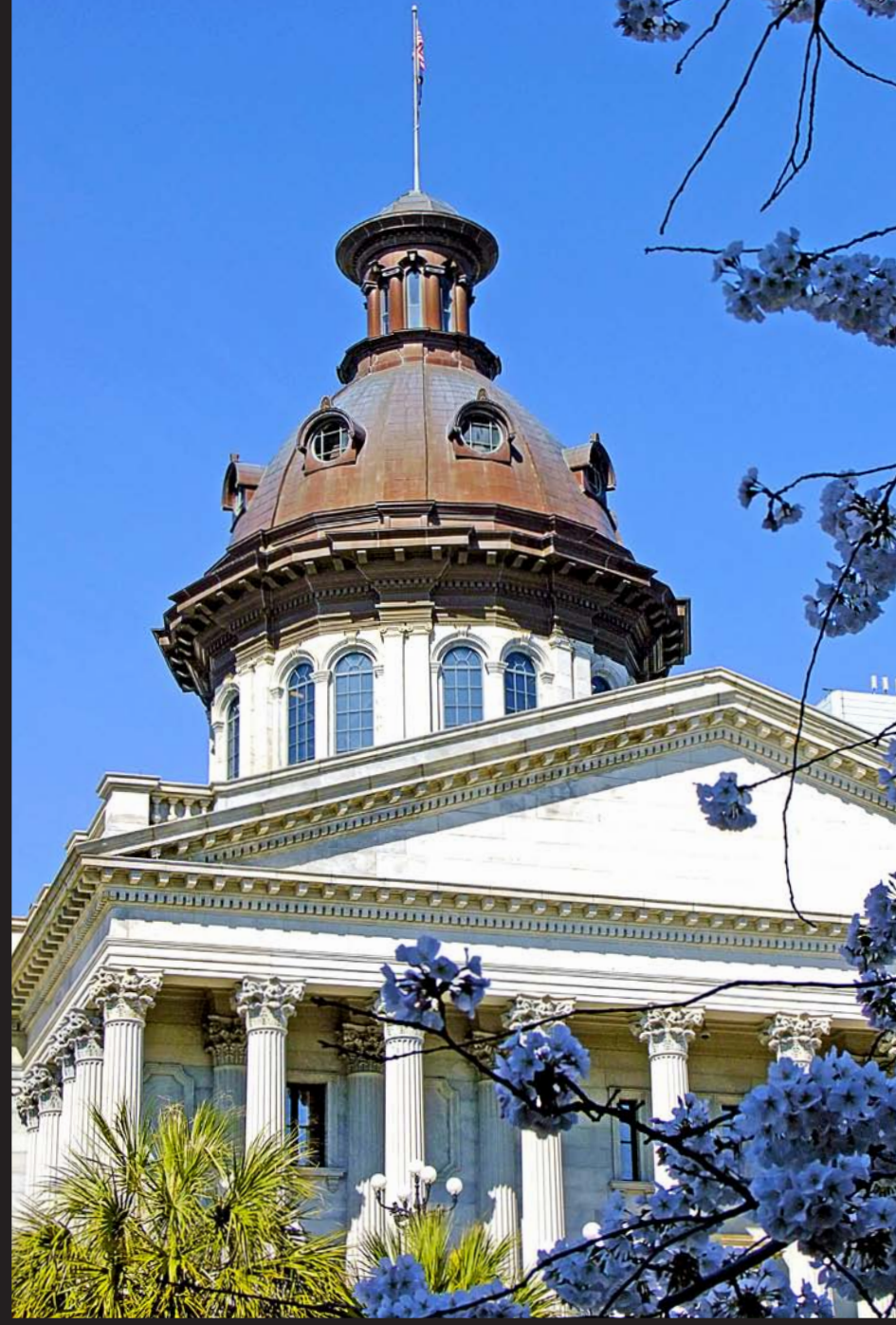


# 2011 SOUTH CAROLINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



## Our Vision:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is the unified voice of business and premier advocacy organization in the state. The South Carolina Chamber creates prosperity for all citizens through an economy of increased productivity and global competitiveness.

## The 2011 Legislative Scorecard:

Each legislative session, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce tracks key business roll call votes and tallies all votes to determine an overall score for each member of the General Assembly. It is imperative the business community holds legislators accountable on votes that directly impact the business climate and competitiveness of the state.

In 2011, the South Carolina Chamber tracked votes on the following issues:

- Angel Investment Fund
- Capital Reserve Fund
- Charter Schools
- Education and Economic Development Act
- Employee Discrimination
- Employer Free Speech Act
- Environmental Regulatory Relief
- Government Restructuring
- Jobs Tax Credits
- Port Study Resolution
- Sales Tax Exemptions
- Secret Ballot
- Taxpayer Fairness Act
- Tort Reform
- Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief

Legislative votes are tracked according to the Chamber's position on each issue. Then, a final composite score is given for each legislator, with 100 percent being a perfect score.

## Competitiveness Agenda Process:

The process of determining the South Carolina Chamber's *Competitiveness Agenda* begins with annual Grassroots Regional Meetings, held across the state in the late summer. From there, legislative business issues are presented to the Chamber's Legislative Agenda Task Force (LATF), made up of business and industry leaders from small, medium and large companies located throughout the state. The Chamber sends those issues to the Board of Directors for a final vote. The annual *Competitiveness Agenda* is then presented to members, South Carolina legislators and the general public.

To learn more about the Chamber's 2011 *Competitiveness Agenda*, visit [www.sccchamber.net](http://www.sccchamber.net).

## The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce:

*The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the nation's first state chamber Accredited with Distinction by the U.S. Chamber, is South Carolina's largest statewide broad-based business and industry trade association representing more than 18,000 businesses and more than one million employees, with 90 percent of membership comprised of small businesses. As the unified voice for business and industry, the Chamber is a catalyst for increasing prosperity and enhancing the state's global competitiveness in order to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.*



# SENATE

## VOTE KEY:

✓ Business Positive Vote	NV No Vote
✗ Business Negative Vote	* Denotes recipient of 2012 Business Advocate Award
NYS Not Yet Serving	A Abstain

### Secret Ballot Ratification (S.277)

The Senate passed S.277, legislation ratifying the state constitutional amendment guaranteeing every South Carolinian's right to cast a secret ballot in union elections. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 32-10. (Roll call vote #67, February 15, 2011)

### Environmental Regulatory Relief (S.420)

The Senate unanimously passed S.420, legislation providing regulatory relief to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the business community. The legislation allows South Carolina to automatically revert back to the previous regulatory standard if federal courts halt the implementation of a federal regulation. (Roll call vote #218, April 14, 2011)

### Employee Discrimination (S.694)

S.694 streamlines the process for allowing private sector employees to file a discrimination lawsuit and forwards those complaints to the U.S. Department of Labor, bypassing the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The legislation received second reading in the Senate by a vote of 37-0. (Roll call vote #249, April 27, 2011)

### EEDA Coordinating Council (H.3748)

By a vote of 39-1, the Senate passed legislation to extend the Education and Economic Development Act Coordinating Council for one additional year. (Roll call vote #470, May 25, 2011)

### Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief (H.3762)

By a vote of 32-0, the Senate passed legislation to provide meaningful unemployment insurance tax relief for employers across the state by reducing state benefit weeks from 26 weeks to 20 weeks and allowing for seasonal restrictions on unemployment benefits. (Roll call vote #507, May 27, 2011)

### Tort Reform (H.3375)

The Senate passed H.3375, tort reform, by a vote of 39-0. The legislation included a cap on punitive damages, a cap on appeals bonds, revisions to the statute of repose for construction cases and required the attorney general to approve civil actions by circuit court solicitors. (Roll call vote #519, May 31, 2011)

### Government Restructuring – Dept. of Administration (H.3066)

H.3066 would create the South Carolina Department of Administration, allowing more gubernatorial control over certain functions of state government. On a 22-20 vote, the Senate failed to invoke cloture, which was required to end debate. Cloture takes a 3/5 vote of the Senate. (Roll call vote #584, June 2, 2011)

### Capital Reserve Fund (H.3701)

H.3701 funded critical programs like Technical College System CATT Funding (\$13 M), Destination Specific Marketing (\$5.4 M), Department of Commerce Closing Fund (\$5 M), Regional Economic Development Alliances Marketing (\$5 M) and Regional Tourism Promotion (\$100K). By a vote of 32-8, the Senate overrode the governor's veto of the legislation. (Roll call vote #676, June 29, 2011)

SENATOR	Secret Ballot - S.277	Regulatory Relief - S.420	Employee Discrimination - S.694	EEDA Coordinating Council - H.3748	UI Tax Relief - H.3762	Tort Reform - H.3375	Government Restructuring - H.3066	Capital Reserve Fund - H.3701	Score
THOMAS ALEXANDER*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
RALPH ANDERSON	✗	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✗	✓	67
LEE BRIGHT	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	75
KEVIN BRYANT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88
PAUL CAMPBELL*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
CHIP CAMPSEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88
RAY CLEARY*	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✓	NV	NV	100
CREIGHTON COLEMAN	✗	✓	NV	NV	✓	✓	✗	NV	60
JOHN COURSON*	✓	✓	NV	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	100
RONNIE CROMER*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
TOM DAVIS	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	86
DICK ELLIOTT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	75
MIKE FAIR*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
ROBERT FORD	✗	✓	NV	NV	NV	NV	✗	✓	50
GREG GREGORY	NYS	NYS	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✗	80
LARRY GROOMS*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
WES HAYES*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
BRAD HUTTO	✗	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✗	NV	67
DARRELL JACKSON	NV	NV	NV	NV	✓	NV	✗	✓	67
JAKE KNOTTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88
JOHN LAND	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	75
HUGH LEATHERMAN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88
PHIL LEVENTIS	✗	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	NV	✓	80
JOEL LOURIE	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	NV	✗	✓	83
GERALD MALLOY	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	86
LARRY MARTIN*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
SHANE MARTIN*	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✓	✓	NV	100
SHANE MASSEY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88
JOHN MATTHEWS	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	75
GLENN MCCONNELL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88
YANCEY MCGILL	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	86
FLOYD NICHOLSON	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	86
BILLY O'DELL*	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
HARVEY PEELER*	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	100
CLEMENTA PINCKNEY	✗	NV	✓	NV	A	✓	NV	NV	67
LUKE RANKIN*	✓	✓	NV	✓	NV	NV	NV	✓	100
GLENN REESE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	86
MIKE ROSE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88
GREG RYBERG*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	100
JOHN SCOTT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	75
NIKKI SETZLER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88
VINCENT SHEHEEN	NV	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✗	✓	80
PHILLIP SHOOPMAN*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
DAVID THOMAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✗	86
DANNY VERDIN*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
KENT WILLIAMS	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✗	✓	86

VOTE KEY:

- Business Positive Vote
Business Negative Vote
NV No Vote
NYS Not yet serving
\* Denotes recipient of 2012 Business Advocate Award
\*\* Extended absence due to illness

Tort Reform (H.3375)

With a bipartisan vote of 100-7, the House passed H.3375, tort reform. The legislation capped punitive damages and set limits on appeals bonds. (Roll call vote #53, February 9, 2011)

Port Study Resolution (S.471)

S.471 was a concurrent resolution urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fully study all impacts of any port expansion along the Savannah River and requesting the Corp of Engineers to study the Jasper Ocean Terminal as an alternative to any expansion. The resolution was passed unanimously by a vote of 112-0. (Roll call vote #65, February 15, 2011)

Charter Schools (H.3241)

By a vote of 85-32, the House passed legislation to provide more equitable funding for public charter schools and allow more choices for students and parents within the public school system. The legislation also addressed guidelines for communities looking to establish charter schools. (Roll call vote #83, February 23, 2011)

Government Restructuring - Dept. of Administration (H.3066)

By a vote of 96-13, the House passed legislation to create the South Carolina Department of Administration, allowing more gubernatorial control over certain functions of state government. (Roll call vote #92, March 2, 2011)

Government Restructuring - Governor and Lieutenant Governor (H.3152)

By a vote of 106-6, the House passed a government restructuring constitutional amendment to enable the governor and lieutenant governor to run on the same ticket. (Roll call vote #93, March 2, 2011)

Government Restructuring - Superintendent of Education (H.3070)

By a vote of 82-28, the House passed a constitutional amendment to allow the governor to appoint the state superintendent of education. (Roll call vote #94, March 2, 2011)

Taxpayer Fairness Act (H.3419)

The Taxpayer Fairness Act requires the South Carolina Department of Revenue to strictly interpret tax statutes and resolve any disputes in favor of the taxpayer. The legislation passed the House unanimously by a vote of 110-0. (Roll call vote #103, March 9, 2011)

Secret Ballot Ratification (S.277)

The House passed S.277, legislation ratifying the state constitutional amendment guaranteeing every South Carolinian's right to cast a secret ballot in union elections. The bill passed the House by a vote of 81-24. (Roll call vote #118, March 10, 2011)

Angel Investment (H.3779)

By a vote of 78-18, the House passed legislation to create an Angel Investment Fund. The legislation was commonly referred to as the Bill Wylie Entrepreneurship Act of 2011. (Roll call vote #246, April 13, 2011)

Sales Tax Exemptions (H.3488)

By a vote of 47-71, the House rejected an amendment to exempt sales tax collections for online retailers that have a physical presence in South Carolina. (Roll call vote #280, April 27, 2011)

Jobs Tax Credits (H.3720)

H.3720 is an economic development bill that lowers the threshold of new hiring requirements for service facilities to qualify for jobs tax credits and expands the definition of technology facilities to qualify. The legislation passed the House unanimously by a vote of 106-0. (Roll call vote #300, April 28, 2011)

Employer Free Speech Act (H.3658)

The Employer Free Speech Act states that employers are not required to post notices from the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of employees' rights under the NLRA. The bill passed the House by a vote of 76-26. (Roll call vote #373, May 19, 2011)

Environmental Regulatory Relief (S.420)

The House passed S.420, legislation providing regulatory relief to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the business community, by a vote of 112-0. The legislation allows South Carolina to automatically revert back to the previous regulatory standard if federal courts halt the implementation of a federal regulation. (Roll call vote #389, May 24, 2011)

Employee Discrimination (S.694)

S.694 streamlines the process for allowing private sector employees to file a discrimination lawsuit and forwards those complaints to the U.S. Department of Labor, bypassing the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The legislation unanimously passed the House by a vote of 106-0. (Roll call vote #417, May 25, 2011)

Sales Tax Exemptions (S.36)

S.36 was legislation to exempt sales taxes on durable medical supply sales and also included a compromise on sales tax collections for online retailers that have a physical presence in South Carolina. The legislation requires a business to notify taxpayers of the amount they owe to the South Carolina Department of Revenue. The concurrence vote passed with a vote of 90-14. (Roll call vote #438, June 1, 2011)

EEDA Coordinating Council (H.3748)

By a vote of 101-1, the House concurred with the Senate's amendments to legislation extending the Education and Economic Development Act Coordinating Council. (Roll call vote #439, June 1, 2011)

Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief (H.3762)

By a vote of 93-11, the House concurred with the Senate's amendments to provide meaningful unemployment tax relief for employers across the state by reducing state benefit weeks from 26 weeks to 20 weeks and allowing for seasonal restrictions on unemployment benefits. (Roll call vote #450, June 1, 2011)

Table with columns: REPRESENTATIVE, Tort Reform - H.3375, Port Study - S.471, Charter Schools - H.3241, Government Restructuring - H.3066, Government Restructuring - H.3152, Government Restructuring - H.3070, Taxpayer Fairness Act - H.3419, Secret Ballot - S.277, Angel Investment Act - H.3779, Sales Tax Exemptions - H.3488, Jobs Tax Credits - H.3720, Employer Free Speech Act - H.3658, Regulatory Relief - S.420, Employee Discrimination - S.694, Sales Tax Exemptions - S.36, EEDA Coordinating Council - H.3748, Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief - H.3762, Score