

Vote Description

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mandatory electronics recycling | 10. SCRA board change |
| 2. The peoples' restructuring | 11. Incumbent protection |
| 3. Unemployment benefits reform | 12. Common Core Curriculum |
| 4. International Energy Conservation Code | 13. State retirement reform gone bad |
| 5. Corporate economic incentives | 14. Taxpayer rebate fund |
| 6. Hybrid car tax credit | 15. Economic development and universities |
| 7. Land Conservation Bank | 16. Tax credits for tire manufacturers |
| 8. Bonds for ports | 17. Largest budget in state history |
| 9. Governor and Lt. Gov. on the same ticket | |

Legend

- ✓ - voted for limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility
- ✗ - voted against limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility
- - did not vote
- P - voted Present
- ☒ - not eligible to vote McConnell left the Senate to serve as Lt. Governor.

Palmetto Liberty

2012 Senate Score Card (ranked)

Vote Details

The following is a short description of each vote that was included in the score to the right. After each description is an explanation of what each ✓ or ✗ means. Remember, a ✓ is a vote for limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility.

- Mandatory electronics recycling.** Creeping government regulation is burdening businesses with unnecessary costs. That burden slows and stops exploration of better, more efficient, less costly ways of doing things. H4258, requiring electronics to be recycled, is just one more regulation added to the burden. The government rush to regulate must end.

H4258 passed 2nd reading June 1st 2011 by a vote of 24 – 14.

✓ – voted against mandatory recycling
 ✗ – voted for mandatory recycling

- The peoples' restructuring.** Late in 2011 the House and Senate each passed versions of a bill to restructure government. Commonly referred to as the Department of Administration bill, it purported to eliminate the Budget and Control Board and create a Department of Administration in its stead. Neither version truly did.

The real goal of separating the powers of the executive and legislative branches and eliminating any “hybrid” boards that combined functions of the two branches would have been realized with an amendment, however. Unfortunately, the amendment was stopped by an obscure procedural ruling by then President *Pro Tempore* Glen McConnell. This was a vote challenging his ruling. A few Senators were bold enough to insist on a vote by the body of the Senate to challenge this ruling. Unfortunately, the vote failed and the ruling stood.

Amendment 122 to H3066 was ruled out of order because it would have been an amendment “to the third degree”. The vote to override this ruling failed 4 – 31 on February 15th 2012.

✓ – voted against obscure procedural move
 ✗ – voted for obscure procedural move

- Unemployment benefits reform.** This bill was eventually passed and signed by the governor. It prevents those who are fired for good reason from collecting unemployment. This vote was an attempt to make the bill “special order” so that it could be brought up for a vote. This failed twice before it was successful. This was one of those failed attempts.

Vote to make S1125 special order failed March 14th 2012 by a vote of 24 – 18. A two thirds majority is needed for special order.

✓ – voted for “special order” motion (for reform)
 ✗ – voted against “special order” motion (against reform)

- International Energy Conservation Code.** When legislators blindly follow international standards we lose the ability to determine what is best for South Carolina. With H4639, the Senate adopted the IECC as the energy standard of the state. Part of this standard mandates the use of compact fluorescent lights and bars the use of regular incandescent lights.

H4639 passed 2nd reading 27 – 9 on March 20th 2012.

✓ – voted against the IECC
 ✗ – voted for the IECC

Each Senator's score is the % of their eligible votes that are a ✓

	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
R Bright	82	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Bryant	76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
R Davis	71	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
R S. Martin	59	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
R Rose	59	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
R Fair	53	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Peeler	47	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
R Thomas	47	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
R Grooms	41	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
R Massey	41	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Shoopman	41	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Campsen	35	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
R Verdin	35	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	
R Courson	29	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	
R Gregory	29	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	
R Cleary	24	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Cromer	24	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R L. Martin	24	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Alexander	18	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Hayes	18	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R O'Dell	18	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Ryberg	18	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
D Setzler	18	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R Knotts	12	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D McGill	12	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	
R Rankin	12	•	✗	✓	•	✗	•	✗	✗	•	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Reese	12	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	
D Williams	12	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Hutto	6	✗	•	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Jackson	6	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Land	6	✗	•	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	
R Leatherman	6	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Leventis	6	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	
D Lourie	6	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✓	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Malloy	6	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Matthews	6	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
R McConnell	*	✓	✗	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	
D Nicholson	6	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Scott	6	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Sheheen	6	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✓	•	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Anderson	0	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
R Campbell	0	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Coleman	0	✗	•	✗	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	
D Elliott	0	•	•	✗	•	•	•	✗	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	
D Ford	0	•	✗	✗	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
D Pinckney	0	✗	•	✗	•	✗	✗	•	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	

*McConnell left the Senate to serve as Lt. Governor

Palmetto Liberty

2012 Senate Score Card

(Continued from other side)

5. **Corporate economic incentives.** Passed by the House in 2011, this bill is another example of legislators trying to centrally plan our economy. This bill will exempt from paying income tax for 10 years certain corporations that move their corporate headquarters to South Carolina or expand an existing corporate headquarters. It has been reported that this bill was written for two Greenville based companies.

H3720 passed the Senate 35 – 1 on April 12th 2012.

✓ – voted against central planning of the economy
✗ – voted for central planning of the economy

6. **Hybrid car tax credit.** Taxpayers shouldn't be subsidizing any particular sector of the economy. Further, the government shouldn't be distorting the free market with taxpayer funded subsidies. This is yet another example of our state government centrally planning our economy. It didn't work for the Soviet Union. It won't work for South Carolina.

H3059 passed the Senate 27 – 9 on April 12th 2012.

✓ – voted against central planning of the economy
✗ – voted for central planning of the economy

7. **Land Conservation Bank.** Land in South Carolina should be preserved by those private parties that are interested in its preservation. This is not a core function of government. The Conservation Bank was set to expire in 2013. This bill extended it until 2018.

H3083 passed the Senate 38 – 2 on April 19th 2012.

✓ – voted against extending the Conservation Bank
✗ – voted for extending the Conservation Bank

8. **Bonds for ports.** S1431 authorized \$138.5 million in bonds for South Carolina ports. South Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that own and operate their own ports. Rather than continuing to put taxpayers on the hook for government-owned ports, the General Assembly should move towards privatization.

S1431 passed the Senate 40 – 3 on April 15th 2012.

✓ – voted against the bonds
✗ – voted for the bonds

9. **Governor and Lt. Governor on the same ticket.** With the Lt. Governor elected separately from the Governor we often have a disjointed and dysfunctional executive branch. H3152 proposes a constitutional change that would require the Governor and Lt. Governor to be elected together as a team. Under the current system, the lieutenant governor's only real duty is to preside over the Senate. We hardly need a constitutional officer for that.

H3152 passed the Senate 34 – 1 on April 26th 2012.

✓ – voted for constitutional change
✗ – voted against constitutional change



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10. **SCRA board change.** S1331 puts the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee on both the board of trustees and executive committee of the South Carolina Research Authority, a state-owned and state-controlled technology and real estate company. It does the same for the House Ways and Means chairman. Given that the Research Authority's purpose is to support specific private companies with public resources, the law virtually guarantees more legislative conflicts of interest.

S1331 passed the Senate 34 – 2 on April 26th 2012.

✓ – voted against future conflicts of interest
✗ – voted for future conflicts of interest
P – voted present

11. **Incumbent protection.** The South Carolina Supreme Court disqualified nearly 250 candidates who were challenging incumbent politicians for a technicality in filing paperwork that did not apply to incumbents. This resulted in an almost challenger free election cycle in South Carolina this year.

One of the ways a few members of the Senate attempted to fix this ballot debacle was to amend H3392 so that it allowed the challengers back on the ballot. Senators opposing the fix challenged the amendment as "not germane" to the original bill. A motion was made to suspend the Senate rule (Rule 24a) that requires amendments to be germane. A vote to suspend a rule requires two thirds of those present and voting to succeed. This vote failed and the attempt to fix the mess failed with it.

The motion to suspend rule 24a failed to get two thirds vote 24 – 15 on May 9th 2012.

✓ – voted in favor of the motion to suspend rule 24a
✗ – voted against the motion to suspend rule 24a

12. **Common Core Curriculum.** When legislators blindly follow national standards we lose the ability to determine what is best for South Carolina. The Senate adopted this standard for South Carolina public schools even though the cost implications are unknown. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a group charged with providing assessments based on the CCC, has never before created assessments. So there is nothing for the General Assembly and South Carolina citizens to evaluate to determine the quality and effectiveness of their assessment program. Amendment No. 7 to the budget would have barred funding the implementation of the CCC.

Motion to table (kill) Amendment No. 7 to H4813 pass by a vote of 29 – 13 on May 16th 2012.

✓ – voted against funding the CCC
✗ – voted for funding the CCC

13. **State retirement reform gone bad.** H4967 does phase out the greatly abused TERI system which allows government employees to retire and then get re-hired while still receiving retirement benefits. It also prevents new retirees from counting unused annual leave in determining retirement compensation. But, the Senate amended the bill on an unrecorded voice vote so that it creates a new agency, the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority, tasked with managing the state retirement system and making it solvent within 30 years, a ridiculously long time. The Authority's paid board members include retirees – i.e., beneficiaries – virtually guaranteeing that the bill's solvency time-frame will be soon forgotten.

H4967 passed the senate 39 – 1 on May 16th 2009.

✓ – voted against H4967
✗ – voted for H4967

14. **Taxpayer rebate fund.** For the past few years there has been an attempt in the Senate to refund excess tax collections to taxpayers. However, each year the effort has been defeated and the excess collections spent. This year was no different. Amendment 62 to the budget would have created a taxpayer rebate fund. It was defeated.

A motion to table (kill) amendment 62 to H4813 passed 24 – 18 on May 23rd 2012.

✓ – voted for the rebate fund
✗ – voted against the rebate fund

15. **Economic development and universities.** Not only does economic development have little, if anything, to do with the mission of public institutions of higher learning; state-driven economic development schemes haven't contributed in any verifiable way to economic growth, though they've expanded government involvement in the private sector by leaps and bounds. S1397 would establish economic development as one of four funding criteria for South Carolina's public universities.

Passed the Senate 36 – 1 on May 29th 2012.

✓ – voted against S1397
✗ – voted for S1397

16. **Tax credits for tire manufacturers.** Lawmakers used H3506 to dole out tens of millions of dollars in tax credits to three specific companies, not in an effort to bring them to the state – they were already here – but simply as a favor, courtesy of the South Carolina taxpayer. This last minute deal was made by taking a bill that had already passed both the House and Senate, and replacing the entire text of the bill with this sweet deal. Neither chamber could give the bill a fair hearing on its merits. In order to make this quick change, they had to use a procedural vote to give a conference committee "free conference powers".

A tax credit amendment to H3506 was enabled by giving "free conference powers" to a conference committee by a vote of 33 – 9 on June 7th, 2012.

✓ – voted against the targeted tax credit
✗ – voted for the targeted tax credit

17. **Largest budget in state history.** Last year we had the largest budget in state history. This year's \$23.6 billion budget is \$1.3 billion larger than last year's. So once again, H4813 gave us the largest budget in state history.

Passed the Senate 26 – 8 on June 28th 2012.

✓ – voted against the budget
✗ – voted for the budget

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