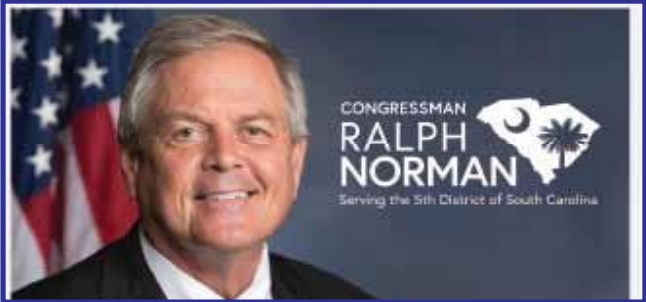


Lancaster County Community Relations Commission Meeting Agenda for March 16, 2023

The Community Relations Commission will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lancaster County Library, 313 South White Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

The agenda is posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and also on our website. Please use the link below to view the agenda:
https://www.mylancaster.org/boards___commissions/community_relations_commission/agendas.php



REP. NORMAN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION ADDRESSING THE BUREAUCRATIC OVERREACH OF UNELECTED OFFICIALS

On Wednesday, Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) introduced two (2) pieces of legislation addressing the bureaucratic overreach from unelected government officials at the Pentagon:

No Mask Mandate for the Military Act

No Federal Funds for Abortion Travel Expenses Act of 2023

“Our government is constructed to be empowered by the people,” said Rep. Norman on Wednesday. “Sadly, there are far too many unelected officials wielding immense power with little to no oversight. Both bills address the issue of government officials imposing overreaching rules and mandates that are unwarranted to begin with.”

Background information on each bill can be found below:

Bill #1: No Mask Mandate for the Military Act

The first bill, the No Mask Mandate for the Military Act, would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from imposing any

federal mask mandate policies pertaining to COVID-19 on any military installations in the U.S.

On February 10, 2023 the Biden administration announced it would seek to end the COVID-19 national emergency on May 11, 2023, more than three years after the original emergency declaration in March 2020. Though the pandemic is considered over and no longer the threat it once was, unelected bureaucrats in Washington continue to impose unnecessary mask mandates based on CDC guidance on service members stationed at military bases around the country.

Co-sponsors of the bill include Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC), Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Rep. Bob Good (R-VA), Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL), Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL).

This bill has the support of FreedomWorks.

Monthly Traffic Safety Enforcement Report

The Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office has officers working pursuant to three grants focused on traffic safety issues including impaired driving and speeding. The grants are federally funded and are administered through the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The Impaired Driving Countermeasures Enforcement Project concentrates efforts on driving violations and behaviors corresponding with impaired driving. The Police Traffic Services Enforcement Project focuses on speeding drivers and those committing other traffic law violations which endanger the public. The Overtime Enforcement Project provides funds to pay deputies overtime for working special operations scheduled in conjunction with the impaired driving project.

The first two grants each fund one deputy position, and all deputies certified in the administration of Standard Field Sobriety Tests may work the overtime grant as their schedules permit. All three grants require the sheriff’s office to conduct multiple saturation patrols and traffic safety checkpoints throughout the grant periods. The grants also require the sheriff’s office to participate in traffic safety campaigns sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The traffic services enforcement project also requires officers to make regular educational presentations on traffic laws to community groups and organizations. All the grants require the release of information on grant activities to traditional and social media outlets.

Bill #2: No Federal Funds for Abortion Travel Expenses Act of 2023

The second bill, No Federal Funds for Abortion Travel Expenses Act of 2023, would restrict federal funding of abortion travel where not otherwise already prohibited by the Hyde Amendment.

Last year, the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, allowing states to handle the issue of abortion themselves and ending more than 49 years of federal precedent. After the Supreme Court’s decision, President Joe Biden directed his administration to find ways to provide increased access to abortions.

Most recently, in February 2023 the Department of Defense issued new policies which would cover the cost of travel and transportation for Service members and dependents electing to undergo an abortion. The new policies are only the latest in a series of attempts by the administration to expand abortion care travel using taxpayer funds. No Federal Funds for Abortion Travel Expenses Act of 2023 would prohibit the use of taxpayer funds from being used for purposes of abortion travel government wide, especially where agencies do not have strong Hyde Amendment protections.

Rep. Norman’s No Federal Funds for Abortion Travel Expenses Act of 2023 is a reintroduction of H.R. 8776 introduced in the 117th Congress.

Cosponsors of the bill include Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN), Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Michael Cloud (R-TX), Warren Davidson (R-OH), Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX), Rep. Bob Good (R-VA), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI), Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK), Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS), Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL), Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN), Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT), Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL), Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR).

The bill has the support of Heritage Action, FreedomWorks, and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America.

The grant terms are October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, and are renewable for additional one-year terms.

Below are the numbers for a checkpoint and a saturation patrol on February 27.

	Checkpoint	Saturation Patrol
Driving under the Influence	1	
Driving under Suspension	1	
Speeding		1
Driving Left of Center		
Disregarding Stop Sign or Signal		
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way		
Driving without Headlights		
Failure to Dim Headlights		
Unlawful Turning		
Improper Lane Change		
Improper Start		
Improper Pass		
Uninsured Motor Vehicle		1
Driver’s License Violation	1	
Vehicle License Violation		4
Seatbelt Violation		
Child Restraint Violation		
Equipment Violation		
Window Tint Violation		
Open Container		
Public Contact/Warning	3	5
Drug Law Violation		2
Weapons Violation		
Vehicle Search		
Fugitive Arrest		
Other	1	2

Additional activities during the month of December by the deputy assigned to the impaired driving project include one Driving under the Influence charge, 30 other traffic violations, and 33 warnings. The deputy assigned to the traffic services project made one DUI arrest and issued 50 tickets for traffic violations and 24 warnings.

Anyone with information about any case should call the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office at 803-283-3388 or contact Midlands Crimestoppers in one of the following ways: dial 888-CRIME-SC (888-274-6372), log onto www.midlandscrimestoppers.com and click on the “Submit a Tip” tab, or download the P3 Tips App for Apple or Android devices.

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Hours

Mon-Fri 9 - 5; Sat 10 - 1

Cody Mitchell, State House Representative, District 65

2023 Week 9 – Investing in a Vibrant Economy Overview of the Week:

As Week 9 comes to a close, I am pleased with the progress we’ve made in an effort to better prepare our current and future generations for the workforce. A vibrant workforce is critical to sustaining and growing our state’s economy. It is imperative that we ensure the tools and resources needed to succeed are ready and available to all South Carolinians. Next week, we will move on to the budget. Although our time on the floor will be long and likely extend into the evening, I look forward to passing a budget that helps move South Carolina forward and remain a great state to live, work, and raise a family.

Putting South Carolinians to Work:

On Wednesday, my colleagues and I voted to invest in education and workforce development to provide the tools and resources to get people jobs and help students, parents, and job seekers make informed career choices. H.3726, the Statewide Education and Workforce Development act, will deliver value-added services to business customers by collaborating with them to address skills shortages in priority industries and in-demand occupations and address obstacles to employment to increase labor participation. The goal of this bill is to eliminate duplication, improve efficiencies, and achieve a more coordinated approach in our workforce and education pipeline. We must prepare our future generations for whichever career path they choose, and this bill is a great starting point.

Celebrating Women in Hunting



and Fishing:

The House unanimously passed H.3868, a bill declaring the second Saturday in November of each year as “Women in Hunting and Fishing Awareness Day”.

Streamlining DOT Contract Process:

The House unanimously passed S.361, a bill to remove the requirement for preapproval of construction contract extensions by the DOT Commission. Instead, it would require that the Commission ratify any extensions to construction contracts at their next scheduled meeting. This will help streamline the DOT contract process on important infrastructure projects around our state.

On The Horizon: Budget

The House Ways & Means Committee wrapped up weeks of hearings and approved the preliminary 2023-24 state budget. This initial budget proposal (nearly \$14 billion) is a starting point and, while large, is fiscally conservative and focuses on our key government functions. The Full House will debate it next week before sending it to the Senate. I am committed to ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and in a way that directly impacts South Carolinians.

Budget Highlights

Public Education K-12: Collaborative efforts with Gov McMaster and Superintendent Weaver for a transformative investment in public education

\$590 million of additional money goes to K-12 public schools

\$2,500 minimum salary increase for teachers at all levels

\$42,500 will be the salary for beginning teachers (33% increase over the past five years)

\$27 million more for school resource officers to keep students safe

\$17 million to attract school bus drivers to fill vacancies

\$260 million to state aid to classrooms

Teacher supply checks to \$350 per teacher.

An online financial dashboard that will provide greater transparency in educational spending at district and school levels

\$20 million towards school safety upgrades in schools in need

\$16.7 million to cover increased expenses for full-day 4k

\$15 million for tutoring programs to help close the learning gaps through more intensive and personalized support

\$12.5 million expansion in computer science and career & technology education to prepare the next generation for the modern workforce

Public Higher Education

\$69 million in tuition mitigation to freeze tuition prices (25% increase over this year)

Prevents an increased burden on SC taxpayers investing in our State’s people, not programs

Fully funding LIFE, HOPE, Palmetto Fellows Scholarships, and lottery tuition assistance for the 8th year in a row

\$176 million to fund maintenance and renovations at the comprehensive colleges

\$130 million to fund maintenance and renovations at the technical

colleges

\$100 million for SC WINS scholarships for technical colleges for critical workforce needs

\$15 million for tuition mitigation for Technical Colleges doubling our investment

Increase funding for Needs-Based Grants to \$80 million.

\$4.1 million for College Transition Program Scholarships for students with disabilities

\$500,000 to create Autism Academic Program Enhancement at Francis Marion University

\$5 million for the SC First Scholarship at MUSC

\$2 million for Ready SC to recruit and train workers at new companies and expansions of companies in the State

Focus on “Degree to Career” Pathways

\$100 million to SC Wins Scholarship Program

funding for sc technical colleges for enrollment in workforce programs: manufacturing, health care, computer science/tech, transportation distribution and logistics

\$3.5 million to tech schools for the SC Youth & Small Business Grant

State Employees

\$332 million additional investments in state employees

\$2,500 salary increase for all state employees (6% pay raise for a person making \$40,000/year)

\$120 million to cover increased costs of health insurance

Law and Order: Recruitment and Retention, Safety and Security, and Land Conservation

\$28 million for recruitment and retention of Class 1 Law Enforcement Officers

\$50,000 new base salary (15% increase from last year)

\$20 million for recruitment and retention of Juvenile Corrections Officers

\$40,500 (6.5% increase from last

year)

\$16 million investment into Solicitors & Public Defenders

\$50 million for maintenance and safety upgrades at DJJ

\$14 million for SRO positions hiring an additional 188 SRO

\$3.2 million for Center for School Safety & Targeted Violence: hands-on training for SRO

\$50 million for safety upgrades at Dept of Corrections & Dept. of Juvenile Justice

\$20 million to DNR for land conservation and acquisition

\$18 million for Conservation Bank for Conversation Grants

Economic Development

\$200 million for strategic economic development infrastructure

\$20 million for the Office of Resilience

\$25 for Parks, Recreation, and Tourism: will benefit rural SC

\$20 million for agriculture

Infrastructure:

63% of bridges need repair or replacement

\$200 million for bridge maintenance, repair, or replacement

\$250 million to support local and secondary road projects

\$8 million for off-interstate litter pick up

\$4.4 million to implement the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Plan

\$3 million to Volunteer Strategic Assistance & Fire Equipment program (volunteer firefighters)

\$35 million DMV IT infrastructure upgrades

\$50 million for Capital Investing grant program for the Statewide Airport System

Healthcare:

Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services will partner with Clemson, USC, MUSC, DHEC to establish the SC Center of Excellence in Addiction.

\$18 million to increase compensation for nursing and mental

health professionals

Other

\$1 BILLION to the general & capital rainy day funds

\$2,500 salary increase for all state employees who make less than \$83,000

\$121 million for state employee healthcare coverage

\$725,000 to the Department of Administration to enhance the state’s e-recruitment and onboarding

\$3.9 million to judges and corresponding staff to reduce the size of docket backlogs

\$3.3 million to revitalize our Military Readiness Center

\$5 million to the Military Enhancement Fund

\$255,000 to the Burial Honor Guard Support Fund

\$40 million to SC Enterprise Information System to upgrade IT, including security threat defense

\$13 million Local Government Fund

To keep up with my legislative updates:

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