AJ VS BRASHIER MIDDLE COLLEGE BOYS BASKETBALL(1ST PLAYOFF GAME)

AJ #20 Zeke Clyburn goes up to the basket for two points for The Volunteers……..AJ BOYS WIN 90-41 Gwynn Leaird Photography

Damias Seegars hit 1000 points for The Volunteers.
Left to right-Michael McCray(Assistant Coach), Damias Seegars and Danny Wright(Head Basketball Coach)

3 Knights commit to play in college

Three North Central seniors have publicly committed to play college football at regional schools.

Jackson Rodgers, a senior Tight End for the Knights recently announced his intentions to play for Newberry College, in Newberry, South Carolina.

Cassidy Horton, an Offensive Lineman will be looking to play next fall at Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina.

Zaimian Benneett, a Defensive Lineman will look to continue in that role next fall at Shaw College in Raleigh, North Carolina.

AJ VS BRASHIER MIDDLE COLLEGE GIRLS BASKETBALL(1ST PLAYOFF GAME)

AJ #2 Trinity Delly at the free-throw line……..AJ GIRLS WIN 80-31 Gwynn Leaird Photography

William Broome Elected to Membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA (02/23/2026)-- William Broome of Lugoff, South Carolina, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Winthrop University.

Broome is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

SC Senate advances bill cutting property taxes for seniors. Income taxes are up next.
The House passed a bill exempting small businesses from paying taxes on equipment and furniture

Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg (left), talks to Senate staff during session in Columbia, S.C. on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. (File/Travis Bell/STATEHOUSE CAROLINA/Special to the SC Daily Gazette)

By Skylar Laird

COLUMBIA — Seniors could get bigger property tax breaks based on how long they've lived in South Carolina under a bill the Senate unanimously advanced this week.

Still pending is a plan to cut income taxes for some residents, which the House passed last year. The Senate will return to that bill Tuesday, likely with debate centered around whether the Senate's version should go even further than what the House passed.

Senators agreed with the House's intention of lowering the state's income tax rate to make it appear more competitive and eventually eliminate it altogether. Not to be outdone on tax cuts, however, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler proposed slicing property taxes for seniors as well.

Since 2000, homeowners who are 65 and older, blind or permanently disabled haven't paid property values on the first $50,000 of their home's value.

Under the bill senators advanced Wednesday, anyone 65 and older who has lived in the state for 10 years or more could receive a break on taxes for the first $150,000 of their property's value. Those living here for at least five years would pay taxes only above the $75,000 value, and anyone else over 65 could continue to claim the $50,000 Homestead Exemption already allowed in state law.

"The longer you stay, the longer you gray, the longer you get credit and are rewarded for staying," said Sen. Luke Rankin, a Myrtle Beach Republican.

Property taxes go to counties, not the state, to fund local government services. But under the Senate's tax cut plan, the state would cover the difference to keep from burdening communities that rely on those funds.

The plan a committee approved, which expanded the tax break to $150,000 for residents of the state for five years or more, would have cost the state an additional $259 million to cover. The final estimates for the changed version of the bill were not available Friday, though the amount will likely be similar.

Property taxes are generally the No. 1 complaint senators hear from their constituents, several said during the debate.

Keeping homes affordable is even more of a concern as more people move to South Carolina, increasing demand for places to live. Housing developments have sprung up across the state to accommodate an influx of new residents.

Many of those new residents are retirees. Senators needed to balance the needs of longtime residents on fixed incomes with the risk of incentivizing those older than 65 to move just for the tax breaks, burdening the state's health care system without bolstering its workforce, said Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto, who proposed the graduated scale.

"We're saying to future over-65-year-olds, 'You're welcome to come to South Carolina, but you're going to have to pay a little bit more for those first few years that you're here,'" the Orangeburg Democrat said.

Seniors aren't the only ones who might struggle to afford property taxes, some senators said.

Sen. Sean Bennett, R-Summerville, proposed a similar exemption in property taxes for people between the ages of 18 and 30 to help the younger generation buy property as part of a sweeping amendment to the bill.

"If there is a class of citizens that is most harmed by our existing tax policy, it's our young people," the financial planner said.

The debate featured a wide range of possible tax changes.

Senators discussed possible changes to corporate taxes and sales tax exemptions. They contemplated changes to caps on how much property taxes can increase based on how much their value increases during regular assessments. Some proposed opening up the Homestead Exemption to all South Carolina residents, reducing how much people pay in property taxes across the board.

Bennett likened tax cuts to a game of Jenga. Players can pull out a few of the tightly stacked pieces, but by the time they've removed a dozen or so, the tower starts to totter and fall.

Each time legislators change a piece of the tax code, it makes the whole thing more precarious, Bennett said.

Bill cutting property taxes advances

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