

AJ VS SOUTH POINTE BASEBALL(COMPORIUM PRESEASON BASEBALL INVITATIONAL)



AJAJ boys lost 3-7 #15 Gage Shehane steals to second base and is safe.....AJ lost 3-7 Gwynn Leaird Photography

AJ VS NATION FORD BASEBALL(COMPORIUM PRESEASON BASEBALL INVITATIONAL)



Gwynn Leaird Photography

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Tax breaks for SC boat owners could cut counties' revenue by \$40M

By: Jessica Holdman

the SC Daily Gazette reported.

COLUMBIA — An updated analysis to legislation that reduces property taxes on boats registered in South Carolina shows counties would take less of a hit than predicted when the Senate approved it last week.

Currently, boat owners must separately title and pay taxes annually on their boat and each outboard motor at a rate that is the highest in the country, according to advocates. The Department of Revenue is creating a single tax bill for the boat and motor and knocking the effective rate down to 6% from the 10.5% rate under state law.

The update shows counties would lose in 2029, as

When the Senate passed the debate involved estimates

completed a day earlier by the state Revenue and Fiscal Department.

The agency updated those estimates Thursday after receiving additional information from the state Department of Revenue of boats' property values.

It still shows Lexington County is expected to see the biggest hit of any county, though the cut's predicted to be \$6.1 million in 2029, rather than \$9 million.

The update also shows that Charleston County would lose \$5.5 million by 2029. Five counties (not six) have already reduced rates on their own, so the proposal wouldn't change their revenue collections: Beaufort, Dorchester, Florence, Hampton and Horry counties.

Property taxes are collected by counties, not the state, to fund local services and public schools.

So, the bill won't affect the state's general fund. But it would send the state Department of Natural Resources about \$4.1 million more annually,

starting July 1, that agency predicts.

That's because boat owners would pay a \$10 fee annually to register their motors, rather than a one-time fee when the motor is titled.

The Senate voted Thursday to

send the bill back to the House, which passed a different version 89-7 last year.

If the House agrees with Senate changes, the measure will move on to the governor's desk.

Gazette again takes top business honors as reporters win 12 awards in annual SC contest



The South Carolina Daily Gazette staff in 2025 included Editor Seanna Adcox and reporters Skylar Laird, Shaun Chornobroff and Jessica Holdman, as seen on the Statehouse steps in Columbia on Thursday, March 13, 2025. (Photo by William Meacham/Special to the SC Daily Gazette)

For the second year, a reporter for the SC Daily Gazette, Jessica Holdman, won the award sponsored by the Journalism School, which comes with a \$1,000 cash prize. Holdman is a senior reporter and won the award last year. Other winners include Skylar Laird, Shaun Chornobroff, and Seanna Adcox. The awards banquet was held on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa in Columbia. The Gazette has won 12 awards in total.

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