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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S1

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** A

**AUTHORS:** Elijah Williams and James Nelson

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Beaufort High school

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

Give injured veterans aid

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently there is no law on the books about aiding injured veterans. by state law this bill falls under title 25 Military, Civil Defense, and Veterans Affairs.

**Section 2:** The state of South Carolina is built on the presence of military infrastructure and tourism. In the county of Beaufort we have Parris Island Marine Recruitment Depot, Semper Fields airbase, and Laurel Bay military housing.

**Section 3:** This bill is intended to offer assistance to veterans discharged due to injury while on active duty. This bill will provide financial and life skills assistance to include, but not limited to, classes to help reintegrate into civilian life, assisted living, job and health screenings, temporary housing for 3 months and a fund of 4 thousand dollars in a privately owned account.

**Section 4:** We will be start by raising income tax by 1%.

**Section 5:** Once signed into law, this bill will be going into effect on January 20th, 2018.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
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November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S2

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** DeLante Blagburn, Wyatt Coker, Antonio Campos

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Bridges to a Brighter Future

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

Making citizens register their firearms to law enforcement within 48 hours of purchase to a system available to law enforcement.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Registering firearms will help law enforcement to minimize the crime rate due to gun violence. They will be able to see what kind of firearms are located in the area, traceable to the crime scene.

**Section 2:** If a person purchases a firearm, he/she must register the firearm after purchasing it within a 48 hour timeframe. The database will be strictly for law enforcement use only.

**Section 3:** In order to fund the resources needed, money from ticket fines, parking tolls, bail bonds, and local transit would be used. Failure to register would result in a \$100 fine, which would also fund the operation/program.

**Section 4:** When signed into action, this law will become effective as soon as the software/program is established, with a deadline to be no later than six months after signing.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S3

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Hannah Brubaker and Isabelle Parks

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Cardinal Newman School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Mandate Self Defense Classes in Schools

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** High Schools will implement self-defense classes in the PE Department once a month.

**Section 2:** Every school month students will be taught lessons and strategies on self-defense and how to defend themselves.

**Section 3:** The class will be mandatory to obtain a physical education credit.

**Section 4:** Teaching the topic will allow students to be more prepared if a dangerous situation arises:

- A.** This class will be taught by a qualified instructor in a physical education class
- B.** This class will attempt to combat the number of sexual assaults and violence against women and men, as students taught will be able to defend themselves.
- C.** This class could therefore save lives and prevent mental effects that develop from assault.

**Section 5:** When signed into law, the first class will take place at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S4

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Chris Cannon, Isaac MacMillan

**BILL SPONSOR:**

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Clinton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE STATE FOLK DANCE TO THE CHARLESTON

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Change the state folk from The Square Dance to *The Charleston*.

**Section 2:** If this bill were to be enacted there would be a state festival for South Carolina. The festival would have dance competitions, music from the time that *The Charleston* was at the height of its popularity, and shows performed from dance artists throughout the state. This festival would be held on October 29th. A location shall be determined by an application process held by the Department of Archives and History.

**Section 3:** The responsibility of implementation of this bill will be the Department of Archives and History.

**Section 4:** If signed into law, this bill would take effect on January 1st, 2018.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate  
**BILL NUMBER:** S5  
**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E  
**AUTHORS:** Taylor Bailey and Lucas Sparkman  
**BILL SPONSOR:**  
**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Clinton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Require Teachers to be CPR Certified

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** All public-school teachers in South Carolina will be required to be CPR certified as part of certification or recertification.

**Section 2:** Before a teacher is hired they must complete a course on first aid and valid CPR or must show proof that they have previously completed the course and is still valid. The instructor must confirm that they have completed and passed the course.

Because some teachers transfer, they would be required to take the course prior to being hired.

**Section 3:** When signed into law, this requirement will go into effect with the 2018-2019 school year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S6

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** Hunter Ohmer, Mychael Aiken, Hunter Polk

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Cougar New Tech

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

This is an Act to enact sweet tea as the official state drink of South Carolina.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently in South Carolina the state drink is Dairy Milk. This bill would allow sweet tea taking its rightful place as South Carolina's state drink.

**Section 2:** Sweet tea is a drink that a majority of South Carolinians enjoy on casual and formal occasions, and it much more popular than dairy milk.

**Section 3:** Dairy milk is very fattening, as it contains fats, carbohydrates, proteins, and sugar. The nutrients in milk cause excess calorie intake. On the other hand, sweet tea is made of water, natural tea leaves, and sugary happiness.

**Section 4:** This bill will not financially impact any area of South Carolina. If signed into law, South Carolinians will want a celebratory sweet tea. Therefore, our sweet tea industry and restaurants will thrive with the increase sale of delicious sweet tea

**Section 5:** When signed into law, the bill will be effective immediately.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S7

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** G

**AUTHORS:** Abigail Brannon and Abbie LeGrand

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Eastside High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Increase Transition Time in Public High Schools

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** In modern day America, the average high school student has the same level of anxiety as the average psychiatric patient in the early 1950's. 49% of students report feeling incredibly stressed, and 26% report having clinical depression. This is four times over the national average for adults, which is 6%. American teenagers are now the most stressed-out age group in the U.S., according to APA's 2013 Stress In America survey. Teens also report that their stress level during the school year far exceeds what they believe to be a healthy level of stress. With all of these alarming statistics, it is distressing to see the lack of action towards helping our students maintain their mental health.

**Section 2:** Finland is ranked as the 2nd best country in the world for education by Business Insider. It has no private schools and no standardized tests. They also allow about 10-15 minutes of free time between classes for their students. This practice began in the 1960's, and has since continued into today. Timothy D. Walker, an American teacher serving in Finnish schools wrote, "Throughout the school year my Finnish students would-without fail-enter the classroom with a bounce in their steps after a 15 minute break." This shows a practice that not only helps students' stress level, but keeps their attention.

**Section 3:** Anthony Pellegrini, an American professor at the University of Minnesota in educational psychology, observed this practice and tested it in America. After experimenting in a wide variety of schools, he received similar results of attentiveness and relaxation in American students as Finnish students under this practice. Pellegrini also found that students struggled more when the lessons dragged on.

**Section 4:** When this bill is enacted, public schools will adhere to the following model: for every forty minutes of instruction, there will be a ten minute break period. This period of time may be used as a transition for students to get to their next class, but will also allow adequate time for students to decompress and prepare for their next lesson. Students may use this time for a variety of activities

1 such as studying, eating a snack, talking to their teachers, using the restroom, or  
2 simply relaxing. This provides for an improved time of transition, as well as a stress  
3 reliever for students as they will receive an extra amount of time to more fully  
4 decompress as they see fit.

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6 **Section 5:** When signed into law, this bill will take effect at the beginning of the  
7 2018-2019 school year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S8

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** A

**AUTHORS:** Sharon Nuthalapaty and Rachel Stanley

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Eastside High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Reevaluate DSS Cases Yearly

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Social workers must reevaluate the case of each child they are responsible for in social services yearly, within a two week time span of when the child was brought into DSS custody the previous year, or within a two week time span from the child's previous evaluation, with the child's foster parents or guardians. This is for the potential adoption and/or terminating parental rights if in the best interest if the child.

**Section 2:** This bill will help children move out of the system faster by making sure no one is forgotten and left without a family. Having each case evaluated yearly by the social worker and foster parents and any new information recorded will keep information updated and ensure that all potential home options, including being placed with a relative through the Kinship Caregiver process, are considered. This discussion will also include whether siblings can be placed together, kept together, or reconnected if it is in the best interest of the child. The biggest role of this evaluation is determining whether parental rights should be terminated to allow a child to be adopted.

**Section 3:** South Carolina has over 3,700 children in foster care as of 2015, and that number is increasing. Children outnumber foster care available for them, leaving some in insufficient homes and forcing others to relocate to foster homes in other parts of the state. This also creates a system of group homes, which can be hindering in the development of children, especially those six years and younger. No matter the age, children are left in the system because, while their biological parents cannot care for them, the parents refuse to give up parental rights and therefore leave their children in the system without any hopes of a forever family.

**Section 4:** Reevaluating the children's cases yearly can help the DSS get children adopted or put in stable foster care homes sooner and allow the DSS to move on to other cases. This also makes sure no child gets lost in the system. This bill creates accountability for social workers and foster parents to continue making the best decisions for each child.

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**Section 5:** According to South Carolina law pertaining to the termination of parental rights, if the child has lives outside the home of the parent for a period of six months, and the parent has willfully failed to visit the child, or if the parent has a diagnosable condition unlikely to change within a reasonable period of time including, but not limited to, alcohol or drug addiction or mental illness, and the condition makes the parent unlikely to provide minimally acceptable care for the child, then parental rights may be terminated. However, the DSS has so many cases, children who are not visited can be overlooked and left in foster care for several more years. This bill will ensure that children who are eligible for adoption or a change in foster care can be properly placed.

**Section 6:** When signed into law, this bill will take effect on January 1, 2018

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S9

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Brittany Padilla and Erin Carson

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Greenville Tech Charter High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Provide Mental Health Awareness and Contact Information to Students  
and Parents

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Mental Disorders go unnoticed by millions of people in our fast-paced world. According to the Huffington Post, 1 in 4 Americans (approximately 61,500,000 people) experience a mental disorder in a given year. In South Carolina, nearly 17.6% of adults (636,000 people) have a mental disorder. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, approximately 1 in 5 adolescents ages 13-18 experience some sort of mental illness in their lifetime. 50% of those who will be diagnosed with a mental disorder will show signs of a disorder by age 14. 35%-50% of all cases are left untreated. 75.3% of adolescents with depression were left untreated and undiagnosed as of 2013. 10% of high school students attempt suicide each year; it is the second leading death among the young ages of 10-24. More than 90% of individuals who die by suicide have a mental health condition. According to the CDC, in 2010, the lifetime medical and work costs due to suicide deaths in South Carolina \$748,610,000. This bill will give the opportunity to students and parents to access knowledge of surrounding psychiatric facilities from the student's school by providing a form about mental disorders/illnesses, and the opportunity to receive contact information of said psychiatric facilities.

**Section 2:** This bill will add a form to the "new school year" forms stating prevalent facts about mental illnesses as well as giving the ability to sign up to receive contact information about surrounding psychiatric facilities. The school counselor will be responsible for providing contact information of the psychologists for the parents who fill out the form. The form is completely optional and cost-free. The form will be given to children in 8th-12th grade. There will be a 0.05% tax for every thousand sheets of paper bought to cover the cost of approximately \$30-40 for each school due to the \$0.06 cost of one sheet of paper per student. This will ensure that each student have the opportunity to receive this resource to benefit.

**Section 3:** This bill will require middle and high schoolers (8th-12th grade) to take a screening form by the Columbia Suicide Screen® (CSS) every school year to

1 identify students at risk of committing suicide. The algorithm used in the screening  
2 looks for for suicidal ideation or previous attempt and self-reported unhappiness,  
3 withdrawal, or irritability and anxiety as well as mental illnesses. This screening is  
4 associated with a 13% reduction in relative risk for remaining depressed. The CSS  
5 helped lead to a 22% reduction rate in the amount of suicide.

6  
7 **Section 4:** This benefits of the bill includes but is not limited to:

- 8  
9       **A.** Inform parents of their child's mental illness so that the individual is  
10       able to be treated;  
11       **B.** Help students become aware of mental illnesses as a prevalent  
12       condition and help take action if necessary;  
13       **C.** Significantly lower suicide rate due to mental illness and costs  
14       surrounding deaths by suicide with the information and screening  
15       test

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17 **Section 5:** When signed into law, this bill will be enacted in the 2018 school year.  
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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S10

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Akim Koutsioukis

**SCHOOL:** Greenville Technical Charter High School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

A Bill to Ensure Proper Recording of Crime Rates on College Campuses and Reporting of College Crime Rates to the Public

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Section 1:** The purpose of this bill is to create a department of the state (henceforth referred to as DOCC or the Department of Collegiate Crimes) to investigate college crimes and create a database of crime rates on college campuses and surrounding cities. These databases would be public access so students may know about them to compare college. It also would create way to standardize crime rates and categories. This bill will increase the safety of college campuses as well as assisting the public in understanding how safe a college campus is.

**Section 2:** This bill is important as it is the first of its kind and will bring South Carolina to the forefront of states that combat crime and safety on college campuses.

**Section 3:** This department will be made of 3 detectives from each county. Each of these detective would receive an annual bonus of \$1,000 Should a county be unable to provide three detectives, they must provide proof and reason to a state judge to have this exempted or modified. This county may also come to an agreement with an adjacent county to send an extra detective to work with the DOCC. These detectives would function in their normal capacity until called upon to work on a case for the DOCC. They would be expected to only investigate or assist in the investigation of crimes that fall under the categories of: Drug related crimes, fraternity related crimes, sexual assault, battery and rape crimes, and deaths. All other crimes would be handled by the local police. These are the only ones to be investigated by this department because of their prevalence within college campuses. The department would contract web designers and database designers to design and maintain their website and database.

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**Section 4:** This would be funded through a .75% tax on college profit, an annual \$400 fee for sororities, fraternities, Greek life, and organizations that function in the same capacity, plus \$10 per member annually, and a 2% tax on gross profit

1 from college sports. All money from these taxes and fees will go directly to DOCC.  
2 Should any money be redirected elsewhere, it will be treated as an embezzlement  
3 charge. Five years after the passage of this bill, any money not spent will be split  
4 into 3 categories of scholarships to be offered by the department: Need-based,  
5 Merit-based and Competition-based.  
6

7 **Section 5:** The following is a restriction placed on college tuition, room and board,  
8 and fees: colleges may not raise their tuition, room and board, and fees more than  
9 5% more than the rate of inflation. If inflation goes down (therefore making the  
10 dollar worth more), colleges are not required to lower their rates to match this.  
11 This makes it so that, with these new fines and taxes that colleges do not become  
12 less affordable to the general public. A 5% cap should still allow any college a  
13 generous wiggle room should finances become an issue. This section will be  
14 readdressed annually.  
15

16 **Section 6:** Should any colleges, sororities or fraternities find themselves to be in  
17 disagreement with any fees, taxes or restrictions imposed upon them, they will be  
18 expected to have it modified by a state judge who has no affiliation with the  
19 college, sorority and/or fraternity, in court. Should it be found that the judge did  
20 have a connection to the organization, the modification will be annulled and the  
21 initial fee or tax tripled. If there is not any judge available without connections to  
22 the organization, then a judge with the furthest connections is expected to be  
23 selected. The burden researching this falls upon the organization.  
24

25 **Section 7:** Should an organization or department request modification to any  
26 requirements found within this bill, they must go before a state judge and provide  
27 proof that the requirements prove to be a sufficient burden to keep their  
28 organization or department from functioning within reason. This bill will be  
29 reassessed 4 years after its passage and every four years following by the senate  
30 and house, or a subcommittee of these.  
31

32 **Section 8:** Prior to the start of the fall semester, all fees will be paid as of the first  
33 day of the semester. If the organization is created during a semester, it will be  
34 expected to pay its dues before the start of the next semester. If the organization  
35 is disbanded before the due date, it will not be expected to pay fines. If this  
36 deadline is not met, the organization will either not exist, or must pay double the  
37 fine in a lawsuit from the state. The payment must be received by DOCC, by the  
38 first of the semester, not sent. All taxes will be filed with all other taxes.  
39

40 **Section 9:** Any money from fines from any lawsuits regarding this department will  
41 be only to DOCC. Should it be redirected in any amount to anywhere else, it will be  
42 treated as an embezzlement charge.  
43

44 **Section 10:** An equally bicameral committee headed by someone not within  
45 congress, appointed by the governor, shall make all administrative decisions and  
46 address any issues that may arise in the construction of this department. The head  
47 administrator of the committee to be appointed by the governor must have served  
48 in the police force in the capacity of detective for at least 2 years.

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**Section 11:** The detectives working cases on college campuses will be given access to any resources as if they worked within that city. They will have access to resources from both their own department and the local department where they are working.

**Section 12:** This bill will take effect as of the 2018-2019 school year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S11

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Malin Bobitt, Marchant Harris, Mikayla Turner

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Hammond School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

"An Act to Redirect Revenue from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Tax to a Fund  
for Superfund Sites"

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** South Carolina currently has over forty super sites. A super site is an area where waste from commercial industrial companies are placed and are risks to the health of humans and the environment. This waste is either dumped on the ground or into waterways. South Carolina currently has a tax for low level radioactive waste, but the money goes to the State Treasurer instead of funding the cleanup of the sites.

**Section 2:** This bill would take a fourth of the revenues collected from the low level radioactive waste tax and put it towards a fund to cleanup Super Fund Sites in South Carolina.

**Section 3:** It would be a responsibility of the Treasury that the proper amount of money goes to a fund for hazardous cleanup.

**Section 4:** After signed into law, the new tax guidelines will be enforced by January 1, 2018.



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5

6 **BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

7 **BILL NUMBER:** S12

8 **RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E

9 **AUTHORS:** Sumant Rao, Cle Pennington

10 **SCHOOL/CLUB:** Hammond School  
11

12 **A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**  
13

14 An Act to Combat Opioid Addiction  
15

16 BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
17

18 **Section 1:** In 2015, there were 594 opioid related deaths in South Carolina in  
19 comparison to 311 homicide deaths, and this was a 17% increase from the year  
20 before, higher than the national average of 11.4%. South Carolina's current  
21 infrastructure to handle these issues is meager at best, and the opioid crisis is  
22 projected to worsen over time. Detoxification without any medication is one of the  
23 worst ways to solve opiate addiction, working only 5-10% of cases. Methadone  
24 treatment furthermore is next to useless for long time sufferers with a success rate  
25 as low as 60%.  
26

27 **Section 2:** Our bill addresses this issue through establishing state run heroin  
28 assisted treatment clinics. These clinics will help opioid addicts get clean by giving  
29 them incremental doses with access to safe needles. To be eligible for these clinics,  
30 individuals must fit the following qualifications: 1) At least 18 years old 2) Been  
31 addicted for at least two years 3) present signs of poor health 4) two or more failed  
32 attempts at conventional treatment (methadone or other) 5) surrender driver's  
33 license. Opioid intake will be limited to the premises of the clinic.  
34

35 **Section 3:** The clinics will be under the jurisdiction of DAODAS (Department of  
36 Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services). When Switzerland adopted national  
37 heroin-assisted treatment clinics, there was a 60% decrease in felonies committed  
38 by patients and an 82% decrease in patients selling heroin. Thus, this bill should  
39 save the state millions in criminal and judicial fees and expenditures. Furthermore,  
40 this treatment has proved much more effective than current methods, especially for  
41 those who did not improve under methadone treatment. Also, HIV rates would  
42 decrease since clinics provide access to sterilized needles.  
43

44 **Section 4:** These services will be primarily funded through a grant of 6.6 million  
45 dollars from the federal government that exists and has not yet been allocated. This  
46 grant has been reserved for combating the opioid crisis but has not been assigned  
47 to a specific program. Any additional funds needed will be diverted from current  
48 efforts to solve this issue. These clinics will over time save the state money by

1 preventing hospitals from having to treat patients for opioid addiction and overdose  
2 and reducing the burden on our criminal justice system.

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4 **Section 5:** Upon passage of this bill, this bill will be enacted January 1, 2018.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S13

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** Cameron Mitros and Anna Perdun

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Hillcrest High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An act to implement a mandatory psychiatric consult for the approval and duration of an opioid prescription for outpatient surgery and procedures.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Opioid addiction has become an epidemic, not just within the state lines of South Carolina but throughout the United States. There is currently little known regulation on who gets to acquire such addictive substances and the extent of over prescription. Prescriptions are handed out on a broad spectrum from cancer patients to dental outpatient procedure recipients.

**Section 2:** This bill would combat the opioid addiction epidemic from the root of the problem- receiving the gateway drug in the first place. It would be made to have a mandatory psychiatric evaluation to determine the type of personality of each potential recipient of the opioid, and prevent addictive personalities from access to the drug. Further periodic psychiatric consulting would also be mandatory for the duration of the prescription.

**Section 3:** This bill would not only lessen but prevent the amount of opioid dependent South Carolina citizens and ensure the wellbeing of patients of minor procedures by requiring a mandatory mental evaluation by a certified psychiatrist with no affiliation to the doctor or professional who requested the consult, prior to a written opioid prescription. (Opioids examples include but are not limited to OxyContin, Percocet, and Palladone.)

**Section 4:** This bill would go into effect on January 1, 2018 after being signed into law by the Governor.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S14

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** G

**AUTHORS:** Gabe Pecoraro and Madison Stover

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Hillcrest High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Make Bike Tax-Deductible

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently many people struggle to make it to work on a day-to-day basis because they cannot afford to pay for a bus or car to get there. By making bike tax-deductible, and keeping close regulation, those who cannot afford bus or car bills can write off commuting to work every day on their taxes every year.

**Section 2:** The state of South Carolina can decide through an application process of who to give the privilege of writing off their bike tax as a deductible.

**Section 3:** When signed into law, the first increase will take place on January 1, 2018.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate  
**BILL NUMBER:** S15  
**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** A  
**AUTHORS:** Abby Hall and Allie Hall  
**SCHOOL CLUB:** J.L. Mann High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Teach High School Students about Domestic Violence

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Today, so many people are victims of domestic violence and do not know how to handle such a situation. All public schools will be required to introduce a three part domestic violence curriculum within grade nine, during a health or PE class, or if you are taking a PE or health class online, there will be videos from the class provided by Safe Harbor. Terms for domestic violence include intimate partner violence, relationship abuse, spousal abuse, or family violence.

**Section 2:** The purpose of this bill is to educate students about domestic violence in order to reduce the domestic violence rate in South Carolina. South Carolina ranked second last year and has been in the report's top 10 annually for the last 18 years. This is the fourth time that the state ranked worst in the nation. Also, South Carolina had a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 people in 2013 (more than twice the national average). Ninety six of female victims were murdered by someone they knew. Of the homicide victims who knew their offenders, sixty two percent (twenty -two victims) were murdered by a husband, common-law husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend. Safe Harbor, a supporter of this bill, is a special program in South Carolina for victims of domestic violence, helping, sheltering, counseling, and supporting them. Currently, there is no policy for a curriculum for domestic violence, which is why it needs addressed.

**Section 3:** The curriculum for the three part domestic violence curriculum will be provided by the state department of education. The domestic violence curriculum will be taught through the health and physical education classes. The curriculum will be taught along with the Sex Ed curriculum for two weeks to prevent interruption of other gym priorities. Students should learn in the curriculum to tell an adult if it occurs, know what domestic violence is, and ways to prevent it from happening. The curriculum will be taught per section five HS-4.3 of South Carolina's Academic Standards for Physical Education handbook.

1 **Section 4:** Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of  
2 gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or income. One in Four women will  
3 experience domestic violence during her lifetime. More than sixty percent of  
4 domestic violence incidents happen at home. Domestic violence is the third leading  
5 cause of homelessness among families, according to the U.S. Department of  
6 Housing and Urban Development. Most domestic violence incidents are never  
7 reported. People rape, hit, murder, and bully as forms of violence. Children that  
8 witness these problems do not want to tell anyone.

9

10 **Section 5:** The domestic violence curriculum provided by the state department will  
11 equal 3 one hour units which will be taught one hour for three consecutive days. If  
12 students take this class and correctly learn the curriculum, they will be omitted  
13 from seat time recovery. Physical Education classes are already required so this bill  
14 will not need any additional funding. Also, learning about domestic violence is a  
15 must among teenagers, and it will help benefit their knowledge and decrease the  
16 domestic violence rate.

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18 **Section 6:** This bill shall go into effect January 1st, 2018 upon the passage and  
19 signature of the Youth Governor.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S16

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** George Georgopoulos and Ellis Turner

**SCHOOL CLUB:** J.L. Mann High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to give first responders with PTSD the right to workers compensation

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Workers compensation is defined as a form of insurance providing wage placement and medical benefits to employees injured in the course of employment in exchange for mandatory relinquishment of the employee's right to sue their employer for the tort of negligence. This bill is to provide workers compensation to first responders with PTSD.

**Section 2:** In the case of first responders, post traumatic stress disorder that is diagnosed by a psychologist or psychiatrist shall be presumed to have incurred from the line of duty should be paid for by the place of employment. Two out of every ten first responders are diagnosed with PTSD occurring from the line of duty. In South Carolina, first responders are not covered by workers compensation.

**Section 3:** The law we propose is to provide workers compensation to first responders who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. This bill will be funded by the place of employment of the first responder. To be able to receive this funding you have to be diagnosed with PTSD by a professional medical advisor, and inform the place of employment within three days of the diagnosis. While on the leave of absence workers will not be responsible for paying their taxes.

**Section 4:** To enforce this bill the South Carolina workers compensation commission will act on the compensable injury of the first responder who is injured. The employer would have to follow the guidelines of the regular workers compensation regulations.

**Section 5:** This bill will take effect on January 1, 2018 after being signed into law.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S17

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Kathryn Mueller and Kailey Grooms

**BILL SPONSOR:** Abel and Jajack

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Mauldin High School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to increase the marriage age

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** The current state minimum age is 18 to get married in South Carolina, But this bill would eliminate all loopholes allowing teens to get married as young as 16 years old. This bill would raise the age to 18, no exceptions.

**Section 2:** Teens brains have not fully developed and therefore are incompetent to make such a life changing decision at such a young age. divorce rates are also higher the younger you get married. As well as kids who get married at a young age do not always finish their education.

**Section 3:** The current state minimum legal age to get married is 18, however there are exceptions to the marriage law to permit those under 18 to marry with the consent of a parent or guardian.

**Section 4:** increasing the marriage age to 18 would: lower divorce rates, lower pregnancy rates, and increase amount of teens to finish their education.

**Section 5:** When signed into law the bill will take effect on January 1, 2018



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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S18

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Ben Hopkins and Emma Caroline Belvin

**BILL SPONSOR:** Whit, Wolfe and Brewster

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Mauldin High School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

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An Act to enhance sexual education in South Carolina

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BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Section 1:** Under current comprehensive health education program in South Carolina sexual education is limited. Currently in middle school students are required to learn that sex can lead to sexual transmitted diseases and pregnancy, but other contraceptive methods, other than abstinence, are left to the discretion of the school to teach.

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**Section 2:** This bill will mandate that all forms of contraception including but not limited to, condoms, female condoms, birth control, be taught starting in middle school in addition to regular sexual education. Laws regarding abortion in South Carolina will be taught, however abortion will not be taught as a form of contraception.

**Section 3:** This bill would also make sexual education a graduation requirement. Currently in South Carolina parents have the option to withdraw their student from the sexual education curriculum; this bill would reserve this right for students in middle school. However, since sexual education would be a requirement for graduation high school students would no longer be exempt under any circumstance. For students that complete physical education online will also be given sexual education online.

**Section 4:** In addition to enhancing sexual education this bill would also require health rooms to sell condoms. This would give student access to contraception in an inexpensive and discreet way. Students could use their money from their lunch account to purchase condoms and students who are on free and reduced lunch would also receive free and reduced condoms.

**Section 5:** When signed into law this bill will take effect at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S19

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E

**AUTHORS:** Juliana Wentz, Lily Mauro

**BILL SPONSORS:** Graham MacIlwinen, Logan DiBenedetto

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Riverside High School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to End Pet Abandonment and Puppy/Kitten Mills

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** The current state law does not require all pets to be microchipped when adopted, bought, or found; this bill would require pets found, bought, or adopted to be microchipped.

**Section 2:** The microchips would be required and included as an additional cost while getting a pet or when retrieved from a shelter after being found.

**Section 3:** The fee would be affordable because a microchip is usually around \$50.

**Section 4:** This bill would reduce pet abandonment and animal mills by:

- A. All animal shelters are already required by law to scan for a microchip.
- B. Reducing pets in shelters by returning lost animals to their owners.
- C. Because pet birthplace or adopted place will be stated on the microchip making it easier to investigate or raising a red flag.

**Section 5:** When signed into law, the law will be put into place on January 1, 2018.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S20

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** Kyler Van Evera and Hanna Berretta

**BILL SPONSOR:** Alex Cummings and Robert McConnell

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Riverside High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

"An Act to Insure the Safety of All Dogs"

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** There are currently no laws on the safety of outdoor dogs, this would be changed to prohibit chaining or keeping dogs outside in certain conditions.

**Section 2:** No dog should be chained or kept outside during temperatures 90 degrees and above or 25 degrees and below.

**Section 3:** Because some people can only keep their dogs outside, this bill would require them to provide shade, via a dog house, during the summer. If temperatures exceed 95 degrees the dog must be kept inside. The law will have no exceptions for the winter.

**Section 4:** The cost for this bill would come from the pet owners. Pet owners must sign a contract at transfer of ownership saying that they are responsible and aware of this law. If they are in violation, they are subject to prosecution.

**Section 5:** When signed into law, it will go into effect immediately.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S21

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** A

**AUTHORS:** Katherine Alber and Brynn Reese

**BILL SPONSOR:** Russell Warren

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** St. Joseph's Catholic School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Declare General Election Day a State Holiday

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** By federal law, employers must allow workers to miss work to vote in national elections. However, many South Carolinians cannot vote because of work and other obligations.

**A.** Only 56.9% of Americans voted in the 2016 election. Many of the 43% of Americans that did not vote were not able to make it to the polls because of work. In South Carolina, only about 64% of registered voters voted.

**B.** South Carolinians should not have to choose between missing work and fulfilling their civic duty.

**Section 2:** General Elections, held on the first Tuesday of November, will be considered a statewide holiday.

**Section 3:** This will make it easier for workers to practice their Constitutional right to vote, and will hopefully encourage voter registration.

**Section 4:** When passed, this bill will go into effect on November 8, 2020, which is the next general election.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S22

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Megan Seidel and Caroline Wright

**BILL SPONSOR:** Katherine Uprichard

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** St. Joseph's Catholic School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Exempt Feminine Hygiene Products from Sales Tax

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently in the state of South Carolina, there is a 6% statewide sales tax which is exempted from items which are considered "necessities" such as groceries and prescription drugs. Our bill will move to exempt feminine hygiene products from this sales tax. Feminine hygiene products are a necessity for all women, just as groceries are a necessity.

**Section 2:** Feminine hygiene products, also known as menstrual hygiene products, are defined as personal care products used by menstruating women, for menstruation, vaginal discharge, and other bodily functions related to the vulva and vagina. These include pads, also known as sanitary napkins, and tampons. Our bill does not include an exemption for products meant to cleanse the area of the vulva or inside of the vagina, such as feminine deodorants, douches, feminine powders, feminine soaps, and feminine wipes. It is estimated the women in South Carolina spend \$7.2 million per year in sales taxes related to these products.

**Section 3:** These items will be removed from the tax exemption list: movies sold or rented to movie theaters, tangible personal property delivered out of state by South Carolina retailers, petroleum asphalt products transported and used outside South Carolina, 70% of the gross proceeds of the rental or lease of portable toilets, amusement park rides, parts or machinery and equipment used to assemble, operate, and make up amusement park rides, and wrapping paper and containers used incident to the sale and delivery of personal property.

**Section 4:** When signed into law, the exemption will begin January 1, 2018.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S23

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Rachel Castellani and Nick Marconi

**BILL SPONSORS:** Emily Sippel

**SCHOOL:** Southside Christian School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Only Use Plastic Lunch Trays in all South Carolina Public Schools

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE IF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Preamble:** Whereas in their current state, South Carolina Public Schools use disposable lunch trays

**Section 1:** This bill prohibits the use of disposable (styrofoam) lunch trays in South Carolina Public Schools.

**Section 2:** This bill would require the state to pay for the increase in water used to sanitize the trays.

- A. The state funds for this increased payment will be taken from an added tax on tobacco products and alcohol taxes.

**Section 3:** This bill would cut down on waste materials and decrease the air pollution created by styrofoam manufactures

- A. A majority of the revenue made in styrofoam lunch trays/cups in made from Polystyrene disposable lunch trays.

- B. Styrofoam has also been a major factor in the increase of groundwater pollution and wasteland growth.

**Section 4:** When signed into law this bill will be enacted on January 1, 2018

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S24

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Kyle Tracy, Matt Brown, Zion Williamson

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Spartanburg Day School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Legalize Marijuana

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** At the age of 18, the people of South Carolina will be legally able to use marijuana.

**Section 2:** People under the age of eighteen will be able to use marijuana if it is prescribed by a physician. The only reasons a minor would be an exception are cancer, severe migraines, or insomnia.

**Section 3:** It will be legal to take marijuana as a pill or to smoke it.

**Section 4:** Medical insurance plans may choose not to cover medicinal marijuana.

**Section 5:** This bill will go into effect upon passage.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S25

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Brett M. Frost and Samuel Freedman

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Spartanburg Day School

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**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An act to grant state-level suffrage to those over the age of 16 who own a state issued license and are employed

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Employed individuals who pay income tax and are over the age of 16, shall be given the right to vote in state and local elections in the state of South Carolina.

**Section 2:** Those who are granted suffrage under this bill shall be required to own a valid driver's license and voter registration card.

**Section 3:** This bill will go into effect upon passage by the Honorable Youth Governor.



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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate  
**BILL NUMBER:** S26  
**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E  
**AUTHORS:** Jayla Hampton and Sarah Merkle  
**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Wade Hampton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Ensure Maternity Leave

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently South Carolina does not have laws that require businesses and employers to offer maternity leave. This means South Carolina business can choose to not provide maternity leave for their employees. By offering paid maternity leave it increases the number of women in the workforce and increases the probability of mothers returning to the work force. California, which has offers paid maternity leave, has seen an increase in labor participation by young women.

**Section 2:** For pregnant women to qualify for leave under the Human Affairs Law they must apply as temporarily disabled, this allows them to only receive the same benefits as those who actually have a temporary disability. The compensation rate for those who are on temporary disability is  $\frac{2}{3}$  of their average weekly wage.

**Section 3:** This bill will require all businesses and employers to provide twelve weeks of paid maternity leave.

**Section 4:** To pay the salaries of those on maternity leave, there will be a tax placed on E-cigarettes and e-cigarette products. Since there currently is no tax, an 8% tax will be placed. 5% of this tax will be given to the government as an official tax on these products and the remaining 3% will be given to companies to pay the wages of those on leave.

**Section 5:** This bill will go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. 90 days after this bill is signed into law any place of business found without this policy change will be fined a minimum of \$50,000.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S27

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** Ryan Williams and Sydney Andersen

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Wade Hampton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Reform the Comprehensive Health Education Program

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Currently, in South Carolina, sexual education is mandated under South Carolina's Comprehensive Health Education Program. While this law currently provides positive education in promoting wellness and awareness among today's youth, it fails to adequately and fully educate students about sexual activity in order for them to be prepared in today's society. Many students lack family-based sex education as well and depend on the quality of education provided by the state. This bill would not just further expand sex-education to provide students with the information they need to live healthy lives, but also to help promote healthy, consensual relationships in their future.

**Section 2:** South Carolina's Comprehensive Health Education Program, placed into effect in 1988, demonstrates a comparatively archaic view of sex education in relation to modern society's views of sexual health. Currently, as defined within South Carolina's current law, "reproductive health education" means instruction of sexual practices only directly related and within the confines of marriage as well as directly related to reproduction, except when discussing risk of disease. Furthermore, current law prohibits any discussion of any alternative sexual relationships incongruent to heterosexual relationships, except for in the context of sexually transmitted diseases. Not only do these current provisions vastly constrict students from obtaining an adequate education of safe sex (which include a lack of basic knowledge of sexual intercourse, the usefulness and correct implementation of contraceptives, and STD prevention outside of abstinence), they provide no education on the basis of maintaining a healthy relationship. In fact, they imply the idea to students that sex is only a means of reproduction, which is incredibly inaccurate. Maintaining that the only healthy sexual relationships are within the confines of a heterosexual marriage is medically false and drastically contradictory to modern culture, and more importantly, damaging to students whose views are not reflective of our current laws. If the goal of sex education is truly to educate students on how to live with healthy and happy relationships, including sex, then students should not be condemned and ostracized for not conforming to the narrow-minded views of the past, but rather guided through this impactful and vitally critical time of life so that they are able to

1 make their own educated decisions for their own relationships. South Carolina's  
2 Comprehensive Health Education policy is ignoring the frank reality of our world and  
3 culture, and a reformed law is essential to providing a sex-positive sexual education  
4 course that will lower disease, unwanted pregnancy

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6 **Section 3:** This bill will reform the current curriculum of high school sex and health  
7 education, known as the Comprehensive Health Education Program, to bring its  
8 education up to standard in regards to modern culture, in order to provide a better  
9 sex education to students. While this education's intent is to be sex-positive, and to  
10 provide a safe learning experience for all students, it is imperative to understand that  
11 education is not promoting sex. Rather, it is promoting safe and healthy decision  
12 making regarding sex, which is proven to actually reduce the number of teens who  
13 engage in sexual activity. First, education will no longer be restricted to only teaching  
14 abstinence as the only safe method of "sexual activity" outside of marriage.  
15 Abstinence will be encouraged as a safe way to avoid disease or pregnancy, but not  
16 portrayed as the only way to maintain a healthy relationship. Methods of pregnancy  
17 prevention will be taught, including, but not limited to condoms, birth control pills,  
18 IUDs, and contraceptive injections. Sexually transmitted diseases will be taught at  
19 length, including but not limited to HPV, herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV/AIDS,  
20 and Syphilis, their symptoms, rates of infection, and prevention. Prevention will  
21 include vaccinations, proper condom use, testing, and only engaging in sexual  
22 activities with a trusted partner outside the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alternative  
23 methods of sexual activity will also be discussed, including oral and anal sex, as well  
24 as conventional sexual intercourse. Activity specific safety and risk avoidance will be  
25 covered for each method. Consensual sex, sexual assault and abuse, and risk  
26 avoidance will also be covered in depth, including but not limited to unwanted sexual  
27 activity, underage sexual activity and its risks, abuse by an adult or authority figure,  
28 sexual activity under the influence of drugs or alcohol, sexting, and methods of help,  
29 including the use of hotlines, counselors, police authorities, and parents. Alternative  
30 sexual relationships, including but not limited to homosexual relationships, as well as  
31 transexuality, will be covered. Abortion will be covered as a method of terminating a  
32 pregnancy when birth would pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of the mother.  
33 Due to its morally polarizing effect, any other uses of abortion will not be covered.  
34 However, it will be stressed that abortion is neither a contraceptive nor a substitute  
35 of pregnancy prevention. Finally, a provision will be made to allow for the revision of  
36 this policy to adapt to modern cultural changes or medical advancements, so long as  
37 evidence of these changes/advancements as properly shown. Provided proper  
38 identification, parents will be allowed to withdraw their student from this course, so  
39 long as an alternative method of sexual education is provided, at home or otherwise.  
40 Aside from this, this sexual education course would continue to be a two-week  
41 mandatory course provided during a Physical Education class; however, it must be  
42 conducted before a student completes their sophomore (10th grade) year.

43  
44 **Section 4:** The expected results of this bill are threefold. First and foremost, students  
45 will be fully educated in all aspects of sexual relationships, including the ability to  
46 make healthy, conscious, and consensual decisions regarding sexual activity. Second,  
47 reduce the rate of sexual assault, accidental or unintentional pregnancies, and the  
48 spread of sexual diseases by providing students with the complete knowledge of

1 these topics to understand the 'whats', 'whys', and 'hows' involved with making  
2 healthy decisions, so that students are making educated, intelligent decisions, rather  
3 than following confusing or restrictive doctrine. Thirdly, reducing the stigma and fear  
4 of sex that has permeated into South Carolina's culture, which unhealthily restricts  
5 knowledge of safe practices by making sex seem taboo, wrong, or immoral. This  
6 education will help students understand how sex fits into conventional and alternative  
7 relationships, and how it is a very positive aspect of life, as well as helping counsel  
8 and aid those who are victimized by sexual abuse, by teaching students that they will  
9 not be judged or ostracized for speaking up about abuse.

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11 **Section 5:** When signed into law this bill will go into effect in the 2018-2019 school  
12 year.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S28

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** G

**AUTHORS:** Nate Seawell and Una Salihbasic

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Wade Hampton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An act to have schools become more environmentally efficient.

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Schools must install solar panels onto their roofs in order to become more environmentally efficient.

**Section 2:** Solar panels will create a natural generator of light and will save schools and districts money from electricity bills. The addition of the panels will also influence generations of students to become more efficient and decrease their carbon footprint.

**Section 3:** To fund the addition of solar energy on schools, the income tax on the top 15% in the state can be increased by 0.25% which would help pay off the production of the solar panels in the beginning. As time goes on, the solar panels will help the state start saving money from the old nonrenewable energy costs and the income tax can be reduced back to its original percentage.

**Section 4:** When signed into law, it will take effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This law will reduce the carbon footprint of school districts and of future users. It will also save the government and donors of schools money.

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S29

**RECOMMEND FOR COMMITTEE:** A

**AUTHORS:** Sara Muller and Andy Mendez

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Bluffton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An act to promote and create eco-friendly commerce

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** This bill aims to provide businesses that follow a guideline of environmental standards incentives in the form of tax cuts on property. This bill encourages the growth of eco-friendly commerce, also known as Green Business, in South Carolina by attracting green businesses to come to South Carolina, rewarding pre-existing green businesses in South Carolina and encouraging pre-existing non-green businesses in South Carolina to switch to standards that are meant to benefit the environment and themselves. This bill promotes the health of the environment in South Carolina by setting standards that will protect ecosystems and increase green business practices. "Green Business" is defined as

**Section 2:** Sustainability practices in the guideline are intended to save companies money on consumption, lower the cost of production, optimize efficiency, reduce cost of waste disposal and reduce the cost of owning land in South Carolina. The current property tax on business is 10.5% 59this bill will introduce a cut of .8% on property in order to incentivize green commerce. The alternative business practices are intended to clean up South Carolina's areas affected by pollution. Tourism in South Carolina will benefit from these practices.

**A.** Myrtle beach is currently one of the most visited beaches in the U.S with record 17.2 million visitors in 2016. Myrtle beach is also one of the 12 most polluted beaches in the U.S, and of those beaches, two are in South Carolina. Due to pollution and runway water, Myrtle Beach coastal zone has from 2 to over 40 times the bacteria in water considered safe for swimming. This is a health issue and an environmental issue that gives SC beaches a bad reputation.

**B.** In 2015, the tourist industry topped \$20 billion in the state of South Carolina, supporting 1 in every 10 jobs and generating \$1.5 billion in local and state revenue.

1           **C.** South Carolina’s energy Consumption per capita in 2015 was 337 million Btu,  
2           ranked 18 in the country.this bill intends to reduce this amount by fostering  
3           strategic  
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5           **Section 3:** The funding of this bill is self sufficient. The bill funds itself via incoming  
6           business and increased revenue from emerging business, payroll deductions from  
7           new jobs created, and the increase in trade between businesses. To account for the  
8           loss of revenue from property tax the gain in revenue from tourism and the  
9           aforementioned benefits .  
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12           **Section 4:** The standards set by this bill to qualify for incentives are:  
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- 14           **A.** Use of LED lighting, intended to save energy and produce less waste.
- 15           **B.** Well insulated facility, thus saving energy while using Air Condition
- 16           **C.** Power savings mode is programmed appropriately on electronics
- 17           **D.** Waste is recycled and correctly disposed if non recyclable.
- 18           **E.** Use of non-toxic cleaning products, to reduce disposal of hazardous waste  
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20           **Section 5:** This bill will take effect on March 1st, 2018.  
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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S30

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Nicholas Pollina and Ryan McCormick

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Bluffton High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Fix Pension Debt in South Carolina

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** The state pension fund is 24.1 billion dollars in debt. This debt accumulated through investments in the housing market (pre 2008 housing market crash) and the issue regarding more retirees than employee's still working. This bill will replace the current law as well as pay off the state pension debt and move retirement plans into individual 401(k) accounts.

**Section 2:** Currently the law raises employee contributions towards retirement funds from 8.66% to 9% and takes additional funds from local governments, schools, and public universities. This will decrease funding for these institutions and provide scarcer employment. With this bill, we will raise the employee and employer contribution from ~10% to 15% amounting to 3 billion dollars per year towards the pension fund compared to the 2 billion dollars currently being earned.

**Section 3:** With this 3 billion dollars, 2 billion of it will go towards paying state banks and personal bonds that our state government has borrowed from. This will address paying off the 24.1 billion dollar debt over time. This can be modeled by a linear function as it is a set amount over time, whereas our debt is an exponential growth function accumulating large amounts of interest over time. Graphing both functions (payment towards lenders:  $y=2t$ , debt growth: Future value= Present amount  $(1+.010667)^t$ ) in the same plane, they will intersect at  $t=14$  years meaning that the debt will be fully paid off after this time expires. The other 500 million will be invested into employee and employers' individual 401(k) plan. The remaining 500 million will help pay the pensions of retirees currently on the pension plan. All employees 8 years from retiring will be grandfathered into the pension program and will not be put into a 401(k) plan since they will not have enough time to build up a proper portfolio.

**Section 5:** This bill will go into effect January 1, 2018



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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
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November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S31

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Jonas McAninch and Shannon Dowling

**BILL SPONSORS:**

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Spartanburg High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to LEGALIZE IT

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Weed, ganga, chronic, broccoli, loud, kush, Mary Jane, marijuana, pot, dank, indica, hash, cannabis, reefer, bud, oil, dabs will be allowed for recreational use in the state of South Carolina. Anybody above the age of 4 mouths, 20 days will be allowed to smoke weed.

**Section 2:** Legalize it.

**Section 3:** Seriously, legalize it.

**Section 4:** The legalization of marijuana would generate tax revenue that could be used to fund many projects across the state. Revenue from the tax would fund:

**A.** The development of mass transit system in major South Carolina cities;

**B.** Alternative energy sources such as wind and solar in the State;

**Section 5:** When signed into law, this bill will be enforced on January 1, 2018.

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November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S32

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Matt Evans and Jay Stevens

**BILL SPONSOR:**

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Spartanburg High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Legalize Gambling in South Carolina

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** An erasure of the laws that prohibit gambling, along with restrictions of online gambling and possession of gambling paraphernalia, will come into effect. Online and other forms of gambling, such as sports betting and horse betting, will be allowed to be privatized, while casinos will be left in state control.

**Section 2:** A 35% tax will be placed on the private forms of gambling and paraphernalia sold.

**Section 3:** Starting June 1, 2018, construction of state-owned casinos will begin throughout South Carolina. These institutions will be for safe, legal forms of recreation. However, there will be restrictions on losses greater than 30% of an individual's monthly salary. In order to gamble, a valid ID must be shown and the employees of the casino must verify that the individual in question has not reached the 30% restriction. This will ensure that bankruptcy and other financial hardships will be limited among gambling addicts.

**Section 4:** Revenue from this tax and the public casinos would fund:

- A.** All levels of public education;
- B.** Healthcare and its availability to residents of South Carolina;
- C.** Revitalization of impoverished areas and Native American reservations;
- D.** Rehabilitation facilities dedicated to people with gambling, drug, and alcohol addiction.

**Section 5:** When signed into law, all fines and jail sentences imposed upon people regarding gambling will be nullified as of January.

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November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S33

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E

**AUTHORS:** Skylar Antoniadis and Christy Burroughs

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** NEXT High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Get South Carolina Residents Off Welfare

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Under the authority of this bill, South Carolina Welfare programs will hereby begin to offer free GED testing as well as GED classes for welfare participants in which did not previously obtain their GED before the time of receiving welfare benefits. This bill will also enact a job training opportunity, one in which provides free job training and job placement for such welfare participants, doing so by the help of corporations and businesses in the state of South Carolina. If such corporations and businesses participate in such opportunity by offering these services to welfare participants, such businesses will be offered an endowment in the form of a 1% corporate tax rebate incentive. If welfare participants refuse the GED testing or educational classes, those people will be taken off the welfare benefit listing and won't be able to receive such benefits from the state.

**Section 2:** Currently, in the state of South Carolina, there are over 93,000 people who currently hold the title of "unemployed". In addition, the working population within the state also declined by 2,208 people from the month of July to August of 2017. These current unemployed citizens will in some way receive benefits from the state, whether those benefits be in the form of aid from the SNAP program or assistance from the unemployment insurance. From the year 2002 to 2016, the SNAP program, that is commonly known to many as the food stamp program, grew 63% in the amount of money spent by the government (per person), to support such a program, as well as the recipients on the program. Welfare spending as a total, has gained 0.6% in 2016, since the last Fiscal year, currently residing at a amount of 1.84 billion dollars, taking up over 11% of the current South Carolina government spending budget.

**Section 3:** Recently, it was found that over 5,644 people in the year 2014-2015, didn't receive their GED and were qualified as "high school dropouts". This, being a major contender of a lot of the increase in the amount of people that use welfare under the South Carolina Government, seeing that having a GED is necessary for retaining/gaining most well paying jobs in the state. Currently, there are job

1 training programs through the SNAP and TANF welfare systems in which do offer  
2 free job training for welfare recipients however, without a GED, most well paying  
3 jobs aren't available for these specific people. By offering free GED testing from  
4 funds from the South Carolina Education Lottery unclaimed prizes system, people  
5 who currently obtain assistance on welfare, will soon be able to get off the welfare  
6 program, therefore allowing for government spending to decrease in the amount  
7 that is used for Social Service Programs. The South Carolina Education Lottery, as  
8 of the year 2002 to our current year, 2017, the Education lottery has had a total of  
9 \$230,788,041 in unclaimed prizes. With money, such as unclaimed prize money,  
10 the South Carolina state government will have the ability to pay for GED testing in  
11 order to provide a higher education to get better paying jobs.

12  
13 **Section 4:** As people receive higher educations and free GED testing through the  
14 state, this will continuously open up several job opportunities for recipients. With  
15 opening up opportunities for other companies to provide free job placement and/or  
16 job training, Welfare recipients have a chance to not only get back into the job  
17 force, but also work with companies that may provide more income for that specific  
18 person. In return for those companies offering free job placement and training,  
19 those companies will receive a 1% tax rebate off the current 5% corporate tax. This  
20 newly installed program will allow for more training opportunities and job  
21 opportunities through successful and well known companies, to offer a high job  
22 education to those on welfare and to get them back as taxpaying citizens to make  
23 up for the tax rebate.

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25 **Section 5:** With this bill in place, not only will current welfare receivers gain a  
26 necessary education standard at the cost of this bill, but will also be given a wider  
27 variety of job training facilities and opportunities, as well as potential careers. For  
28 tax paying residents of South Carolina, this will in the long run decrease the current  
29 tax rate consistently, but allowing for the state to obtain more money for newly  
30 created taxpaying residents. In addition, South Carolina will grow significantly in  
31 terms of employment rates, being that jobs will be trained for and created within  
32 the state. The corporations and businesses that choose to participate in this  
33 program will also benefit, using the tax incentive as a way to grow and expand their  
34 business/corporation, which can, in the long run, provide more jobs to people in the  
35 state of South Carolina.

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37 **Section 6:** This bill will go into effect on January, 1 2018 following the signature  
38 of the Youth Governor.  
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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S34

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** William Heidtman and MC Crawford

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Christ Church Episcopal School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

A Bill To Illegalize The Ownership of Assault/Automatic Weapons  
In the State of South Carolina

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Under this bill, it will be illegal for all residents of South Carolina – except those with federal or governmental clearance – to own, carry, or transport any form of an assault or automatic weapon.

**Section 2:** There is currently no existing South Carolina law regulating the ownership of assault/automatic weapons. Therefore, this bill would introduce a new legislative measure to prohibit owning automatic weapons, in an attempt to administer additional protection to the citizens of South Carolina. Assault weapons are a type of semi-automatic firearm that are fashioned in a way that efficiently and quickly kills humans in rapid timing. Although this design may be helpful in combat, these type of weapons are bound to instigate atrocities in the hands of an untrained human.

**Section 3:** It should be illegal for South Carolina citizens to own assault weapons, solely because they increase the likelihood of a contingent carnage occurring amongst civilians. Examples of misuse of automatic firearms are visible in the public shootings occurring around the United States, including the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, where 28 were killed, the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, where 49 were killed and 53 were injured, and the recent Las Vegas shooting, where 58 were killed and around 500 injured. In addition, assault rifles also put the lives of law-enforcement officers at a major risk. If police officers are only permitted a hand-held, concealable weapon for their defense, then no other civilian should have clearance for a military-grade weapon for their self-defense.

**Section 4:** Results expected from the enactment of this bill will include:

**A.** A decrease in public shootings in South Carolina concerning automatic weapons.

**B.** A renewed sense of protection and security amongst the citizens of South Carolina.

1           **C.** A new level of safety regarding law-enforcement in South Carolina.

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3           **Section 5:** Punishments for breaking this law would include a \$1000 fine per  
4 assault weapon found. If more than five assault weapons are present and  
5 discovered, then the owner of these weapons will be sent to jail. The length of jail  
6 time would depend on a court jury's verdict, and judge's final decision. After  
7 someone is convicted of assault/automatic weapon ownership once, any further  
8 convictions will result in immediate jail time, rather than a fine.

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11           **Section 6:** The bill shall be put into effect on January 1st, 2018.  
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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S35

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** G

**AUTHORS:** Lila Weston and Nan Wilson

**BILL SPONSOR:**

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Christ Church Episcopal School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Make September 11 A National Day of Remembrance

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Our bill serves to establish a tone in the State of South Carolina that upholds respect and insight on the events pertaining to September 11, 2001.

**Section 2:** All Federal Institutions must close their offices on September 11 to honor and remember those who lost their lives on this morbid day. As a nation, younger generations are not aware of the severity of this tragedy. If we make it a precedent among businesses, schools, and other federal offices to honor and recognize September 11.

**Section 3:** When signed into law, the first National Holiday for remembering 9/11 will be September 11, 2018.





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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15th- 18th**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S37

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Lawson Leidinger and Kate Nassab

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Heathwood Hall Episcopal School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to protect the Honeybee population in South Carolina

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** There are few other creatures as useful to humans as bees. They provide free and valuable services to keep the agricultural portion of our economy prosperous. 15 billion dollars' worth of the fruits and vegetables consumed nationwide are propagated by honeybees every year, and approximately 1/3 of the produce Americans eat are pollinated by honeybees. Some experts say that 1 in every 3 bites of our food is pollinated by honeybees.

**Section 2:** According to an annual survey of 5,000 beekeepers, a third of our nation's honeybee colonies died from April 2016 to April of 2017. Colony collapse disorder is the term used to describe symptoms but not the causes of bee's death. Four of the known causes leading to honeybee death include parasites, diseases, pesticides, and poor nutrition. Researchers observe that bees are going out to pollinate and either don't return or in every batch of pollen that honeybees collect there are up to 6 detectable pesticides. Pesticides are the cause being looked at most closely for purposes of this bill.

**Section 3:** Bayer's imidacloprid, a type of neonicide used most commonly on soybeans, cotton and citrus, is one of the most toxic chemicals ever created as an insecticide to honeybees. The EPA has established that when bees encounter imidacloprid levels higher than 25 parts per billion they suffer harm. It is common for agricultural fields to have neonic levels above 25 parts per billion on their crops.

**Section 4:** This bill will restrict the use of this deadly pesticide to less than 25 parts per billion on all farms across the state. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will enforce compliance with the state's farmers.

**Section 5:** This bill will take effect on January 1, 2018 after being signed into law.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>st</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S38

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Anne Langford Drake and Mary Laurel Patrick

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Greenville High School

**An Act to Remove Smoking in a Car with Individuals Under 18**

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** The state currently has no laws which may prevent an individual from smoking in a car with a minor. In terms of this bill, a minor will be held to the definition of someone under the age 18. Smoking will include the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, etc.

**Section 2:** A law against this action needs to be created and enforced due to the fact that the individual has not reached an age in which the state recognizes the right to smoke due to the health risks it may impose. Therefore, it appears irrational that a minor may suffer the medical consequences of smoking when they did not have the right to make the conscious decision of accepting responsibility for smoking.

**Section 3:** The state should enforce this law through city and state law enforcement by giving such officials the authority to pull over an adult who is smoking with others in the car.

- A.** An officer may ask to see identification to verify the age of those in the car if the officer feels necessary.
- B.** Officers will reserve the right to stop anyone who may seem in conflict with the law.
- C.** Officers of county, city, and state authority will all be given authority to pull over subjects.
- D.** Drivers will be required to extinguish the cigarette or turn off the device.

**Section 4:** Because such a law does not require any funding nor programs to be established to allow for implementing the law, the states shall establish fines for individuals in violation with the law to pay. Revenue from this fine would fund and create:

- A.** Cancer research for the effects of smoking on the body and environment
- B.** Support groups to beat smoking habits
- C.** Appropriate advertisements of the law and its effects

**Section 5:** Those in violation with the law will be subject to fines ranging from \$500 to \$1,000, with fines increasing per every offense.

**Section 6:** When signed into law, the fines shall be implemented on January 1, 2018.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S39

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** D

**AUTHORS:** Grace Beasley and Kate Edmondson

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Greenville High School

**An Act to: Place a Limit to Carbon Emissions from Factories**

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** According to the Environmental Protection Agency, carbon dioxide is the primary gas emitted into the atmosphere through human activity. Human activity such as factory production and burning of fossil fuels alter the carbon cycle and produce an excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This excess is not healthy for living organisms that are a part of the cycle. Organisms such as trees are not able to remove the extra CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere at the same rate as it is being produced.

**Section 2:** Putting a limit on carbon emissions would decrease the addition of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere and encourage factories to find more earth-friendly ways to make their products. A fee will be added to excess emissions. Factories don't want to pay an excessive amount of fees, so the goal is for them to decrease their carbon footprint.

**Section 3:** There is not currently a clear carbon emission law in South Carolina, which makes it easy for plants to be careless of the environment and not regulate the amount of carbon they release.

**Section 4:** The quantity of carbon emissions permitted and the taxes on excess emissions will depend on the size of each factory. Larger factories will have higher amounts of emissions permitted and pricier taxes on excess emissions. According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, natural gas power plants should have a limit of 1,000 lbs of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity produced and coal power plants should have an emission limit of 1,400 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh.

**Section 5:** Officials will perform reviews of each factory's carbon emissions semiannually. If a factory is exceeding their carbon emission limit, they will be fined.

**Section 6:** This bill will be put into effect January 1st, 2019.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S40

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** E

**AUTHORS:** Chloe Rizer and Kaitlynn Stephens

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** May River High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Add American Sign Language Classes

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** There are currently no opportunities for public high school students to take American Sign Language classes in the state of South Carolina as a high school credit.

**Section 2:** This bill would require all South Carolina public high schools to add an American Sign Language class and to make it available to all students. Each completed class would count towards one credit of Foreign Language each student needs in order to graduate.

**Section 3:** The South Carolina House of Representatives and the Senate agreed to raise the 2016 FY budget of \$24 billion (with \$8 billion towards education) to \$26 billion for the 2017-2018 FY. With the extra \$2 billion going towards the state, any and all expenses including textbooks and annual salaries for ASL teachers could be paid in full.

**Section 4:** As of 2014, there are about 155,000 people who are hard of hearing and about 13,000 people who are completely deaf in the state of South Carolina. Adding American Sign Language classes in public high schools will give students the opportunity to learn American Sign Language to better communicate with the Hearing Impaired in their everyday lives. This bill will be enacted by the South Carolina Board of Education.

**Section 5:** When signed into law, this bill will go into effect for the 2018-2019 school year.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S41

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** F

**AUTHORS:** Faith Sulak and Olivia Peluso

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** May River High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Put Cameras on Highways

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** This bill is going to provide cameras on highways. These cameras will watch over speeding and motor vehicle accidents.

**Section 2:** This bill will provide cameras that will watch over speeding and supply tickets to the people, this will encourage people to drive safer and will punish them for speeding. The main purpose for these cameras will be to help to catch criminals on highways, most commonly hit and runs which will make the police's job easier.

**Section 3:** The money needed to set up the cameras will come from a 2% tax raise on alcohol and cigarettes for the first year. After the initial year that the law is in place the money will then come from a fund of tickets. This fund will help to put up new cameras and provide maintenance fees for existing ones.

**Section 4:** The cameras will be placed on certain places on highways and state highways to maximize their usage. They are not intended to be placed too close together because of additional costs.

**A.** The cameras will be placed near the entries and exits of state highways.

**B.** Cameras will only fine for speeding if going 15 mph over the speed limit or more.

**Section 5:** This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2018.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S42

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** G

**AUTHORS:** Malik Campbell and Isaiah Wilkinson

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Legacy Early College High School

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to create a South Carolina New Market Tax Credit

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** In our home state of South Carolina there is a lack of investment in low-income communities. And because of this, the advancement in economic development, affordable housing, and education have all declined in these areas. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey, South Carolina is 9th in the country in the poverty rankings. With 19% of the population living under the average income and 28% of children under 18 living in these distressed households. I am proposing a New Market Tax Credit for the State of South Carolina. The New Market Tax Credit was designed to increase the flow of capital to businesses in low income communities by providing a modest tax incentive to private investors.

**Section 2:** A Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a domestic corporation or partnership that is a catalyst for loans, investments, or financial counseling in low-income communities. Certification as a CDC allows organizations to participate either directly or indirectly in the New Markets Tax Credit Program. Every low-income community needs to organize and put together a CDC so they can take part in the opportunity to become self-sustainable.

**Section 3:** How the New Market Tax Credit works is very simple. A CDC will apply for the tax credit with the department of treasury. Then an investor, like a private financial institution or major corporations will invest in the CDC in exchange for Federal Tax Credits. An investor receives a tax credit equal to 39 percent of the total Investment. The Credit is realized over a 7 year period, 5 percent annually for three years and 6 percent for the rest.

**Section 4:** This is not a new concept. Other states have taken part and benefited from this legislation. Between 2003 and 2015, \$42 billion in direct NMTC investments were made in businesses. This money has generated nearly \$80 billion in total capital investment to businesses and revitalization projects in communities with high rates of poverty and unemployment. Also during this time period, about 750,000 jobs were created, at a cost to the federal government of less than

1 \$20,000 per job! The New Market Tax Credit is necessary in our home state South  
2 Carolina to advance us as a whole. Imagine what we could accomplish if we took  
3 action to strengthen our weak links!!

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5 **Section 5:** This bill to take effect January 1, 2018.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>**

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**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S43

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** A

**AUTHORS:** Jake Martin, Eli Crowe, and Asher Moorhouse

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** Shannon Forest Christian School

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**A Bill To Be Entitled**

An Act to Increase Punishment on Organized Dog Fighting in South Carolina

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Section 1:** Dog fights happen all across South Carolina. It is also known that the state of South Carolina has a low score in penalties (#46 out of 50 states) towards animal cruelty according to the Humane Society of the United States. For example, in York County, a dog trainer owned 13 pit bulls for fighting and kept them in horrific conditions and only received 13 months in prison. These inhumane fights are promoted by people who enjoy watching dogs maiming other dogs and profit from this crime. Fights can last for a minimum of a few minutes to a maximum of two hours. Severe injuries and death are common in these fights, especially for the bait dogs that are more frail and are used for practice for the fighting dogs. These "practice dogs" are stolen from people's homes, and used, or sold to trainers who want to use them so that the trained dogs can kill them. The heartless people who plot these fights chain the poor creatures to metal posts or small dog houses and are kept at a distance from each other to decrease their social skills. They then inject the dogs with anabolic steroids to strengthen their muscles and spark more hostility. Other harmful acts are done at dog fights: illegal drug use, weapon exposure, illegal gambling, and homicide.

**Section 2:** Michael Vick, NFL quarterback, participated in an illegal dog fight and made \$26,000 off of a fight when he was caught. His initial prison sentence was 5 years, but he was let off with a three year suspended prison term and a fine of \$2,500. Another example is Craig Boyd who repeated the same crime multiple times and was able to keep his valuables after repeating the same crime! He was sentenced for a total of 7 years in prison, but was paroled at the end of 2005, the year he was sentenced to prison. The state of Michigan passed a bill in 2012 that the punishment for dog fighting is a \$100,000 fine, 20 years in prison, and everything owned by the dog trainers and property owners is convicted. The current penalty in South Carolina for this crime is far too weak! A \$5,000 fine and 5 years in jail, after the third offense, is not enough of a punishment. The first offense is a fine of \$500 and 6 months in jail. The second offense is a \$1,000 fine and 1 year in jail. They can easily use the money earned from the fights to pay off this fine. Some of their property that lead to the fights is confiscated by the



1 government, but the property, cars and other possessions is what they get to keep.  
2 A big problem with this penalty is that the people interested can still use their  
3 property or vehicles to organize or go to a dog fight. There must be a stop to this.  
4

5 **Section 3:** The dog trainers in the nation on average make \$20,000- \$500,000  
6 from fights, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to  
7 Animals (ASPCA). In the state, the largest amount of money seized was a bust 2  
8 years ago with \$100,000. Not only from each round do the criminals make profit,  
9 but from selling pups that were taken from homes for thousands of dollars. The  
10 minimum amount of profits made, in the United States, is four-times larger than  
11 the penalty fine for the third offense. The first solution we have is to increase the  
12 fine much higher on each offense:

- 13 • **First Offense:** a fine of \$50,000 and a minimum of 5 years in prison.
- 14 • **Second Offense:** a fine \$100,000 and a minimum of 10 years in prison.
- 15 • **Third Offense:** a fine of \$500,000, and a minimum of 25 years in prison.

16 This is what we believe will be a heavier consequence along with both dog owners  
17 and spectators losing the ability to own a pet of any kind. Let it be known that jail  
18 time is mandatory and cannot be waived by any judge.  
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20 **Section 4:** Along with the consequences listed, there will be other convictions that  
21 must take place to get the point across. First, everything that came in contact of a  
22 dog fight, such as vehicles, cell phones, and documents, will be confiscated by the  
23 state government. Not only the objects that came in contact of the fights, but all  
24 valuable possessions that the dog trainers and property owners possess will then be  
25 confiscated by the government and be auctioned off. All the profits that were made  
26 during each fight, or trade, will also be held by the state government until trial and  
27 the criminals will have to pay the listed fine for each offense. Considering the land  
28 owned by the property owners and dog trainers, there will be a property tax that  
29 the owner will have to pay in order to reclaim their house. If they can't pay it, then  
30 it will be confiscated by the state government and be sold to someone else. If their  
31 house is taken, this will help decrease the spaces where dog fights can be  
32 organized. Finally to be noted, It is already a law that whoever comes in contact of  
33 an organized fight or knows about it will be convicted. However, they deserve a  
34 harsher punishment that is equivalent to the dog trainers because they chose to be  
35 an accomplice at the scene of the crime.  
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37 **Section 5:** When signed into law, the first increase will take place on January 1,  
38 2018.  
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**SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S44

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** B

**AUTHORS:** Taylor Lott and Abigail Milling

**SCHOOL:** THE KING'S ACADEMY

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

AN ACT TO REFORM THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** Students applying to colleges would have the option to either submit their standardized test scores or in its place write two essays.

**Section 2:** One of these essays would be on a prompt question of the college's choice

**Section 3:** The second essay should include their best of the two scores and why they feel this score does not represent their grades/achievements during their time as a student.

**Section 4:** To have the option of sending in these essays the student has to have taken a standardized test (SAT or ACT) at least twice.

**Section 5:** This bill will go into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

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**South Carolina YMCA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Legislature  
November 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

**BILL ORIGINATES IN:** Senate

**BILL NUMBER:** S45

**RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE:** C

**AUTHORS:** Vinnie Semsey and Sarah Blackmon

**SENATE BILL SPONSER:**

**SCHOOL/CLUB:** The King's Academy

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

An Act to Allow Caffeinated Beverages in Classes

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE YMCA MODEL LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Section 1:** The average South Carolina school does not allow any food or drink in the classroom.

**Section 2:** This bill will permit caffeinated beverages to be consumed in high school classes that start before 9:30 am.

**Section 3:** The average student has many different extra-curricular activities they attend. Although this is beneficial for their college applications, it leaves many people tired and stressed. The majority of students stay up until late in the night just to finish homework, thus they turn to caffeine to boost them in the mornings. Additionally, the effects of these drinks allows the consumer to feel a burst of energy they need to complete their daily tasks. Otherwise, many would feel sluggish and would decrease their productivity.

**Section 4:** Once in effect, this bill will allow students to consume their caffeinated beverage of choice, which will stimulate their brain activity and boost their productivity.

**Section 5:** This bill will take effect in the 2018-2019 school year.