

2011 House Vote Tracker Bill Descriptions

VOTE A

The **Incandescent Light Bulb Act**, [H.3735](#) by Rep. Dwight Loftis, sought to exempt South Carolina from federal energy efficiency standards that passed with bipartisan support in 2007 to require 25-30% energy efficiency gains by 2014 and three-times more efficient light bulbs by 2020. The bill attempted to skirt interstate commerce by promoting the in-state manufacturing of old fashioned and wasteful incandescent light bulbs. After this bill passed the House, in late May the full Senate LCI Committee sent H.3735 back to Subcommittee, effectively killing the bill.

VOTES B and G

The **Plug-in Hybrid Bill**, [H.3059](#) by Rep. Jim Merrill, would extend an existing, state income tax credit of \$2,000 for highway-speed, plug-in vehicles. The tax credit has an annual impact cap of \$500,000 and is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Within three years, over a dozen hybrid models are expected to be available, providing economic, national security, and environmental benefits. In mid-April, the House rejected this bill in a [24-67](#) vote (B). Rep. Merrill moved to reconsider the bill, and it then passed the House in a [64-40](#) vote (G) in early May. H.3059 now resides in the Senate Finance Committee.

VOTE C

[H.3873](#), the **Fisheries Bill** by Rep. Ted Vick revises the seasons, times and size and take limits for herring. This bill, supported by the conservation community, received second reading in the House in late April with a vote of [108-0](#). Later, after it passed the Senate in June with a vote of [36-1](#), it did not receive third reading when Sen. John Scott attached his name in objection. We expect this bill to receive third reading in January when the Legislature returns to the State House.

VOTE D

Two priority clean water bills introduced by Rep. Mike Pitts both passed the House the last week of April, only to stall the last day of session when Sen. John Scott placed an objection on every House bill on the Senate calendar in an effort to push forward another agenda. The **Phosphate Bill**, [H.3470](#) by Rep. Mike Pitts, would prohibit the use, sell or manufacture of dishwashing detergents containing phosphates, a harmful chemical found in our lakes and rivers. Phosphorus is already banned in 15 states because it kills fish and lowers recreational revenues and home values. This bill passed the House with a [104-0](#) vote in April and the last week of session, Sen. Peeler pulled the bill out of the Medical Affairs Committee to have it placed on the Senate calendar. This bill received a [34-2](#) vote in the Senate for second reading the last week of session.

VOTE E

The **Chronic Sewage Polluter Bill** or "Three Strikes" Bill, [H.3617](#) by Rep. Mike Pitts, would require any wastewater utility with two spills over 5,000 gallons each in a 12-month period (per every 100 miles of pipe) to undergo a comprehensive audit of what caused the spill and fix the problems identified. This compromise language is supported by the conservation community

and the 30 largest South Carolina wastewater utilities as a means of bringing the most chronic violators into compliance. This bill received a [108-0](#) vote in the House the last week of April and a [37-2](#) vote for second reading in the Senate the last week of session. Due to the impasse during the last days of session as the Senate debated Department of Administration reform and early voting, these clean water bills stalled in the Senate awaiting third reading and are expected to receive third reading in January when the Senate returns.

VOTE F

The **Solar Tax Credit Bill**, [H.3346](#) by **Rep. Dwight Loftis**, establishes a 35 percent state tax credit for the installation of solar energy equipment for both residential and commercial purposes placed in service in taxable years after 2010. This legislation not only promotes renewable energy; it encourages solar installations and creates new jobs. H.3346 passed the House in a [100-10](#) vote in late April and now resides in the Senate Finance Committee.

VOTE H

[H.3083](#) by **Rep. Mike Pitts**, extends the life of the Conservation Bank, originally slated to sunset in 2013, to 2023. After a handful of Representatives attempted to slow the progress of the bill to the other body, the House passed this bill in late May after the crossover date in a [95-16](#) vote. An amendment was adopted to add three new at-large board members, to be approved by the Legislature (introduced by **Rep. Glenn Hamilton**.) Two other amendments were defeated that attempted to require the Bank to keep track of all state easements (introduced by **Rep. Gary Smith**) and to adjourn debate on the bill (introduced by **Rep. Tom Corbin**.) H.3083 was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, which ran out of time to discuss the bill this year. Extending the life of this invaluable state agency will remain a major priority of the conservation community next year.

VOTE I

Two other land use related bills passed the House and progressed to Senate Committees. The **Community Land Trust Act**, [H.3676](#) by **Rep. James Smith**, which we monitored closely this year, more clearly defines in state law that the purpose of a community land trust (CLT) is to hold legal and equitable title to land for future lease for affordable housing. The bill states that a CLT provides for mutual ownership and control by the community including the owners and renters of CLT homes and apartments. Current state law has no such provision. The last week of May the House passed this bill in a vote of [104-3](#) and sent the bill to the Senate Agriculture Committee, which ran out of time to meet on the bill this year.

VOTE J

The **E-waste joint resolution**, [H.4258](#) by the House Agriculture Committee, during the last week of session was introduced, passed the House in an [81-22](#) vote and received second reading of [24-14](#) in the Senate. (It was stalled by Sen. John Scott's last minute objection to all House bills on the Senate calendar.) This resolution implements the provisions of the new residential electronics recycling law, passed by the General Assembly last year. This 2010 act requires DHEC to make regulations regarding the handling of electronic waste and it authorizes DHEC to enforce proposed fees on manufacturers to implement the law.

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In this vote of [38-4](#), the Senate approved \$2 million of likely surplus funds and \$207,000 for operations for the **Conservation Bank** in its budget. Earlier in the year, the House approved \$750,000 in its budget. In its final version of the budget, the conference committee **(Representatives Dan Cooper, Brian White and Jim Battle and Senators Hugh Leatherman, John Land and Harvey Peeler)** ultimately funded the Bank with the \$2.2 million recommended by the Senate, which would ensure that the Bank has the operational funding necessary to keep its doors open, as well as cover a portion of the \$3 million in outstanding commitments.

VOTE B

The **Alcoholic Beverage Container (ABC) Recycling Bill**, [S.461](#) by **Sen. Ray Cleary**, would create thousands of new jobs in South Carolina, and reduce the amount of trash we send to landfills. S.461 calls for establishments that have a permit for on-site consumption of alcohol to implement a recycling program in the next two years for plastic, corrugated cardboard, aluminum and glass. It also calls for these establishments to develop recycling plans guided by DHEC. Permit applications or renewals are given a 10% discount for 8 years if there is a recycling plan that does not include glass, and a 25% discount for applications and renewals that have a recycling plan *with* glass. The bill exempts establishments from the recycling plan if an audit finds that the recycling costs are more than 14% of the regular waste disposal costs. The fourth week of May, the **Senate voted 31-9 to approve second reading of S.461**. After a handful of Senators removed their objections to the bill, allowing it to come up for a vote, S.461 eventually received third reading the last week of session. We thank **Senators Ray Cleary, Paul Campbell** and **Gerald Malloy** for their leadership in guiding the bill through the Senate. S.461 has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

VOTE C

[H.3873](#), the **Fisheries Bill** by **Rep. Ted Vick** revises the seasons, times and size and take limits for herring. This bill, supported by the conservation community, received second reading in the Senate at the end of session with a vote of [36-1](#). It did not receive third reading when Sen. John Scott attached his name in objection. We expect this bill to receive third reading in January when the Legislature returns to the State House.

VOTE D

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