



Senate District 19

Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine

Richland County

Investing in the Future of South Carolina

In June, the General Assembly reconvened to pass the state's budget. **H. 5100**, South Carolina's General Appropriations bill for the Fiscal Year of 2024-2025, provides funding for needed projects, state agencies, and community improvements. The budget, as adopted on June 26:

- Provides **Income Tax Relief** to citizens in the amount of \$1 Billion annually.
- Invests in the State's Workforce by providing \$1,125 or 2.25% **Pay Increase for all State Employees** - whichever is greater - and fully funds the **State Employee Health Plan** with no premium increase.
- Provides for major **Infrastructure Improvements** across the state, including:
 - \$200 Million for **Bridge Repair**,
 - \$200 Million for **County Transportation Committees**,
 - \$117.4 Million for the **Rural Road Safety Program**, and
 - \$42.4 Million to the **Rural Infrastructure Authority** for water and sewer projects throughout the state.
- Ensures our **Heroes Have Dignity** by fully funding both the capital and operating expenses for the state's **Veterans' Nursing Homes**.

The budget also focuses on a Healthy and Safe South Carolina, by funding:

- **\$15 Million** to prepare our **Healthcare Workforce** of the future at MUSC and HHS.
- An **\$18 Million** investment at DSS to **Protect our Children**
- **\$28 Million at the Department of Corrections** including funding for cell phone interdiction
- A **\$29 Million** investment in the **Department of Juvenile Justice**

The budget ensures our students' future will be bright:

- **Increases State Aid to Classrooms** by \$201 Million.
- Raises **Starting Teacher Pay** to \$47,000 from \$42,500.
- Fully funds the **Merit-Based State Scholarships**;
- Provides **\$115 Million to our State Technical Colleges** for capital improvements and **\$94 Million to Fund the SC WINS Program** for technical college students.
- Fully funds the capital needs for both the **Clemson School of Veterinary Sciences** and the **USC School of Medicine**.

New Laws Enacted in 2024

Act 137, the Captain Robert Johnson Act, creating a new felony offense of unlawful possession of a telecommunications device by an inmate of the Department of Corrections, a measure designed to keep the public safer by helping prevent crimes orchestrated by incarcerated individuals.

Act 128, the Seizure Safe Schools Act, requiring public schools to train their staff in recognizing signs of a seizure and how to respond and requiring a written seizure safety plan be in place for every eligible student.

Act 131, Eliminating the Sales Tax on feminine products, recognizing these items as a basic necessity and removing that extra financial burden for women.

Act 189, the Professional Counseling Compact Act, allowing licensed professional counselors from other states that have also joined the Compact to quickly obtain the ability to practice in South Carolina, expanding access to much-needed mental health services in our state.

Working for You

This year, I secured project funding for my constituents including support for the City of Columbia's Neighborhood Revitalization and Weatherization Program as well as for the Institute for Innovation and Informatics in Healthcare and Coalition of Community Fellows and Safer Communities, both programs of the Wiley Kennedy Foundation. I co-sponsored **Act 165** which became law this year, protecting those who are in the process of selling their homes from unfair

real estate agreements that would limit use of their property and impose fees years into the future. I also co-sponsored child protection bills, including a ban on AI-generated child porn and a ban on preschool suspensions. I supported a protection of IVF bill and took to the well to speak on many issues including the right to healthcare for all. I look forward to continuing to advocate on these and other issues when the Senate reconvenes in January.



Contact Me

My priority as your Senator will always be to serve your best interests. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any matter that is important to you. You can reach me at the email address listed below.

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