DID YOU KNOW:

• Legislative session begins the second Tuesday in January and ends the second Thursday in May.
• The House and Senate meet every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between January and May unless they take furlough.
• The House generally takes furlough after they finish the budget and around the Easter holiday.
• The Senate generally takes furlough around the Easter holiday.
• There are 124 House members from single member districts who represent nearly 87,200 citizens:
  - 28 Republicans  - 44 Democrats
• There are 46 Senators from single member districts who represent just over 37,000 citizens:
  - 80 Republicans  - 44 Democrats
• The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate, the highest office in the Senate, and only votes in case of a tie.
• The President Pro Tempore is the second highest office in the Senate and presides over the Senate in the absence of the Lt. Governor. The President Pro Tem has great influence on the calendar and order of the day.
• The Speaker of the House has control over committee selection of all members. Each committee then elects its Chairman.
• The Speaker Pro Tempore is the second highest office in the House and presides over the body in the absence of the Speaker.
• Both the House and Senate have a Majority and Minority Leader, the Republican (majority) and Democrat (minority). Their main objective is to help build consensus on issues/legislation among their party members.
• Both the House and Senate have standing committees. Most committees have subcommittees that are specifically issue-based. Example: House Ways and Means has subcommittees dealing with issues such as, Sales and Income Tax, Property Tax, Revenue Policy, etc.
• Committees and subcommittees play an important role in thoroughly vetting all legislation, amending legislation and ultimately determining what legislation will be voted on by each Chamber on the floor.
• The Speaker of the House has control over committee selection of all members. Each committee then elects its Chairman.
• The Senate Committee Chairman is decided by seniority of the majority party, within each committee.
• The Senate Committee Chairman is determined by seniority of the majority party, within each committee.
• Example: if Senator John Doe is now the most senior Republican on the Judiciary Committee, next year he will be the Chairman of Senate Judiciary.
• Subcommittees and their Chairs are determined by the Chairman of each standing committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Senate
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Banking and Insurance
- Corrections and Penology
- Education
- Ethics
- Finance
- Fish, Game and Forestry
- General
- Interstate Cooperation
- Invitations
- Judiciary
- Labor, Commerce and Industry
- Medical Affairs
- Rules
- Transportation

House
- Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs
- Education and Public Works
- Ethics
- Interstate Cooperation
- Invitations and Memorial Resolutions
- Judiciary
- Labor Commerce and Industry
- Legislative Oversight
- Medical, Military, Public & Municipal Affairs
- Operations and Management
- Regulations and Administrative Procedures
- Rules
- Ways and Means

GLOSSARY:

Committee: Standing Committees are made up of a smaller group of legislators who vet the bills.
Conference Committee: Are made up of three House members and three Senators. They work out the differing language of bills passed by both Chambers and draft compromises.
First Reading: Bill is read across the desk of each body and assigned a committee.
Furlough: Non-paid leave usually for a week around the Easter holiday. Both the House and Senate are not in session.
Lieutenant Governor: President of the SC Senate.
Majority Leader: Leader elected by the majority party members. Both the House and Senate have majority leaders. In SC, Republicans are the majority and the leader serves as a spokesperson for the Republican caucus.
Minority Leader: Leader elected by the minority party members. Both the House and Senate have minority leaders. In SC, Democrats are the minority and the leader serves as a spokesman for the Democratic caucus.
Pocket Veto: A bill that is not signed by the Governor. There is a five day period to sign the legislation into law to pass. After five days without the signature of the Governor, the Bill becomes law.
President Pro Tempore: Most powerful position in the SC Senate and controls the schedule and agenda of the Senate, refers bills to the committees and makes numerous appointments.
Roll Call Vote: A recorded vote by member filed in the daily journals.
Second Reading: Bill has made it through the committee process and will be debated on the floor. Once debate is finished and changes are made, it is read for a second time followed by a roll call vote.
Speaker of the House: The most powerful position in the House and is elected by the members of the House. Appoints all of the committees, various appointments to boards and commissions and controls the agenda of the House.
Speaker Pro Tempore: Fills in for the Speaker’s duties when the Speaker is unavailable.
Subcommittee: A subgroup of a full committee who focuses on a particular subject matter to vet the issues and report back to full committee.
Third Reading: The Bill’s final reading in the House or Senate followed by voice vote.
Veto: The Governor objects to the legislation and does not sign the Bill into law.
Veto Override: Once the Governor vetos legislation, the House and Senate can override the veto by a 2/3 majority vote in each body.
Voice Vote: A verbal vote not recorded by member. Typically done on third readings of legislation.
How a Bill Becomes a Law

**Senate**
- Introduced to Senate
  - First reading on the Senate floor
  - Referred to committee
  - Sent to subcommittee by committee Chair
    - Gets favorable report
  - Goes to full committee
  - Receives hearing
    - Gets favorable report
  - Second reading debated on floor and roll call vote
    - Voice vote - third reading
      - Governor has five days to sign into law, veto or pocket veto

**Bill**

**House of Representatives**
- Introduced to House
  - First reading on the House floor
  - Referred to committee
  - Sent to subcommittee by committee Chair
    - Gets favorable report
  - Goes to full committee
  - Receives hearing
    - Gets favorable report
  - Second reading debated on floor and roll call vote
    - Voice vote - third reading

**Bill must pass through both Chambers before being sent to the Governor**

- Other Chamber has ability to change, strike or insert new Bill
- Adjusted to both bodies' liking
- If no agreement, Bill dies
- Goes to both bodies for a roll call vote
- If difference between House / Senate, goes to Conference Committee for a compromise

**Veto overridden with 2/3 vote in both bodies**

- One of the bodies sustains the veto

**Law**

- Governor has five days to sign into law, veto or pocket veto