



Legislative Accomplishments

Bobby Harrell has a proven record of getting things done. He has consistently championed legislation that fuels our economy, protects taxpayers, helps create jobs and boosts education. Here's a snapshot of some of his significant accomplishments in the South Carolina General Assembly.

Building Our Economy and Creating Higher-Paying Jobs

Small Business Income Tax Cut — Reduces the state's top income tax rate for small businesses from 7% to 5%.

- Reduces the cost of doing business for small businesses, a prime economic engine
- Enables businesses to grow and employ more people

Workers' Compensation Reform — Streamlines and improves the state's workers' compensation system.

- Discourages fraud by increasing the penalties for fraudulent claims
- Eliminates the state's Second Injury Fund to keep premiums affordable

Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Act — Leverages the state's existing hydrogen resources to attract new companies to South Carolina and help make the state a major player in the worldwide hydrogen economy.

- Creates a fund for targeted high-profile investment that will lead to job creation and corporate investment
- Provides funding for hydrogen and fuel cell research and partnerships in the state
- Establishes rebates and incentives for consumers purchasing hybrid and flex fuel vehicles

Economic Development Incentive Act — Establishes a number of pro-business policies that help South Carolina's businesses grow--adding to our overall economy, reducing unemployment and raising average income levels.

- Allows banks to qualify for job tax credits if they meet certain employer qualifications
- Provides tax credits to businesses that use state port facilities
- Expands the definition of corporate headquarters
- Provides sales tax exemptions if natural gas prices rise above certain levels
- Widens job development credits to include relocation expenses associated with an expanded research and development facility to include personnel and lab equipment, and enabling more companies to qualify for the Fee in Lieu-of-Taxes incentive

Air Carrier Hub Facilities Act — Played a major role in bringing Vought-Alenia aircraft plant to South Carolina, creating more than 600 jobs in 2005.

- Provides business incentives to help South Carolina attract aviation and aerospace facilities

Life Sciences Economic Development Act — Drives active collaboration between South Carolina's research universities and the private sector to create higher-paying jobs.

- Provides incentives for life sciences and pharmaceutical companies that create more than 200 jobs paying more than 1.5 times the state per capita income
- Enables state's research universities to work more closely with the private sector, funds university research related to economic development activities, and expands the opportunities for venture-capital investment in research-oriented companies in South Carolina.

Venture Capital Investment Act — Provides promising companies with a business plan for success increased access to the capital they need to get started.

- Enables the state to create a public fund that invests in private venture capital funds through state tax credits

Jobs Creation Act — Enables more small businesses to qualify for tax credits to facilitate job creation. Also increases small businesses' access to capital, helping them overcome one of their biggest obstacles to growth.

- Allows a small business (99 or fewer employees) to add as few as two new employees and qualify for job tax credits. Before this Act, a business had to add 10 new employees to qualify
- Requires that to be eligible for job tax credits, full-time jobs created by the businesses must pay wages at least 120% of the county's or the state's average per capita income, whichever is lower

Capital Access Program — Increases small businesses' access to capital and helps them overcome one of their biggest obstacles to growth.

- Enables small businesses in South Carolina to borrow money by setting up a fund to cover potential losses by lending institutions

Film Incentive Act — Has spurred film production across South Carolina.

- Provides tax credits and incentives to attract motion picture filming and production to South Carolina
- Major motion pictures spend millions of dollars to make their movies, over two thirds of which goes into the local economy

Act 151 for Economic Development—Helps groups cut through the red tape of government and gain access to vital economic development tax incentives

- Enables certain groups in the state to partner in order to take advantage of greater tax incentives
- Allows office parks built by a county to qualify for tax credits
- Enables more rural communities to take advantage of various tax credits to drive economic development

Rural Development Act — Fuels economic development in rural areas, especially South Carolina's least developed areas.

- Allows South Carolina's rural communities to offer the same basic incentive package as more metropolitan areas to recruit new businesses

- Divides the state's counties into four categories based on each county's level of economic development relative to the rest of the state
- Expands three major business recruitment incentives: Fee-in-Lieu-of-Taxes, Job Tax credits, and Enterprise Zone activity

Fee-in Lieu-of-Tax Simplification Act — Streamlines a bureaucratic aspect of the Fee-in-Lieu-of-taxes program.

- Eliminates the requirement that investors transfer the title of their property to the county in order to be eligible to receive a fee on the property

Tourism Infrastructure Act — Enables a portion of admissions taxes paid to certain tourism and recreational facilities to be used for infrastructure improvements.

Improving Education

Fully funded SC Public Schools — As Chairman of the House Ways & Means committee, Harrell fought for the budget that reinstated full funding of the Base Student Cost.

Greater access to college scholarships — Increases amounts of Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE scholarships to students majoring in math, science, or engineering.

- Gives students an incentive to pursue an education and career in these fields, so they can help drive the state's knowledge economy

Other resources: www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3170.htm

Establishment of Education Oversight Committee—Sets up a committee to oversee and enact the requirements and standards Education Accountability Act

- Establishes an 18 member independent, nonpartisan group made up of educators, business people, and elected officials who have been appointed by the legislature and the governor to enact the SC Education Accountability Act of 1998

Students Health and Fitness Act — Improves the health and fitness of South Carolina's K-5 students and prepares them to lead more healthy lives.

- Focuses on well-rounded nutrition in the state's elementary schools
- Provides resources to schools, so that they can better educate South Carolina's students about the importance of exercise and proper eating habits

Establishment of "Public Education: A Great Investment" License Plates — Raises money for education through sales of S.C. automobile license plates with apple logo.

Pay Raises for Teachers—In 2007, Harrell fought for a budget that provides an across-the-board pay raise for South Carolina's teachers, to attract and retain well-qualified men and women in the profession.

Funds for Teacher Supplies—Provides a \$250 reimbursement to every classroom teacher for supplies and materials directly related to the education of students.

Cutting Taxes to Help People Keep More of What They Earn

Spearheading Tax Relief Efforts—Harrell has been at the forefront of fighting for tax relief during his entire career in the General Assembly. As Speaker of the House, he led the way on approval of the record-breaking tax relief package of 2007 of more than \$220 million, eliminating the tax on groceries and exempting more of your income from the state income tax.

Property Tax Relief — Cuts property taxes on homes by more than half. Harrell has been at the forefront of fighting for tax relief his entire career in the General Assembly. He has been the “point man” on the state’s landmark property tax reductions.

- The Homeowners Protection Act of 2006 eliminates school operating taxes portion of property taxes by enacting a two-cent sales tax

Eliminating the Grocery Tax — Improves the affordability of one of our most basic needs.

- Elimination of this tax benefits all families in South Carolina and especially helps lower-income families since taxes on food disproportionately affect lower-income working families

Stopping Tax Increases—During the years of budget shortfalls, there was a movement in the S.C. General Assembly to raise taxes. Instead, Harrell led the effort to make budget cuts that kept the state from raising taxes. That tax restraint helped lead to our state’s now stable and growing economy.

Protection from Price Gouging Act — Criminalizes price gouging when a state of emergency outside the state affects the prices in South Carolina.

- Ensures that South Carolinians are not taken advantage of during situations like the post-Hurricane Katrina gas shortage

Homestead Exemption Increase — increases the homestead exemption from \$20,000 to \$50,000 (an increase of 150%).

- Provides an additional \$37.5 million in tax relief for homeowners
- Affects more than 267,000 homes owned by elderly, blind or disabled South Carolinians

Increasing income tax deduction for seniors — enables senior citizens to increase deductions on their South Carolina income taxes.

- Allows the state’s residents over age 65 to deduct up to \$11,500 in taxable income

Fueling Research and High-Tech Infrastructure

South Carolina Technology and Communications Study Committee Act — creates a committee that will evaluate the state’s broadband communications infrastructure and assess the availability of and need for broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the state.

- Designed to enhance education, healthcare, and economic development in the rural areas of South Carolina

South Carolina Innovation and Research Centers Act — Provides a plan to take research from South Carolina's universities and transition it into products for the market place.

- Leverages the state's academic resources to increase research and create jobs
- Facilitates the creation of three Innovation Centers—one at each of the state's research universities

SC Research University Infrastructure Bond Act — Funds projects that would advance economic development and facilitate research at South Carolina's research universities—Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina.

SC Research Centers of Economic Excellence Act — Establishes a program to bring world-class researchers to South Carolina.

- Creates Centers of Economic Excellence at the state's three research universities in areas that are vital to job creation
- Acts as a catalyst to attract private investment in South Carolina-based research because all state funds invested in the program must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-state funds

Trident Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority Act — Drives economic development by supporting the film-related industries and technology-intensive businesses.

- Creates an Enterprise Campus next to Trident Technical College's main campus in North Charleston

College of Charleston Academic Bond Act — Specifies how and when the College of Charleston can issue revenue bonds for the acquisition of academic and administrative buildings.

Industry Partners Act — Helps boost South Carolina's Research Innovation Centers that play a big part in fueling the knowledge economy.

- Provides a way for individual or corporate donors to receive a South Carolina tax credit for their investments in South Carolina research and innovation

Promoting Wise and Careful Government Spending

Spending Limit Act and Constitutional Amendment — Places limits on what government is allowed to spend and limits the growth of government.

- The spending limit stipulates that government spending may only grow by the growth in the Consumer Price Index plus inflation or personal income growth, whichever is greater
- Passed by the S.C. House multiple times, still awaits Senate approval

Repayment of GAAP Deficit — Helps make our state budget fiscally sound.

- Provides for repayment of \$105 million GAAP (General Accepted Accounting Principles Fund) deficit

Capital Reserve and Surplus Funds — Promotes a balanced budget by establishing reserve funds.

- Requires that if there is a negative balance in the General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) Fund, then any spending from the Capital Reserve and surplus funds will be suspended for the next year and the money will be used to payback the GAAP Fund Deficit

- Legislates that the first 10% of any surplus General Fund Revenues must be used to fully restore all funds
- Specifies that state entities receiving General Fund appropriations provide a three-year financial plan to assist the State in planning for long-term commitments

Repayment of the Trust Funds — Demonstrates a commitment to help state government “live within its means.”

- As Chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, Harrell was a major supporter of using surplus revenues to repay the state trust funds. In previous years, state leaders had borrowed from these funds to make up for budget deficits in lean years.

Fiscal Discipline Act — Gives South Carolina a responsible budget.

- Provided for the repayment of an unconstitutional \$155 million deficit so we did not lose the state’s valued Triple A credit rating

Improving South Carolina’s Roadways

Highway Funding Act — Moves \$90 million in driving-related fees back to the Department of Transportation from the state’s General Fund over a three to five year period.

- Funds are earmarked for repair of the state’s secondary roads, which are not eligible for federal aid

Department of Transportation Restructuring — Enhances accountability at the agency responsible for South Carolina’s roads.

- Provides qualifications and screening for DOT Commissioners and a Secretary of Transportation appointed by the Governor
- Requires mandatory ethics training for employees, audits, and prioritization of projects using objective criteria

Working Across Party Lines for Positive Change

Gaining Bipartisan Support—Shows effective leadership in the S.C. General Assembly and demonstrates Harrell’s ability to reach across party lines and pass legislation that is good for all South Carolinians.

- Harrell showed this leadership quality as Chairman of Ways & Means when the 2005 state budget unanimously passed the House