

SCHA engaged on several key issues for member hospitals, and the highlights of the legislative session are detailed below.

APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.5126) Conference report adopted inclusive of \$185 million necessary to maintain DHHS existing level of access and care for current Medicaid beneficiaries, and an additional rate increase for home health agencies.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED
CIGARETTE TAXES (H.4303) Broadens the range of nicotine products in current law outlining tax rates on tobacco products. The resulting new revenue will offset some of the losses as cigarette revenues dedicated to the Medicaid program continue to decline.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED
COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS (S.449) Authorizes and defines collaborative practice agreements between pharmacists and physicians in South Carolina to enhance coordinated patient care and medication management.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED
D.U.I REFORM (S.52) Priority interest for SCHA is in the retention of existing liability language. Conference committee members changed where blood draws can be taken to "any permanent facility," and narrowed the list of professionals that can obtain the sample. The Senate failed to pass a procedural vote the would have allowed this revised version to become law.	— MONITOR	✗ FAILED
HALLWAY BEDS (S.958) Allows hospitals to use patient beds in hallways for a "justified emergency" as determined by an emergency department leader, to include circumstances in which the patient rooms in an emergency department are full. Outlines documentation required within 7 days of emergency declaration for quarterly submission to DPH, and requires hospitals to develop written protocols for emergency conditions.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED
HALO (H.4763) Includes emergency healthcare workers alongside law enforcement and EMS. Conferees included a severability clause to ensure some portions of the law could remain if others are challenged in court and removed. SCHA is supportive of any legislation that provides more protections for healthcare workers. The bill still requires a procedural vote in the House before it can be sent to the Governor.	✓ SUPPORT	⊘ STALLED
ITEMIZED BILLING (H.4069) Provides that patients are furnished a simple, easy to read bill. Language ensures a patient's right to request a detailed itemization.	↑ IMPROVED	✓ PASSED
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE (H.4544, S.922) Medical Malpractice is before both the Senate and the House in various forms, but the window for passage in 2026 has all but closed.	✓ SUPPORT	⊘ STALLED
RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES (S.146) Allows long-term care residents to designate visitors during emergencies, ensuring continued access to social support even when general facility access is restricted.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED
RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL DESIGNATION (S.895) Expands the definition of 'hospital' to include all hospitals that convert to Rural Emergency Hospitals, as recognized under federal regulations, which allows for increased Medicare rates in exchange for reduced services.	✓ SUPPORT	✓ PASSED