

## State House News: May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 2, 2017

Lt. Gov. **Kevin Bryant**'s (R) vacant Senate seat was filled on May 30, after businessman **Richard Cash** (R-Anderson) [defeated a last-minute write-in campaign](#) from supporters of his primary opposition, Carol Burdette, former Pendleton, S.C., mayor.

**Ronnie Young** (R-Aiken), chairman of the Aiken County Council, was [elected to fill a vacant seat in the House](#), handily defeating two other candidates on the ballot. Young replaces Chris Corley, who resigned from the House in January after an arrest on domestic violence charges from an incident in December 2016.

### Budget Conference Committee Concludes Work

The conference committee working to bring the House and Senate versions of the state's FY18 budget together announced its conference report on May 31. Approved funding includes \$60 million to increase the state's per student allocation to \$2,425 for public schools, \$12 million for the state's colleges and universities, and \$10 million for the Local Government Fund.

The second piece of the [pension system fix was also approved](#), providing state funding to state agencies, cities, counties and other local entities to cover half of the required 2 percent increase in payroll allocation. The increase is part of the statutory fix to help shore up the state's ailing pension fund and will go into effect July 1, 2017, for FY18.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) [took a hit in the budget](#), and not just with a loss of funds. The conferees agreed to remove the CHE's authority to review college construction or renovation projects. These projects will now be reviewed by the Joint Bond Review Committee and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

The House and Senate will return to Columbia on June 6 to consider the conference report.

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Please contact a member of the McGuireWoods Consulting team if you would like more detailed information.

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