

## **S.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

House passes school tax bill  
Airport authority bill also approved

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COLUMBIA --A bill that lets school districts and colleges team up for a sales tax referendum for 15-year capital projects passed Thursday and is awaiting the governor's signature.

The House also passed a bill that sets up an authority to take over and run Horry County's four airports.

On Wednesday, the House amended the Senate sales tax bill so that it applies to only Horry and Charleston counties. The original bill was written for Horry County but the Senate changed it so that any county could use the program.

But when the bill went back to the Senate from the House Thursday, senators approved it.

Horry County officials say they want to combine projects for the county schools, Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College for a referendum that could be on the ballot in November.

The airport bill received key second reading on an unrecorded voice vote with no discussion. It was then set for an automatic third reading Friday.

The same bill, which hands airport operations over to a 10-member authority appointed by state, county and city officials, was filed in the Senate but three of the county's four senators oppose passing it as long as the county objects to it.

A hearing on the bill was held in Conway Thursday.

The House also began work on Gov. Mark Sanford's budget vetoes, overriding three and upholding three before it adjourned. The \$1 million state allocation for Interstate 73 is among the vetoes, but members did not get that far. Sanford vetoed 69 items for a total of \$72 million.