FOREWORD

2017 ACTS THAT AFFECT COUNTIES is an annual report to the membership designed to provide county officials with a good place to begin a search for the law. This publication generally contains a brief description of those acts passed during the 2017 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly that affect county government operations. This publication is not designed to be the final word on the laws passed in the 2017 session that affect county government structure and operations. It is important to consult your county attorney when you have a question regarding the law.

2017 was the first half of the two-year 122nd General Assembly. All legislation pending action when the 2017 session adjourned will retain its status as it existed when the General Assembly adjourned sine die. The General Assembly reconvenes in January of 2018.

The acts in this report are generally listed in ascending order by act number. Each new act is entitled by its assigned act number. Underneath and to the left of the act number are two different citations: the ratification number and a Senate or House bill number. Since the act number is permanent, citing to that number is the proper reference when drafting ordinances pursuant to an act, e.g. Act No. 1 of 2017. Underneath and to the right of the act number is the effective date of the act.

The appendix in the report lists the Acts relating to voting precinct designations.

The Quick Reference to Legislation that immediately follows lists all the legislation contained in this report by act number, ratification number, and Senate/House bill number to allow you to quickly find a piece of legislation, no matter which number you may have as a reference.
# Quick Reference to Legislation

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ACT NO. 3

R. 9, S. 218  EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 5, 2017

This Act adds § 41-1-25 to prohibit a political subdivision from establishing, mandating, or otherwise requiring an employee benefit. Employee benefit is defined as anything of value that an employee may receive from an employer in addition to wages. This includes, but is not limited to, any health benefits, disability benefits, death benefits, group accidental death and dismemberment benefits, paid days off for holidays, paid sick leave, paid vacation leave, paid personal necessity leave, retirement benefits, and profit-sharing benefits. The Act provides in subsection (C) that this section does not limit the ability of a political subdivision to provide employee benefits in employment relationships to which they are a party.

ACT NO. 6

R. 13, H. 3358  EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 5, 2017

This Act amends various sections in Article 1 of Title 56 to provide a framework that will bring state issued drivers’ licenses and identification cards into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is the issuing agency for REAL ID compliant driver’s license or identification card when an applicant presents supporting documents required for a compliant credential. Those choosing not to have a REAL ID can receive a noncompliant credential from the DMV. A person may only hold one DMV-issued credential at a time. Licenses issued or renewed after October 2017, expire on the birth date of the eighth calendar year from which it was issued.

ACT NO. 13

R. 22, H. 3726  EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2017

This legislation makes significant changes to the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) and the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS).

Section 9-1-1085 is amended to increase and cap SCRS employee contribution rates at 9 percent. Employer contribution rates are increased 2 percent to 13.56 percent for FY 17-18. The employer contribution rate will then increase 1 percent every year until FY 22-23, rising to 18.56 percent.
Section 9-11-225 is amended to increase and cap PORS employee contribution rates at 9.75 percent. PORS employer rates are increased 2 percent to 16.24 percent for FY 17-18 and increase 1 percent every year thereafter, rising to 21.24 percent in FY 22-23.

Section 9-1-1085 and 9-11-225 are also amended to reduce the unfunded amortization schedule of both systems from 30 years to 20 over a period of the next 10 years.

Section 9-16-335 is amended to reduce the annual rate of return from investments from 7.5 percent to 7.25 percent. A new annual rate of return must be set in 2021 and every four years thereafter.

The legislation also amends Chapter 4 of Title 9 and Chapter 16 of Title 9 to make changes to the governance and administration of the Public Employee Benefit Authority and the Retirement System Investment Commission.

**ACT NO. 15**

**R. 39, H. 3150**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: SEE BELOW**

This Act amends §7-13-190 which deals with special elections to fill vacancies in offices.

Section 1 of the Act amends §7-13-190(B)(1) to reduce the filing period from ending ten days to eight days after the third Friday from which the vacancy occurs. Section 7-13-190(B)(2) moves the election date by two weeks from the eighteenth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs to the twentieth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs. Section 1 takes effect on May 4, 2017 and applies to elections for which candidate filings begin on or after that date. These changes were made to comply with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which requires absentee ballots to be mailed to overseas citizens in the Armed Forces and eligible members of their family at least 45 days before federal elections.

Section 2 of the Act deletes the provisions of §7-13-190(E). The consequence of this deletion is that an election must be held even if only one candidate files for an office. Section 2 takes effect on January 1, 2018 and applies to elections for which candidate filings begin on or after that date.

Sections 3 provides that for any federal special election for which the primary was held on May 2, 2017, the State Election Commission must provide a rank choice ballot to an individual who casts a ballot in order to comply with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.
Except where otherwise specified, Act No. 15 takes effect on May 4, 2017.

**ACT NO. 16**

**R. 25, S. 181**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 9, 2017**

Act No. 16 amends § 44-56-200, the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Act, to make the provisions of the Federal Superfund Recycling Equity Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 9627, applicable to the Act.

**ACT NO. 18**

**R. 27, S. 342**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 9, 2017**

This legislation amends § 40-22-295 to add voluntary surveying services performed during a declared national or state emergencies to the liability immunity provisions that previously only applied to engineers. Subsection (B)(1) provides that a surveyor may only be liable in the case of recklessness or gross negligence. Subsection (B)(2) provides that the volunteer may only receive compensation for meals and mileage as provided in § 8-25-40 unless they are employed by the state, in which case they can continue to receive compensation. Subsection (C) provides that the section does not provide immunity for surveyors providing services pursuant to §40-22-75, which waives licensing requirements during emergencies. The Act further amends § 40-22-280(A)(6) relating to the work or practice of a regular employee of an electric cooperative, when rendering to the employing cooperative engineering service in connection with its facilities which are subject to regulations and inspections of the Rural Utilities Service.

**ACT NO. 20**

**R. 36, S. 530**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 9, 2017**

This Act authorizes the Pelham-Batesville Fire District, which provides fire services to portions of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of $6.5 million to finance certain capital improvements.
ACT NO. 25

R. 44, H. 3792  EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 9, 2017

Act No. 25 adds § 59-23-245 to provide the minimum number of toilets at all middle and high school stadiums notwithstanding applicable national, state, or local building codes, plumbing codes, school building regulations, or other provisions of law relating to the minimum numbers of required plumbing fixtures for stadiums in middle schools and high schools based on occupancy and use.

ACT NO. 27

R. 46, S. 200  EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 10, 2017

This Act amends § 57-25-150(G) to remove the requirement that a permit for a billboard be voided if a conforming sign is destroyed by act of God or vandalism for more than 60 days. The Act further amends subsection (H) to allow nonconforming signs that are damaged by vandalism to be rebuilt. The reconstruction cannot start until 10 days have passed since the Department of Transportation (DOT) receives notice of the vandalism and must begin 180 days after the notice to DOT. The sign owner must also report the vandalism and DOT must receive a copy of that report before restoration may begin.

ACT NO. 28

R. 47, S. 315  EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 10, 2017

This Act amends § 35-75-470(A) to authorize the Hurricane, Earth, and Fire Advisory Committee within the Department of Insurance (DOI) to address mitigation of property loss due to flood.

Provisions in §38-75-480, relating to the purposes for which grants within the DOI’s loss mitigation grant program may be awarded, are also amended. Grants to local governments must be made for the purposes of mitigating losses for eligible residential properties within local government’s jurisdiction and for developing natural hazard mitigation strategies. These grants are no longer awarded for the purpose of implementing and enforcement building code programs. Local governing bodies must adopt and submit a resolution approving the application for grant funds.

Provisions in §38-75-485 are also amended relating to the DOI’s Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program. The Act provides eligibility criteria for awarding matching and nonmatching grants to
owners of an owner-occupied primary residence to be used for improvements that will make them less vulnerable to hurricane damage. Matching grants for local governments and nonprofit entities for projects that reduce hurricane damage to residential properties are now on a first-come, first-served basis. The Act provides that no matching grant for any one local government or nonprofit entity may exceed $50,000 in a fiscal year and the total amounts awarded to all local governments and nonprofits combined may not exceed $250,000 in a fiscal year.

**ACT NO. 36**

**R. 58, H. 3538**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 10, 2017**

This legislation enacts the Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act. In keeping with federal law, the Act safeguards the rights of those with disabilities to parent and have custody of, or visitation with, a child. Reasonable efforts must be made by the Department of Social Services and family and probate courts that are individualized and based on the parent’s or guardian’s specific disability to avoid removal of a child from a parent or guardian who is disabled.

**ACT NO. 40**

**R. 51, H. 3516**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: SEE BELOW**

Section 1 of Act 40 amends §57-11-20(A) to create an Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund (IMTF) and to provide that any funds deposited into the IMTF must be used exclusively for the repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the existing transportation system.

Section 2 of the Act amends §12-28-310 by raising the motor fuel user fee two cents per year for six years, for a total of twelve cents beginning on July 1, 2017. The section also directs all of the revenue generated by this user fee increase into the IMTF.

Section 3 of the Act amends §51-11-410 to apply the increase set forth in Section 2 to motor carriers and direct this new revenue to the IMTF.

Section 4 of the Act amends §56-3-620 by raising biennial registration fees by $16 and directs this new revenue to the IMTF.

Section 5 of the Act adds §56-3-627 to create an infrastructure maintenance fee. The fee will replace the current sales tax on vehicles purchased in the State. If the vehicle is purchased or leased from a dealer, the fee equals five percent, not to exceed five hundred dollars, of the gross proceeds of sales, or sales price, of the vehicle. If the vehicle is purchased or leased from someone other than a dealer, the fee is equal to five percent, not to exceed five hundred dollars,
of the fair market value of the item. Eighty percent of this new revenue must be allocated to the state-funded resurfacing program and expended by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) using a needs-based methodology, taking into consideration pavement condition on a county-by-county basis to ensure that each county is guaranteed funding for resurfacing. The remaining twenty percent will be credited to the Education Improvement Act.

If upon purchasing or leasing the item, the owner first registers the item in another state, and subsequently registers the item in this State, the fee equals two hundred fifty dollars. Active duty service members and their spouse and dependents are excluded from this fee. Until December 31, 2022, this new revenue must be credited to the Safety Maintenance Account pursuant to §11-11-240. After December 31, 2022, the revenue must be credited to the IMTF.

Nontax revenue from the state-funded resurfacing program shall be transferred to the Transportation Infrastructure Bank to be bonded to fund repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the existing transportation system. The first fifty million dollars utilized by the bank must be used to finance bridge replacement, rehabilitation projects, and expansion and improvements on existing roads in the State Highway System. Any excess funds must be used to finance expansion and improvements to existing mainline interstates. New projects approved by the bank will not require a local match. Section 5 takes effect July 1, 2017.

Section 6 of the Act adds §56-3-645 to create a biennial road use fee for owners of hybrid and electric vehicles. For hybrid vehicles, the biennial road use fee is sixty dollars. For vehicles powered exclusively by electricity, hydrogen, or any fuel other than motor fuel, the biennial road use fee is one hundred twenty dollars. All revenue generated by these fees must be credited to the IMTF. This section takes effect January 1, 2018.

Section 7 of the Act amends §12-36-2110(A) to increase the sales tax on items not covered under Section 5 of the Act from three hundred dollars to five hundred dollars and sends this new revenue to the IMTF.

Section 8 of the Act amends Article 23, Chapter 37, Title 12 of the Code relating to motor carriers. The Act amends §12-37-2850 of the Code to create a road use fee in lieu of property taxes and registration fees on motor carriers. The fee is calculated using multiple factors including a ratio of miles operated in South Carolina to the miles operated in other states, an annual depreciation percentage, and a nine and one half percent assessment ratio. § 12-37-2860 is amended to provide that the newly created road use fee must be in lieu of any local road use fee, registration fees, or any other vehicle related fee imposed by a political subdivision of this State on a trailer or semitrailer.
Section 8 also amends §12-37-2865 to provide that seventy-five percent of the revenues from the road use fee must be distributed to counties by the State Treasurer as provided in §12-37-2870. The remaining twenty five percent must be credited to the IMTF to be used to finance expansion and improvements to existing mainline interstates. Section 8 takes effect January 1, 2019, except that the Department of Revenue, in consultation with the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, shall calculate the millage to be used to calculate the road use fee provided in §12-37-2850 by July 1, 2018.

Section 9 of the Act amends §12-38-2355(C) by removing the requirement that ten percent of the fees collected from the inspection of petroleum products must be sent to the Department of Agriculture.

Section 10 of the Act repeals §12-28-530 which relates to the inventory user fee charged on the storage of motor fuel.

Section 11 of the Act amends §12-28-2740 by increasing the allocation to “donor counties” that contribute more to the “C” fund than they receive under the allocation formula found in this section. The fund available to be allocated is increased from nine and one half million dollars to seventeen million dollars. If this increase is insufficient, there is an additional three and one half million dollars available for allocation.

Section 12 of the Act adds §57-1-380 which requires SCDOT to prepare a Transportation Asset Management Plan that must include objectives and performance measures for the preservation and improvement of all roads in the State. The Plan must also address high risk rural roads classified as Primary or Federal Aid Secondary roads. The Plan must be approved by the SCDOT Commission. The Plan must establish performance goals, including the expenditure of fifty million dollars for high risk rural roads and must be available for the public to view.

Section 13 of the Act amends §12-28-2740 by increasing the amount of proceeds from the motor fuel user fee sent to Country Transportation Committees (CTC). On July 1, 2018 and each July first thereafter until July 1, 2021, the amount of proceeds from the motor fuel user fee sent to CTCs under the C-Fund formula shall increase by .3325 cents a gallon, until the total amount equals 3.99 cents per gallon. The current allocation percentage is 2.66 cents per gallon. This will provide an estimated $40 million in revenue to the CTCs. This increase to CTCs must be used exclusively for repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the state highway system. However, it is the intent of the SCDOT that this “new” money is eligible to be used to meet the current requirement that each CTC must spend 25% of their C-Fund allocation on roads within the state highway system.
Section 14 of the Act amends §11-43-167(B)(2) to require SCDOT to reduce the allocation to the state-funded resurfacing program in proportion to the amounts required by SCDOT to fund repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the existing transportation system.

Section 15 of the Act adds §12-6-3780 to allow a refundable income tax credit for resident taxpayers. The amount of the credit will be based upon a formula that takes into consideration the amount the taxpayer spent on preventative maintenance and the amount of fuel the taxpayer purchased in the State. This section takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2017.

Section 16 of the Act adds §12-6-3632 to provide a state earned income tax credit to full-year residents equal to one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal earned income tax credit. The new tax credit will be phased in over six years. This section takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2017.

Section 17 of the Act amends §12-6-3330(B)(1) relating to the two wage earner tax credit. The income limit is raised from thirty thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars over six years. This section takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2017.

Section 18 of the Act amends §12-6-3385(A)(1) to increase the refundable tuition tax credit paid for tuition to both four-year and two-year institutions. This section takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to tax years beginning after 2017.

Section 19 of the Act amends §12-37-220(B) to provide an exemption of 14.2857 percent of the property tax value of manufacturing property assessed for property tax purposes. The revenue loss resulting from the exemption must be reimbursed and allocated to the political subdivisions of the state in the same manner as the Trust Fund for Tax Relief, not to exceed eighty-five million dollars per year. In any year in which reimbursements are projected to exceed the reimbursement cap, the exemption amount shall be proportionally reduced so as not to exceed the reimbursement cap. The percentage exemption amount is phased in in six equal and cumulative percentage installments, applicable to property tax years beginning after 2017. This section takes effect upon approval by the Governor and first applies to property tax years beginning after 2017.

Sections 20 and 21 of the Act repeal §57-1-460 and §57-1-470 relating to the process of the evaluation and review of maintenance projects by the SCDOT Secretary and Commission.

Section 22 of the Act amends §57-1-310(A) and (B), which relates to the SCDOT Commission. The Governor will now appoint all commissioners, including an at-large commissioner, and the
House and Senate will approve each appointee. An appointee must then be confirmed by the members of the legislative delegation in both the House and Senate prior to entering office.

Section 23 of the Act amends §57-1-350 by adding language prohibiting SCDOT commissioners from certain actions in order to eliminate potential conflicts of interest.

Section 24 of the Act amends §57-1-360(B) to require that all final audit reports of SCDOT be published on the Department’s and the State Auditor’s websites.

Section 25 of the Act amends §57-1-430 relating to the daily duties of the SCDOT Secretary.

Section 26 of the Act amends §57-1-330(B) to provide the Governor with full discretion to remove members of the SCDOT commission.

Except where specified otherwise, Act 40 takes effect July 1, 2017.

**Act No. 43**

**R. 64, S. 61**

**Effective Date: May 19, 2017**

This Act amends § 1-11-720(A) to provide an employee or retiree, or their dependents, of a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, or a governmental agency or instrumentality of such a political subdivision may participate in the State Health Plan.

**Act No. 46**

**R. 67, S. 173**

**Effective Date: May 19, 2017**

This Act adds § 23-23-55 to the code to require all Class 1-LE, Class 2-LCO, and Class 3-SLE law enforcement officers to complete de-escalation training for dealing with people with mental illnesses during their three-year recertification period. Sections 23-23-80(90) & 23-3-65 are amended to require training for law enforcement officers to recognize stress related disorders in other officers and to provide counseling services for officers with these disorders.
Act No. 47

R. 68, S. 234  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

Act No. 47 amends §§ 44-61-160 & 44-61-340 to make the identities of emergency medical technicians and patients subject to subpoena in administrative, civil, or criminal judicial proceedings.

Act No. 49

R. 70, S. 271  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act adds § 24-3-220 to allow an inmate whom the Department of Corrections determines is not a security risk to attend the funeral of certain family members or visit certain hospitalized family members whose death is imminent. The funeral or hospital visit must be in South Carolina. The Department may engage the services of the local sheriff where the funeral or hospital is located to provide security and transportation for the inmate. For its services, the sheriff’s department may collect, in advance, the actual cost of security and transportation for the inmate from a third party such as a family member or from the inmate’s trust account.

Act No. 57

R. 85, S. 488  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends § 56-3-2320(A)(1) to allow a person whose vehicle is being serviced by a car dealer to drive a dealer-owned vehicle displaying a dealer’s license plate as long as the dealer-owned vehicle is part of a manufacturer’s program. The use of the dealer plate is limited to 30 days. Subsection (A)(2) is amended to reduce, from 20 to 15, the amount of cars a dealer must sell in a year to be allowed the first two dealer plates. The subsection is further amended to increase the amount of additional plates a dealer participating in a manufacturer’s program is allowed to two for each additional 15 vehicles sold above the initial 20 vehicles sold. Prior law provided only one tag for each additional 15 vehicles sold.
This Act amends §30-4-30 and other provisions of the S.C. Code which deal with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 1 of the Act amends §30-4-30(B) by requiring public bodies to post their fee schedules online. The fee for the search, retrieval, or redaction of records shall not exceed the prorated hourly salary rate of the lowest paid employee capable of fulfilling the request. Fees charged by a public body must be uniform for copies of the same record or document and may not exceed the prevailing commercial rate for the producing of copies. A deposit not to exceed twenty-five percent of the total reasonably anticipated cost for production of the records may be required prior to the public body searching for or making copies of records.

Section 1 of the Act also amends §30-4-40(C) to provide that for documents that are two years old or less, a public body has 10 business days to respond to a FOIA request. The public body has 30 calendar days from the response date to produce the documents. If the documents requested are older than two years, a public body has 20 business days to respond, and 35 calendar days from the response date to produce the documents. If a public body fails to provide written notification of the determination as to the availability of the requested record within the applicable timeframes discussed, the request must be considered approved as to nonexempt records or information. Failure to respond within the applicable timeframe does not waive any exemptions set forth in §30-4-40, or any other state or federal laws. Response and production deadlines can be extended upon mutual agreement of the public body and requesting party and this agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 1 of the Act also amends §30-4-40(D) to make all documents produced by a public body or its agent that were distributed or reviewed by a member of the public during a public meeting for the preceding six-month available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours without a written FOIA request.

Section 2 of the Act amends §30-4-40(a)(2) of the S.C. Code to exempt any audio recording of the final statements of a dying victim in a call to 911 emergency services.

Section 3 of the Act amends §30-4-50(9) of the S.C. Code to make data from a video or audio recording made by a law enforcement dash-cam camera that involves an officer involved incident a public information unless law enforcement is able to obtain a court order to withhold the data from the public based on a FOIA exception.
Section 4 of the Act amends §30-4-100 of the S.C. Code by allowing a citizen of the state to bring an action in circuit court for a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief for a FOIA violation.

Section 5 of the Act amends §30-4-110 of the S.C Code to allow a public body to bring an action for unduly burdensome or improper FOIA requests. It also provides a civil fine of five hundred dollars against a public body who arbitrarily and capriciously violated a provision of FOIA.

Section 6 of the Act amends §30-2-50 of the S.C Code by making it a crime to obtain personal information from a county or other political subdivision for commercial solicitation.

**Act No. 81**

**R. 119, H. 4033**

**Effective Date: May 19, 2017**

Act No. 81 amends § 56-5-1535 to create the offense of endangering a highway worker. Subsection (A) is amended to provide that a person violates this section when they speed or violate traffic control devices in a work zone anytime one or more highway workers are present. This subsection also provides exceptions to what constitutes a violation. Subsection (B) is amended to provide graduated penalties dependent on whether the highway worker is injured. Subsection (C) is amended to assess points against a violator’s driver’s license. Subsection (D) is amended to provide that 65% of the fine be remitted to the Department of Public Safety to pay officers to patrol work zones. Twenty-five percent of the fine is remitted to the Department of Transportation to hire off-duty state or local law enforcement officers to patrol work zones. Ten percent of the fine is retained by the issuing jurisdiction to pay court costs. Subsection (F) is amended to define “work zone” and define “highway worker” to include first responders.

**Act No. 86**

**R. 57, H. 3531**

**Effective Date: January 1, 2018**

This legislation adds Chapter 2 to Title 47 to establish criteria for regulating large cats, non-native bears, and great apes that are held within South Carolina. Section 47-2-20 sets outs parties that are exempt from the Act including, but not limited to, animal control officers and humane societies holding these animals on behalf of local animal control. After January 1, 2018, it will be illegal to import these animals into the state and any of these animals that are in the state on that date may stay for the remainder of their lives as long as the animal is registered with local animal control authorities. Section 47-2-40 provides when animal control can confiscate one of these animals. Section 47-2-50 provides that a city or county may adopt ordinances more strict than this Act. Section 47-2-60 provides that local animal control, local law enforcement, sheriffs, and state law enforcement are all empowered to enforce this Act. Section 47-2-70 provides that

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a person who violates this chapter must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days for a first offense, and must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than ninety days for a second offense. The Act also amends § 47-5-50 to exempt zoos from the Act.

ACT NO. 87

R. 34, S. 415

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEE BELOW

This Act provides comprehensive revisions of Article 5 of Title 62 of the Probate Code to promote statewide uniformity in the probate process and enhance guardianship and conservatorship protection. Section 62-1-112 and § 8-21-800 is amended to clarify that Probate Judges have the authority to impose penalties for contempt and may waive filing fees for indigent persons.

This Act takes effect on January 1, 2019. The Act is retroactive unless the application of its provision substantially interferes with judicial proceedings or prejudices a party’s rights.

ACT NO. 97

R. 128, H. 3720

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2017

The Appropriations Act generally contains a number of temporary statutory provisions, which are referred to as "provisos." Temporary provisos are effective only for the fiscal year addressed in the budget act and appear in Part IB of the Act, hence the label "Part I provisos" or "temporary provisos." Many Part I provisos are adopted every year as part of the budget process with little or no changes, while others are truly temporary in nature and only appear for one or two years. The effective date of all Part IB provisos is the fiscal year in which the act has been passed, which in this case is Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Part IA:

Part IA contains the appropriation of recurring dollars. This year the General Assembly appropriated:

- $222.6 million to the Local Government Fund.
- $34 million to offset some of required 2 percent increase in the SCRS and PORS employer contribution rates.
Part IB:

The following are provisos of interest in the 2017-18 General Appropriations Act.

*Items marked in bold with an asterisk are either new provisos or are previous provisos that have been substantially amended.

Proviso 1.26: This is the school district flexibility proviso. Section 59-21-1030, the EIA local effort requirement, is suspended for the current fiscal year. There is no corresponding suspension of the EFA local effort requirement.

Proviso 1.57: This proviso suspends the requirements of §59-19-250 which requires the consent of a governing board of a county in order for school trustees to sell or lease school property.

Proviso 27.1: In order to receive the Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment, local library support may not be less than the amount actually expended for library operations from local sources in the second preceding year. The minimum allotment of local library support under this proviso is $75,000.

*Proviso 33.9: This proviso requires the governing authority of each county to provide office space and facility service, in the same manner as they do for DSS pursuant to §43-3-65, for DHHS employees who determine Medicaid eligibility. Section 43-3-65 requires the governing authorities of each county to provide office space and facility service, including janitorial, utility and telephone services, and related supplies, for its county DSS. This proviso was amended this year to require, by November 1, the Director of the DHHS to provide the governing authority and the legislative delegation of each county with information on the condition of space furnished for this purpose and shall specifically identify any known deficiencies with respect to the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). By May 1, the governing authority of any county with an identified ADA-related must report to its legislative delegation and the Director on its progress in correcting such deficiency.

Proviso 34.6: Each county is required to provide all operating expenses of the local health department other than salaries, fringe benefits, and travel in an amount at least equal to that appropriated for operations for each county in FY 1981. A reduction in the local health department funding level may be made in the event any county makes uniform reductions in appropriations to all agencies or departments for maintenance and operations.

Proviso 34.30: If funds are made available to DHEC for beach renourishment and maintenance, they may spend up to $100,000 to support annual beach profile monitoring. Additional excess
funds for beach renourishment may be spent for beach renourishment activities that advance the policy goals contained in the State Beachfront Management Plan, R.30-21.

*Proviso 34.61: This proviso directs that funds in each county's Hazardous Waste Fund County Account must be released by the State Treasurer, upon the written request of a majority of the county's legislative delegation representing the economically depressed area of the county, to be used for infrastructure within the economically depressed area of that county. "Infrastructure" includes improvements for water, sewer, gas, steam, electric energy, communication and other ancillary services that may be made to a building or land which are considered necessary, suitable, or useful to an eligible project that has a documented impact on economic development.

Proviso 47.3: This proviso directs that a proportionate share of funds, at $15,000 per district, be allocated to each of the state's 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts for general assistance to the district's programs. Any available funding above $15,000 for each district will be apportioned by DNR based upon local needs and priorities as determined by the board. During the fiscal year, the districts' funding may only be reduced in an amount not to exceed the percentage of each agency's budget reduction. No district shall receive any funds under this provision unless the county or counties where the district is located appropriated at least $300 to the district for the same purposes.

Proviso 50.13: This proviso appropriates $5 million to the Department of Commerce for Regional Economic Development Organizations. It allows any unexpended, unallocated, or undistributed funds appropriated in prior fiscal years to be made available to other Regional Economic Development Organizations. If more than one alliance applies for the same funds, the funds will be distributed pro rata.

Proviso 54.5: The Rural Infrastructure Authority shall use the funds allocated for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund to assist qualified infrastructure projects not eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. The authority will utilize the same procedures and guidelines established for the Rural Infrastructure Fund to select qualified projects for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund.

Proviso 57.2: Counties are required to provide each circuit court and family court judge residing within that county an office including utilities and a private telephone and requires counties to provide the same for Supreme Court Justices and Judges of the Court of Appeals upon their request.
Proviso 58.2: Counties are required to provide for each Administrative Law Judge residing within that county, upon their request, an office within the existing physical facilities if space is available, including all utilities and a private telephone.

Proviso 60.5: Amounts appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for solicitors' offices are in addition to any amounts presently being provided by the county for these services and may not be used to supplant funding already allocated for such services. If a county reduces the amount of support provided to solicitors' offices below the level provided in the prior fiscal year, the Solicitor shall notify the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee of the amount of such reduced support.

Proviso 60.8: States that amounts appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for victim assistance programs in solicitors' offices are in addition to amounts presently being provided by the county for these services and may not be used to supplant funding already allocated for such services.

Proviso 61.1: No county shall be permitted to contribute less money for indigent defense than the amount the county contributed in the prior fiscal year and not less than was contributed as of July 1, 2001.

Proviso 61.7: This proviso requires a person applying for a court appointed attorney in a termination of parental rights (TPR), abuse and neglect, or other civil court action to pay a $40 application fee. The Clerk of Court or other appropriate official is required to collect the application fee and remit the proceeds to the Commission on Indigent Defense on a monthly basis.

Proviso 61.12: If a municipality has or elects to have an optional municipal court system, it must provide adequate funds for representation of indigents. No public defender shall be appointed in any such court unless the municipality and the office of the circuit public defender have reached an agreement for indigent representation and no funds allocated to the commission shall be used to provide compensation for appointed counsel in municipal courts.

Proviso 62.17: SLED may charge a fee of $8 for a criminal record search for local park and recreation volunteers through a commission, municipality, or county.

Proviso 62.21: SLED may use funds appropriated for Meth Lab Clean Up for the development and implementation of a statewide electronic mandatory reporting system for municipal, county and state governmental entities to report information pertaining to the discovery or seizure of methamphetamine laboratories and dumpsites.
Proviso 62.22: A municipal, county, or state governmental entity is required to report to SLED within 3 days upon finding or seizing a methamphetamine laboratory or dumpsite. If an entity fails to report this information to SLED they are ineligible to receive public safety grants that are funded through the S.C. Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Proviso 62.23: The General Assembly allocated $500,000 to "First Responder PTSD Treatment." SLED is to receive 50% for the S.C. Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP) to reimburse law enforcement officers who incur mental injury as a result of a critical incident during the scope of employment for actual out of pocket expenses not covered through workers' compensation claims and/or other insurance, and can also be utilized to provide services through SCLEAP. The State Firefighters Association is to receive the other 50% for the S.C. Firefighter Assistance Support Team to reimburse firefighters and emergency medical technicians for the same purpose.

Proviso 65.19: This proviso is intended to provide funding to expand the capabilities of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to more expeditiously accept and process newly sentenced inmates who are awaiting transfer from local jails. $1.9 million was placed in the budget to expand the R&E centers at the Kirkland and MacDougall Housing Units. This proviso is intended to provide a solution to DOC not accepting its prisoners from local jails in a timely manner and it recognizes that DOC must comply with its statutory obligations.

Proviso 65.24: Prior to this proviso, local jails were required to transport inmates sentenced to time served (in excess of 90 days) to DOC so they can be booked into DOC's system prior to release. This proviso allows counties, through a written agreement with DOC, to transmit the booking records to DOC electronically so that inmates sentenced to time served may be released directly from the local jail. DOC employees assigned to the court are to perform the DNA sampling required for all felonies. The $250 DNA fee required of these inmates shall be collected in the same manner as other fines and fees and submitted to the State Treasurer for remittance to SLED.

Proviso 84.11: This proviso requires DOT to maintain the project priority list on its website.

Proviso 84.12: No more than 20% of the funds sent to CTC's may be utilized for ancillary initiatives that improve the areas adjacent to roads under their jurisdiction for economic development or safety purposes. Ancillary initiatives may include, but are not limited to, drainage improvements, signage, lighting, sidewalks and other safety or economic development related projects.

*Note: Proviso 84.12 was vetoed by the governor on June 12, 2017. Until the General Assembly overrides the veto, the terms of this proviso are not effective.
Proviso 93.19: The Department of Administration (DOA) is to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. DOA is to establish the level of required match each year based on the funding provided.

Proviso 93.27: A county or municipality may retain carry forward victim service fine and fee funds, but no more than the greater of $25,000 or 10% of funds collected in the prior fiscal year. If a county or municipality does not spend at least 90% of these funds during the fiscal year that the funds are received then they are to remit any unspent funds that are greater than the allowed carried forward funds, to the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year. All funds must be accounted for in the annual audit for each county or municipality. SOVA shall offer training and technical assistance to each municipality and county annually on acceptable use of both priority one and priority two funds and funds available for competitive bid.

Proviso 98.9: If the State Treasurer receives an audit report from a county that contains a significant finding related to court fine reports to the State Treasurers Office, the requirements of proviso 117.51 shall be followed if an amount due is specified. Proviso 117.51 is the assessment audit proviso. The requirements of 117.51 are as follows:

"If the error is determined to have been made by the county or municipal treasurer's office, the State Auditor shall notify the State Office of Victim Assistance for the crime victim portion and the chief administrator of the county or municipality of the findings and, if full payment has not been made by the county or municipality within ninety days of the audit notification, the State Treasurer is directed to adjust the authority's aid to subdivisions funding in an amount equal to the amount determined by the State Auditor to be the state's portion. . . ."

If an amount due is not specified, proviso 98.9 authorizes the State Treasurer to withhold 25% of all state payments to the county until the estimated deficiency has been satisfied. Additionally, the proviso states that if a county is more than 90 days delinquent in remitting monthly court fines, the State Treasurer shall withhold 25% of state funding for that county until all monthly reports are current. After 90 days, the funds being held by the Treasurer's Office will be made available to the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the entity for determining an amount due, if any.

*Proviso 101.2: This proviso which sets the per diem for managers and clerks of state and county elections was amended to increase the per diem from $60 to $75.00 for a day of work. The per diem for training and paperwork remains at $60.00.
Proviso 101.7: County Board of Voter Registration and County Election Commissioners are to receive a common curriculum on the duties and responsibilities of such boards and commissions. The State Election Commission must withhold the stipend of members if they do not complete the training and certification program or fail to complete at least one training course in a year. Additionally, the commission shall make the courses available in various locations including the upstate, coastal, and midlands areas of the state.

Proviso 101.8: If a county submits a request for reimbursement of election expenses through any means other than the Voter Registration and Election Management System, the State Election Commission may deduct a penalty of 10% of the amount submitted.

Proviso 102.2: Counties and municipalities are required to release GIS data to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office in order to assist in election file merges. Counties that do not release GIS data may have 10% of state aid payments withheld until the data is provided. GIS data includes, but is not limited to, road centerlines; orthophotography; parcel boundaries; address points; political boundaries; and administrative boundaries.

Proviso 102.5: The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office is to ensure that any new plans or proposed amendments to existing E911 plans maintain comprehensive coverage for the full Public Safety Answering Points area as well as improve cost effectiveness. The proviso further states that no new plans or amendments may be considered by Revenue and Fiscal Affairs that do not include the written agreement of all jurisdictions affected by the new plan or proposed change.

*Proviso 102.8: This proviso authorizes the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office to use up to $150,000 of the funds from the 58.2 percent compliance cost portion of the wireless 9-1-1 fund for costs associated with the further planning, development, and implementation of the comprehensive statewide NG9-1-1 system as outlined in the South Carolina NG9-1-1 strategic plan.

Proviso 105.4: Section 14-1-210 allocates $250,000 to the State Auditor to conduct audits of county and city fine money collections. This proviso requires the State Auditor to perform a minimum of 15 of these audits annually. The State Auditor may contract with CPA or Accounting firms to conduct the audits.

Proviso 108.1: If a county is participating in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan, magistrates and their eligible dependents are eligible to participate in the State Health and Dental Insurance Plan, upon the magistrate paying the full premium costs as determined by the Public Employee Benefit Authority.
Proviso 108.6: The General Assembly adopted a 3.3% employer premium increase to the State Health Plan with no increase on the employee side. There is no increase in the employee co-pay under the plan.

Proviso 113.3: This proviso, which provides for the salary supplements for Clerks of Court, Probate Judges, Coroners, Sheriffs, Registers of Deeds, Auditors, and Treasurers, states that a county can reduce the expenditures in the operation of these officials' offices, after consultation with the officer, without any required corresponding reduction in the county's state aid to subdivisions distribution. This proviso also exempts the salary supplements for Clerks of Court, Probate Judges, Sheriffs, Registers of Deeds, Coroners, Auditors, and Treasurers from across the board cuts mandated by the Budget and Control Board or General Assembly.

Proviso 113.4: Counties are required to provide office space and appropriations for the operation of the county legislative delegation office in the amount determined by the legislative delegation. If a county council fails to appropriate the demanded funding level, then the shortfall must be deducted from the county’s aid to subdivisions allocation and an additional 25% of the remaining Aid to Subdivisions allotment must be forwarded to the legislative delegation for its "administrative costs."

Proviso 113.5: This proviso suspends §§6-27-30 and 6-27-50. Section 6-27-30 requires 4.5% of general fund revenues of the latest completed fiscal year be appropriated to the Local Government Fund (LGF). Section 6-27-50 states that the Aid to Subdivisions Act, which includes the LGF, may not be amended or repealed except in separate legislation solely for that purpose.

Proviso 113.6: Any appropriation made by a county or city to an entity must appear as a separate and distinct line item in the budget. The proviso requires the county or city to require any entity that receives an appropriation from the local government to provide a detailed description of the purposes for which the appropriation was used. This proviso also states that a political subdivision may not accept any funds from organizations as defined in Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations in 1992 at its Conference on Environment and Development, without posting certain information regarding the funding on the political subdivision's website for 10 days.

*Proviso 113.7: A political subdivision receiving aid from the LGF may reduce its support to any state mandated program or requirement by up to a percentage equal to the percentage reduction in the actual amount appropriated to the LGF as compared to the amount required to be appropriated pursuant to §6-27-30. Excluded from reductions are Administrative Law Judges and their offices, Court of Appeals and their offices, Circuit and Family Courts and their offices, Magistrates and their offices, Masters in Equity and their offices, Probate Courts and their offices, Public Defenders and their offices, Solicitors
and their offices, and the Supreme Court and their offices. The proviso was amended this year to also exclude the assessment for indigent medical care pursuant to Section 44-6-146 of the 1976 Code.

Proviso 113.8: A county shall have its portion of LGF withheld if the county imposes any additional requirements for an agricultural use exemption for a landowner's timberland beyond what is required by §12-43-230(a) and §12-43-232.

Proviso 117.20: The mileage reimbursement rate for state employees is the current rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Proviso 117.51: This proviso is the assessment audit proviso, partially explained in Proviso 97.7 above. This proviso authorizes the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) to perform an audit on any entity that receives victim assistance money, to ensure that victim fine money is spent in accordance with the statute. The proviso states that guidelines for the expenditure of funds shall be developed by the Victims Services Coordinating Council. However, the proviso further states that the council shall develop these guidelines "to ensure any expenditure which meets the parameters of Title 16, Article 15 is an allowable expense."

Proviso 117.87: If a state or local government employee is personally sued for civil conspiracy based in part upon a personnel or employment action or decision, the court must, prior to trial, make a final determination whether the action was made by the employee within the scope of their official duty. If the court finds that the government employee was acting outside the scope of their official duty, then the government must not expend funds to defend the claim. If the court finds the government employee was acting within the scope of their official duty, the employee is immune from suit, liability, and damages with respect to the civil conspiracy claim.

Proviso 117.100: This proviso prohibits the use of taxpayer funds received from the LGF to compensate employees for lobbying activities engaged in on behalf of such governmental entity.

Proviso 117.101: This proviso prohibits the assessment of S.C. Development Impact Fees on the construction of new elementary, middle, or secondary schools. If a governmental entity violates this prohibition it shall have its Aid to Subdivisions allocation reduced by the amount of the impact fee.

Proviso 117.103: Counties are authorized to enter into MOU's to provide recreational activities and projects that benefit the citizens of the respective counties.

Proviso 117.106: An agency of this State, including counties, must disclose any breach of the security of any computer or data system following discovery or notification of the breach, to the
person whose information was acquired by an unauthorized person. The notification may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification impedes a criminal investigation and must be made after the law enforcement agency determines that it no longer compromises the investigation. A delay in notification shall not exceed 72 hours after discovery, unless the agency requests and the Attorney General grants, in writing, additional delays of up to 72 hours each.

Proviso 117.108: If a county or city fails to remit fine and fee money for two consecutive months in a fiscal year, or if the finance director fails to certify by July 1 that the county and/or city has remitted all funds, the Criminal Justice Academy may withhold services to the political subdivision.

*Proviso 117.116: State employees are given a 0% salary increase.*

Proviso 117.118: No state funds shall be expended to assist in the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program unless the county council of the county where the resettlement is to occur approves the relocation.

Proviso 117.132: This proviso states that The General Reserve Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Debt service, the Local Government Fund, and Tax Relief Trust Fund shall be excluded from the calculation of any across the board base reduction mandated by the Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office or the General Assembly and shall not be subject to any such reduction.

*Proviso 117.138: This proviso states that any improvements made to real property or personal property used as a residence, such as a mobile home or manufactured housing unit, damaged during the catastrophic weather event in October 2015 or Hurricane Matthew of 2016, after the event and before June 30, 2018, is not considered an improvement and does not require a re-appraisal. This provision only applies if as a result of the catastrophic weather event, the improvements made to the property were funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery program. This provision also applies if, at the discretion of the county and using qualifications determined by the county, the improvements were made with the assistance of a volunteer organization active in disaster, or a similar volunteer organization. The property tax value of these properties shall remain the same unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs. No refund is allowed on account of values adjusted as provided in this provision.*

*Proviso 117.142: This proviso directs the Commission on Indigent Defense and the Judicial Department Court Administration Program to consult with the Summary Court*
Judges' Association and Clerks of Court Association on issues regarding the screening of applicants for indigent defense representation. Then they are to make recommendations to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding: requirements for applicants to verify their financial status, supporting documentation that should be required of all applicants, who should conduct the screening, what resources are necessary to properly screen applicants and any other recommendations that will assist in ensuring only those applicants that are truly indigent qualify for the services of a public defender or other appointed counsel.

*Proviso 117.151: This proviso is intended to direct funding to offset some of the costs of the required local government employer retirement contribution. The proviso directs that funds appropriated to PEBA for the South Carolina Retirement System Trust Fund and the Police Officers' Retirement System Trust Fund shall be credited towards the contributions due from participating employers in SCRS and PORS for Fiscal Year 2017-18.

*Proviso 118.14: This proviso appropriates nonrecurring money from various sources. Included in this appropriation is:

- **Coastal Beach Renourishment - $5,000,000.** These funds are directed to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. They are directed to allocate the funds to local governments and state agencies for beach renourishment activities to repair damage caused by storm activity in 2015 and 2016 and to accelerate routine renourishment activities on beaches damaged by the storms. Local governments and state agencies are to apply for renourishment funds on a form and in the manner prescribed by the department and funds shall be allocated using a prioritization process developed by the department.

- **2014 Winter Storm Local Matching Funds - $1,677,193.** These funds are directed to eligible counties and municipalities to offset storm cleanup expenses associated with the 2014 Winter Storm during states of emergency declared by Executive Orders 2014-06 and 2014-11. A county or municipality is eligible for disbursement if the county or municipality was eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but was not reimbursed due to local match requirements. The amount reimbursed to each eligible county or municipality shall not exceed more than thirty-three percent of the county or municipality's remaining unreimbursed total non-federal aid share from the 2014 Winter Storm.
- DPS Local Law Enforcement Grants - $1,450,000. These funds are directed to counties and municipalities to offset storm cleanup expenses in the same manner as the 2014 Winter Storm Local Matching Funds discussed above.

ACT NO. 98

R. 129, H. 3721  EFFECTIVE DATE: SEE BELOW

This legislation appropriates money from the Capital Reserve Fund. Included in these appropriations are:

- Hurricane Matthew FEMA Match - $68,000,000
- Pinnacle Mountain Fire FEMA Match - $1,250,000
- 2014 Winter Storm Local Matching Funds - $3,322,807

$700,000 of the Hurricane Matthew FEMA match is to be distributed in a one-time pass through to the Town of Nichols for costs associated with damages caused by Hurricane Matthew.

The funds for 2014 Winter Storm Local Matching Funds are to be disbursed to eligible counties and municipalities to offset storm cleanup expenses associated with the 2014 Winter Storm during states of emergency declared by Executive Orders 2014-06 and 2014-11. A county or municipality is eligible for disbursement if the county or municipality was eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but was not reimbursed due to local match requirements.

The Capital Reserve fund legislation takes effect thirty days after the completion of FY2016-2017.
Appendix

The Acts below change the voting precincts for various counties as follows:

**ACT NO. 7**

R. 14, H. 3582  **EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 5, 2017**

This Act amends §7-7-270 by renaming four voting precincts in Georgetown County.

**ACT NO. 8**

R. 15, H. 3661  **EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 5, 2017**

This Act amends §7-7-130(B) by redesignating the voting precincts in Calhoun County.

**ACT NO. 9**

R. 16, H. 3803  **EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 5, 2017**

This Act amends §7-7-220 by redesignating the voting precincts in Dillon County.

**ACT NO. 26**

R. 45, H. 3936  **EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 9, 2017**

This Act amends §7-7-140 by redesignating the voting precincts in Charleston County.

**ACT NO. 58**

R. 91, S. 637  **EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2017**

This Act amends §7-7-490 to add and remove voting precincts and redesignate the precincts in Spartanburg County.
Act No. 59

R. 92, S. 651  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-120 by redesignating the voting precincts in Berkeley County.

Act No. 73

R. 109, H. 3667  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-480 by redesignating the voting precincts in Saluda County.

Act No. 82

R. 120, H. 4178  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-420 by redesignating the voting precincts in Newberry County.

Act No. 83

R. 121, H. 4179  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-30 by adding a voting precinct in Abbeville County.

Act No. 84

R. 122, H. 4183  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-190 by redesignating the voting precincts in Clarendon County.

Act No. 85

R. 123, H. 4204  Effective Date: May 19, 2017

This Act amends §7-7-290 by adding voting precincts in Greenwood County.
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