2019 End of Session Report

Community Associations Institute’s (CAI) South Carolina Legislative Action Committee (SC-LAC) was extremely busy this session of the General Assembly. CAI members volunteered hundreds of collective hours to review bills, draft testimony, work with the LAC’s lobbyists, meet with legislators and other decision-makers, and testify for and against bills. More than 2,440 bills were introduced during South Carolina’s 2019 Legislative Session. The SC-LAC reviewed 23 bills than directly or indirectly impacted community associations. Below are the highlights from the 2019 General Assembly:

Legislative Focus

The SC-LAC has been working on several fronts regarding the consequences of H-3886 that was passed last year. This is the bill that required community associations in the State of South Carolina to record their governing documents in the County Land Records, including a community’s rules and regulations. The legislation also authorized South Carolina’s Department of Consumer Affairs to collect statistics on complaints against community associations and complaints against Property Owners living in a Community Association. As the SC-LAC suspected the Department of Consumer Affairs took liberties with their data collection that we believe contained bias questions and exceeded the scope of the parameters set out in the legislation. The SC-LAC enlisted the assistance of Senator Davis to combat the over reach of the Department of Consumer Affairs. The SC-LAC has written to the Department of Consumer Affairs on several occasions this year and to Senator Davis’s to provide Senator Davis with the facts he needs to try and resolve our over reach concerns. These efforts have taken much time and political capital.

The Real Estate Sign bill, which the SC-LAC worked on to arrive at compromise language, which if inserted would have met the SC-LAC’s approval, did not move in time for the cross over deadline to the Senate. The SC-LAC also objected to a bill that would require every community association to submit their budget and financial statements monthly to the Department of Consumer Affairs. This bill was submitted late in the session and will not be taken up again until possibly 2020.

There seems to be no appetite for manager licensing at this time nor for amending or introducing a Uniform Act. Several states with manager licensing are looking at sunsetting their present licensing requirements as they view these programs as obstacles to individuals who are seeking employment and creates a regulatory burden on the State.

The SC-LAC worked with a variety of stake holders in 2018 and once again in 2019. These relationships properly cultivate will allow CAI to move legislation forward or oppose onerous legislation with a magnified voice.

For more information on the SC LAC’s activities and community association legislation in South Carolina, visit www.caionline.org/SCLAC.

Your Assistance is Needed

The CAI South Carolina LAC uses professional, paid lobbyists as a vital and integral part of the legislative process. As volunteers, CAI SC-LAC members significantly rely on this highly effective professional representation. To help fund the CAI SC-LAC advocacy activities in 2019 and beyond, donations are vital to our continued successes. We encourage
donations from South Carolina community associations and individuals. Please visit [www.caionline.org/lacdonate/](http://www.caionline.org/lacdonate/) and donate to “South Carolina” to support our continued efforts.

**South Carolina Contact Information**

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