Amendments to FOIA proposed

Two bills that would amend South Carolina’s Freedom of Information Act are moving forward in the House of Representatives’ judiciary committee.

House Bill 4740, proposed Tuesday, would exempt police from releasing information that could be used in law enforcement action or criminal prosecution, and would allow agencies to withhold information that would harm victims or witnesses.

The other proposal, H. 3235, picked up two sponsors Thursday. The bill would require the government to fulfill open records requests in 30 days, and would put a cap on the fees agencies can charge citizens in doing so.

The law enforcement exemption, H. 3199, would close a loophole that allows defense lawyers to unreasonably access police reports and court circuit processes, according to bill sponsors.

“I think that’s a splendid idea, because what you have here is attorneys who don’t want to go through the discovery process, so they get a result they don’t need and don’t need in the case to fill a FOIA,” Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, said. “This closes up a bad loophole.”

Taylor said he wasn’t sure how the amendments would affect journalists or the media’s coverage of crime, but he said it was an issue that would come up as debate over the bill continues.

Rep. Chip Huggins, R-Lexington, a sponsor of the bill, downplayed the effects of the proposed exemptions would have on news coverage and emphasized that the bill would protect citizens.

“I think the news is still going to be free,” he said.

Huggins added that the law, in its current form, allows for “dissemination of information where it’s being used in the wrong regard,” which he said is his reason for being a sponsor.

The bills detractors, including Jay Bender, an attorney for the South Carolina Press Association, disagreed.

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Potential officers highlight campaign promises

Students and supporters gathered on the Russell House patio Thursday evening to watch Student Government candidates debate.

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Mast General Store encourages shoppers to ‘be sweethearts’

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Scooter riders save on gas, parking expenses

Aston Jeffcoat

Some students have found a more maneuverable alternative to around campus, driving motorized scooters. Anytime you drive a car, you have to pay an additional fee to drive on USC campus. Also, many students have found a way to cut out gas and parking fees. A student with a license to drive, can drive a scooter on campus.

Students opt for mo-peds as cheaper way to travel across campus

DEBATE - Continued from 1st

Brian Beck and Iblake Mason, third-year international business student, also addressed the student Senate, between whom there was an occasionally intense exchange.

While Watts asked whether the senate would allow public preference in fund allocation to student groups, Beck and Mason disagreed. Beck said public approval was necessary for any student group, while Mason said he believed groups would have a voice if the senate followed the guidelines set by the current senate finance committee.

The debate then moved on to the idea of student Senate meeting minutes. Beck said the idea was a waste of time, while Mason said the minutes could be an opportunity to serve in senate.

Beck also addressed his relative position as the current treasurer candidate, addressing the fund allocation, and he said he did.
as well as the world, while also contributing monetary donations to help fight hunger. According to Garrick, 17 percent of South Carolina's population lives in poverty and one in six families go to bed hungry every night. “It’s important for us to be an active part of each local community and human services is one of our core areas,” said Deb Lazenby, community relations manager of Mast General Store. “And we thought, ‘Well, we have our candy, and it’s Valentine’s Day. Donations are kind of slow down this time of year after Christmas, and this is a great way to help them out.’”

Plus, the stores carry more than 500 types of old-fashioned and modern candies and chocolates that people can buy for the romantic occasion. “We’re known for candy, so we can only imagine how much we can provide for them,” said Jill Dortch, area manager for fashion of the Columbia Mast General Store. “We sell thousands of dollars worth of candy over a weekend, especially for Valentine’s.”

Although $1 may not seem like much, each donated to Harvest Hope can buy three meals, according to Dortch. “Fifteen dollars in the food bank will actually be able to feed a family for a week,” Lazenby said. “We’re also collecting change in our change jars to go to Harvest Hope Food Bank.”

All seven Mast General Store locations, including Columbia, are taking part in the event, each working with its own local food agency — Greenville, S.C., with Laurens and Fairfield-Ashville-Waynesville-Hendersonville, N.C., with MANNA FoodBank-Roanoke and Valle Crucis, N.C., with the Hunger Coalition, and Knoxville, Tenn., with Second Harvest. The Mast General Store is located in downtown Columbia at 3600 Main St. and is open Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. To find out more on how to volunteer and help fight hunger in South Carolina, visit harvesthope.com.

Comments on this story? Visit dailygamecock.com/news.
FOIA amendments close, open loopholes

Making their way to the state House of Representatives are two amendments to South Carolina’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that would, in different ways, change the process for submitting and following FOIA requests, and in particular, restrictions access requests on information that involve pending investigations in which a state agency is a party and / or there are witnesses or the victim. At first glance, these new bills appear to cover the same areas within FOIA legislation, but they have some key differences in the process that has become a capricious practice.

We couldn’t more strongly agree with the first bill. Agencies, when left to the vague reporting requirements in the current FOIA limit for FOIA requests, often brush journalists off, ignore public records requests, and keep things hidden, even from competing interest groups. Forcing organizations to participate in a process that is vague and difficult for the public is finally a sign that the law of the land is the law of the people, and not just falling victim to corruption and confusion in the second world. The intention of protecting vital public records is wonderful and common sense teaches us that this important concept serve to hide the truth better than just providing the public the right to ask. No professional news source would use information that they did not have the opportunity to obtain if one did, the repercussions — both professional and legal — would be significant. Understandable, this type of action gives us serious reservations concerning the direction of information freedom in South Carolina.
Band stays true to self with ‘Scars & Stories’

The Fray releases third album full of emotional, reflective tracks

Mary Cathryn Armstrong

THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Friday, February 10, 2012

The Fray is back — three years after its last, self-titled album — with an emotional, provocative and reflective collection of tracks that mirror the Colorado band’s tried, true and established chart-topping sound.

“Scars & Stories” is, as an album, just as wonderful as its name. It’s simple, understated and cool — it just as wonderful as its name. It’s true to itself and tells the band’s stories, complete with all of the little imperfections and end-all, be-all of love, repeating: “If you love someone, you love them all the same.” But, with backstory in mind, it’s a powerful piece. It’s a worldwide hit.

The Fray’s latest album, “Scars & Stories,” includes the single “Heartbeat.” The album was inspired by an impromptu trip to Europe that the band took prior to recording, grown from a stations staple — a real, honest and charged favorite. And it has a story that reaches far beyond the Malibu beach and weekend house parties — it’s a story that reaches far beyond the Malibu beach and weekend house parties, the rev and ending: “If you love someone, you love them all the same.” But, with backstory in mind, it’s a powerful piece. It’s a worldwide hit.

“The Fighter” follows up the main event — a real, honest and charged favorite. And it has a story that reaches far beyond the Malibu beach and weekend house parties — it’s a story that reaches far beyond the Malibu beach and weekend house parties, the rev and ending: “If you love someone, you love them all the same.” But, with backstory in mind, it’s a powerful piece. It’s a worldwide hit.

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Rev Run also advised students to remain open to new ideas, a concept he familiarized himself with after originally turning down ideas to collaborate with Aerosmith on “Walk This Way” or the Adidas sneakers he first described as “groove.” As for his thoughts on the current state of hip-hop, Rev Run said he is highly impressed with artists like Lil Wayne for putting out artists like Nicki Minaj and Adam Sandler want us to hate him even more?

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Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
10/2/12

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Sudoku
By The Megaph Group

THE FOREPLAY FLOP

Friday, February 10, 2012

THE SCENE

TODAY

FREETIME, REHABILITATION

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
3 p.m., $10
New Brookland Tavern
122 State St.

Hey Columbia!
Hey Columbia!

18 Alarm clock
20 Movie about a young music
24 Set-to
49 Chicago city
council mem.
59 Birthstones for Scorpios
62 Letters from the island at your choice of 13
cruise. Accommodations include: Round-trip luxury party
show, $5
66 Green Goblin, to
around SEALAB
69 Played for the 10th consecutive
time Front Desk Clerk
77 7 "12 Angry Men"
91 Home furnishings
98 Super Mario Brothers

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PT Lifeguard for indoor pool
pay $10 per hour.

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18 Alarm clock
20 Movie about a young music
24 Set-to
49 Chicago city
council mem.
59 Birthstones for Scorpios
62 Letters from the island at your choice of 13
cruise. Accommodations include: Round-trip luxury party
show, $5
66 Green Goblin, to
around SEALAB
69 Played for the 10th consecutive
time Front Desk Clerk
77 7 "12 Angry Men"
91 Home furnishings
98 Super Mario Brothers

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pay $10 per hour.

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Sudoku
By The Megaph Group

THE SCENE

TODAY

FREETIME, REHABILITATION

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
3 p.m., $10
New Brookland Tavern
122 State St.

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Gamecocks prepare for Arkansas

Razorbaciks 16-0 on home court

Kyle Rector
kyle.rector@dailygamecock.com

Despite four straight losses, South Carolina equestrian returns ranked No. 7 in the latest conference poll. Carolina has been strong in the competition so far, losing just four meets against No. 2 Georgia and Oklahoma State. The four-game skid that confronts the Gamecocks is their worst since falling to Tennessee-Martin.

“South Carolina is the best record amongst our conference,” Major said. “They are the only team that has been consistent with us all season. Our team is constantly improving and is competing well right now, despite their record.”

Equestrian expects improvement

Gamecocks travel to Tennessee-Martin

Cy Burkarth
chy@dailygamecock.com

The 2012 season will bring a lot of changes for the Gamecocks, including the departure of Ashley Chastain, who graduated last season. The team will have to adjust to the loss of her leadership.

“I think we have a lot of people who can step up and do a good job,” Major said. “We have a lot of depth on our team that will be able to step up and fill the void left by Ashley.”

Softball opens season

USC tern 2012 campaign with Palmetto Classic at home

Kyle Rector
kyle.rector@dailygamecock.com

The year before Beverly Smith took over as softball coach for South Carolina, the Gamecocks went 11-17 and fell to 3-7 in the SEC.

“I'm looking forward to this matchup,” Major said. “I am hoping we will be able to break the Gamecocks’ winning streak.”

Gamecocks are ranked No. 6 in the nation and are considered one of the top teams in the SEC. The Gamecocks will face Tennessee State in the Palmetto Classic, which will be played here at Carolina. The game will provide more than power for the Gamecocks.

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