FREEDOMINDEX.US

# Joseph M. Bustos

**South Carolina**

Representative, HD-112 (R)

**freedomindex.us/10621/**

**34**
**Lifetime Freedom Score**

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## 2026 SC Legislative Scorecard

### Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote

| | Vote |
|---|---|
| **1. H4756 Biological Sex** (Passed 77 to 31 on 4/15/2026). Requires public schools and colleges to designate multi-person restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters for use only by members of one sex. | YES ★ |
| **2. H4042 Ivermectin** (Passed 100 to 9 on 5/5/2026). Would allow adults aged 18 and older to purchase ivermectin intended for human use from a pharmacy without a prescription. | YES ★ |
| **3. S866 Municipal Sales Taxes** (Passed 96 to 16 on 5/13/2026). Allows certain municipalities to ask voters to approve a local sales tax of up to one percent. Estimated cost per household: **-$46.00/year.** | YES ✗ |
| **4. H4589 School Construction and Taxes** (Passed 91 to 14 on 5/14/2026). Expands the number of counties allowed to impose a local sales tax for school construction and other education-related capital improvements. Estimated cost per household: **-$18.00/year.** | YES ✗ |
| **5. H4476 Bahamas Trade Commission** (Passed 108 to 1 on 5/14/2026). Creates a 15-member South Carolina-Bahamas Trade Commission to promote ties between South Carolina and the Bahamas. | YES ✗ |
| **6. H3558 Con-Con Rules** (Passed 74 to 27 on 6/25/2026). Sets deceptive rules for selecting and overseeing South Carolina's delegates to a potential Article V convention. | NONE ? |

## Scorecard Votes: 40%

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# $294,056

**U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 22, 2026**

# Why do these votes matter?

### 1. Biological Sex

H4756 requires public schools and colleges to designate multi-person restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters for use only by members of one sex. The bill defines sex based on a person's biological sex at birth, and requires schools to provide reasonable accommodations, such as single-occupancy facilities, for students who do not want to use the facilities assigned to their sex. Schools that violate the act may face penalties, and students may sue if the law is violated.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives passed H4756 on April 15, 2026 by a vote of 77 to 31. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because individuals have a right—which government has a duty to protect—to shield themselves and their children from obscene, indecent, or profane activity. These rights are retained under the 9th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Left is promoting radical, Marxist ideas, including the notion that people can choose any gender or pronouns and identify as transgender.

### 2. Ivermectin

H4042 would allow adults aged 18 and older to purchase ivermectin approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and intended for human use from a pharmacy without a prescription. Pharmacists would be required to provide health and safety information, screen for contraindications and drug interactions, and could refuse to dispense the medication when they believe it could endanger the patient.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives passed H4042 on May 5, 2026 by a vote of 100 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill advances medical freedom. Although the measure still relies upon approval from the FDA—an unconstitutional federal agency exercising powers not delegated by Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution—it reduces government interference in personal healthcare decisions. Individuals should be free to evaluate available treatments and make informed decisions about their own bodies. The right to bodily autonomy is essential to liberty, and H4042 is a step toward reestablishing that principle.

### 3. Municipal Sales Taxes

S866 allows certain municipalities to ask voters to approve a local sales tax of up to one percent. At least 20 percent of the revenue must be used to reduce property taxes on owner-occupied homes, and the remainder may be used for specified municipal projects. The bill establishes procedures for approving, collecting, and administering the tax and calculating the property-tax credits.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives passed S866 on May 13, 2026 by a vote of 96 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill does not provide genuine tax relief, but instead authorizes municipalities to increase one tax in exchange for reducing another. The sales tax would allow municipal governments to spend even more taxpayer money on projects and activities that are not proper functions of government. Furthermore, the property-tax credits favor certain property owners over others, allowing government to pick winners and losers through the tax code rather than treating all property owners equally.

### 4. School Construction and Taxes

H4589 expands the number of counties allowed to impose a local sales tax for school construction and other education-related capital improvements. In qualifying two-district counties, 10 percent of the revenue must be used to reduce property taxes associated with school-bond debt.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives passed H4589 on May 14, 2026 by a vote of 91 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands taxation and government control over education—a responsibility that properly belongs to parents and families, not the state. H4589 directs more taxpayer money into a state-controlled education monopoly that crowds out private schools, homeschooling, and other independent alternatives. Although dedicating a small portion of the revenue to property-tax relief may appear beneficial, it merely shifts part of the burden from one coercive tax to another while leaving the underlying school-bond debt, property taxes, and government spending intact.

### 5. Bahamas Trade Commission

H4476 creates a 15-member South Carolina-Bahamas Trade Commission to promote trade, investment, business partnerships, academic exchanges, and infrastructure investment between South Carolina and the Bahamas. The commission must submit annual recommendations to the governor and Legislature.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives passed H4476 on May 14, 2026 by a vote of 108 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this state-level trade commission between South Carolina and the Bahamas risks undermining state and national sovereignty by creating a technocratic sub-federal globalist forum for influencing international trade, investment, and infrastructure policy. Article I of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations" and specifies that "No State shall, without the Consent of Congress … enter into any Agreement or Compact with … a foreign Power." The Constitution was written to secure the interests of "ourselves and our Posterity," so South Carolina lawmakers should avoid entangling the state in international bodies and instead uphold American independence and a policy of America First.

### 6. Con-Con Rules

H3558 establishes a process for selecting, qualifying, and overseeing South Carolina's delegates to a potential Article V constitutional convention. It provides for seven commissioners and one alternate chosen by the Legislature, sets eligibility requirements (e.g., citizenship, residency, voter status, age, no recent felony or lobbying history), and requires an oath of office.

The South Carolina State House of Representatives overrode the governor's veto of H3558 on June 25, 2026 by a vote of 74 to 27. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill gives a false sense of security that an Article V convention can be controlled, even though delegates from other states would not be bound by South Carolina's rules and could propose sweeping changes—including a new constitution, as happened in 1787. Convention of States simulations in 2016 and 2023 produced amendments massively expanding federal power, spending, and control—the very abuses advocates claim they want to stop. A convention today would be a "Trojan horse" for leftists seeking to dismantle constitutional limits on government.