



Legislative Technology Agenda 2002

Objective:

To provide continuing funding for the South Carolina Technology Alliance to ensure that the work of the Alliance can be continued while South Carolina's "*future is being created through technology*". The Alliance will also assume responsible for monitoring and implementing the recommendation from the Governor's T3 initiative as well as the South Carolina Technology Initiative 2000.

Background:

The South Carolina Technology Alliance (SCTA) introduced the Governors' Technology Initiative 2000. Each member of the Senate and the House received personal copies for their use during the legislative session. There were numerous distractions during the last session. Many of these were of immense importance to our states future. During the off session months the SCTA team has met with numerous political, business and civic leaders to review the areas of technology development which critically important to our states future economic well-being. The SCTA team is meeting once again with leaders to work to get their agenda accepted and the need legislation drafted and passed during this year's session. We are requesting \$ 450,000 funding from the state to match the funds that have been invested by our technology leaders for our SCTA technology strategy.

Situation:

Other states have passed technology legislation that has leapfrogged them well past our state. They have passed legislation that established venture funds for growing high tech entrepreneurial businesses, created funding sources for their high tech initiatives that ensure our success as a high tech state.

Legislative Agenda:

- Create a special program and funding to be managed by the South Carolina Technology Alliance for the purpose of recruiting world-class researchers to our states research universities by establishing the Palmetto Eminent Scholars Program.
- Develop and implement state incentives for job-related education and training for small technology based firms. Provide state sponsored venture funds and provide matching funds for federal grants received for high tech business development and implement state incentives for companies and individuals that invest in qualifying start-up companies.
- Establish rural Technology Zones with high speed communications to promote the growth of small high entrepreneurial technology firms. Create Technology Villages across our state to ensure creative centers for our high tech entrepreneurs.
- Increase funding for our research universities and for our special schools training programs, while developing research and development initiatives that will provide the necessary infrastructure to attract new high-tech industries to South Carolina as well as support those who already reside here.
- SC TEC Tag Initiative, the South Carolina Technology Alliance wants to create a new official technology license tag for our state. Initially, the purpose of SC TEC Tag Initiative is to serve as a marketing tool to promote South Carolina as a great place for high-tech entrepreneurs.
- Amend legislation to allow university research personnel to benefit from commercialization on their ideas, while the universities would benefit from royalties, patents, and recognition.