

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

David Wesley Climer, and Carol Herring, Petitioners,

v.

Curtis M. Loftis, Jr., in his capacity as the State Treasurer of South Carolina, Respondent,

and

Thomas C. Alexander, in his official capacity as President of the South Carolina Senate; and G. Murrell Smith, Jr., in his official capacity as Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Intervenors-Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2025-001111

ORDER

On June 3, 2025, the South Carolina General Assembly passed the 2025-2026 Appropriations Act, which contained a provision that increased the "in-district compensation" for legislators to \$2,500 per month (the Proviso). *See H.B. 4025, Part 1A, §§ 91A, 91B, 126th Gen. Assemb. (S.C. 2025)*. Petitioners filed a petition for a writ of injunction in the Court's original jurisdiction, seeking to enjoin Curtis Loftis, Jr., in his official capacity as the South Carolina State Treasurer, from disbursing funds under the 2025-2026 Appropriations Act for the Proviso. Thomas Alexander, in his official capacity as President of the South Carolina Senate, and G. Murrell Smith, Jr., in his official capacity as Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, filed motions to intervene, which we granted. *See Climer v. Loftis, S.C. Sup. Ct. Order dated June 11, 2025.*

We have examined the standard elements needed for the issuance of a preliminary injunction: (1) immediate, irreparable harm without the injunction; (2) a likelihood of success on the merits; and (3) no adequate remedy at law. *Scratch Golf Co. v.*

Dunes W. Residential Golf Properties, Inc., 361 S.C. 117, 121, 603 S.E.2d 905, 908 (2004). We are persuaded that a *prima facie* showing of all elements has been established for the purposes of granting interim relief.

Therefore, the request for preliminary injunctive relief is granted. Respondent Loftis shall cease and desist from distributing any funds under the Proviso of the 2025-2026 Appropriations Act, pending further order. The Clerk of Court shall notify the parties of a briefing schedule.

John K. Hodge C.J.
John Cannon Jr. J.
Reagan J.
D. Franklin J.
Stephen W. Verdin J.

Columbia, South Carolina
June 25, 2025

cc:

Richard A. Harpootlian
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