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State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, says he plans to introduce an anti-abortion bill at a press conference on Jan. 13.

PHOTOS BY BELLA CARPENTIER/GREENVILLE NEWS

Two Upstate lawmakers propose anti-abortion bills

Bella Carpenter

Greenville News | USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

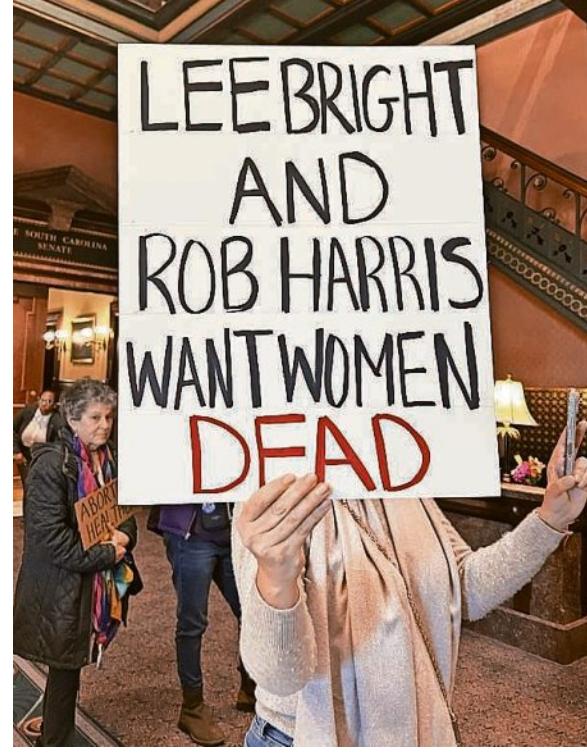
Two Upstate lawmakers stood in the second-floor lobby of the South Carolina statehouse hours before the start of the 2026 legislative session and introduced efforts seeking to ban abortion.

State Rep. Rob Harris, R-Spartanburg, and State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, spoke on Jan. 13, the first day of the legislative session, about abortion legislation each plan to sponsor.

Harris touted H.3537, a bill that he sponsored in the last legislative session that would amend the state law to expand the definition of "person" to include fetuses. The change would extend homicide and assault charges to cover abortions. The lawmaker said South Carolina's current fetal heartbeat law, which bans abortion after a heartbeat is detectable, is not enough to stop abortions in the state.

The bill will get a hearing at a noon meeting of the judiciary constitutional laws subcommittee on Jan. 14.

"Clearly, life begins at conception and should be protected from that point on," Harris said. "Understanding this desperate situation with no intention



Christine Simmons of Columbia carries a sign in opposition to anti-abortion bills.

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