Senators OK boat registration fee

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COLUMBIA — Budget writers will make it more expensive to own a car or boat as they try to fix South Carolina's recession-battered spending plan.

Senators on Thursday approved a $6 increase in registration fees for cars and were adding a $5 fee for all boats and watercraft.

The state funds in the budget have shrunk from $7 billion to $5 billion during the past couple of years. And on Wednesday, senators got word that they'd have cut $126 million after a paperwork bungle involving tax collections and soaring enrollment in Medicaid programs, mostly for poor children whose parents are out of work.

The Senate Finance Committee also reversed a House budget measure that would have barred abortion coverage under the state's health plan for victims of rape and incest.