

## Session 121 - (2015-2016)

**H\*3184 (Rat #0306, Act #0282 of 2016) General Bill, By Pope, Cole, Anderson, Bales, G.A. Brown, Burns, Finlay, Funderburk, Hart, Knight, Lucas, Murphy, Newton, Norman, Norrell, Putnam, Rivers, Southard, Spires, Tallon, Taylor, Wells, Williams, Willis, Bernstein, Long, Douglas, Henderson, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, McCoy, McKnight, Clary, M.S. McLeod, Thayer, W.J. McLeod, Weeks, J.E. Smith and Stavrinakis**

**Similar (S 0001, S 0014, S 0074, H 3185, H 3722)**

**Summary:** Ethics Reform Act

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-130, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO LEVY ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEES TO LEVY ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-310, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SO AS TO RECONSTITUTE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-320, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SO AS TO CITE ADDITIONAL LEGAL AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION TO INITIATE AND RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE FILER OF A GROUNDLESS COMPLAINT MAY BE ORDERED TO REIMBURSE THE COMMISSION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF THE COMPLAINT, TO AUTHORIZE COMMISSION STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN FACTS SUFFICIENCY DETERMINATIONS, TO REVISE THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE COMMISSION, UPON ITS OWN MOTION, MAY FILE A VERIFIED ETHICS COMPLAINT, TO REVISE THE COMMISSION'S REQUIRED ACTIONS AND TREATMENT OF COMPLAINT INFORMATION FOLLOWING A DISMISSAL OR A FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE, TO REVISE THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE COMMISSION DETERMINES PROBABLE CAUSE; TO PROVIDE THAT COMMISSION HEARINGS MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND TO REVISE THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE COMMISSION ISSUES FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS; BY ADDING SECTION 8-13-322 SO AS TO PROHIBIT ANYONE WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A PENDING ETHICS INVESTIGATION OR OPEN COMPLAINT FROM CONTACTING OR ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A MEMBER OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION OR A LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-530, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEES, SO AS TO REVISE THE COMMITTEES' FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEES TO REFER CERTAIN ETHICS COMPLAINTS TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION; BY ADDING SECTION 8-13-535 SO AS TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEES TO ISSUE FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-540, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEES CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS, SO AS TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR FORWARDING CERTAIN ETHICS COMPLAINTS TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FOR DISPOSITION AND TO MAKE OTHER CONFORMING CHANGES; AND TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-550, RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR SENATE, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE CONFIDENTIALITY EXCEPTION FOR PRIVATE REPRIMANDS. - ratified title

12/18/14	House	Prefiled
12/18/14	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary
01/13/15	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 137)
01/13/15	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 137)
01/21/15	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Thayer, W.J.McLeod
01/21/15	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 3)
01/22/15	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Weeks
01/22/15		Scrivener's error corrected
01/27/15	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: J.E.Smith, Stavrinakis
01/27/15	House	Requests for debate-Rep(s). Pope, Simrill, JE Smith, Felder, Norman, Delleney, Taylor, Hixon, Clary, Weeks, DC Moss, Hicks, Toole, Ballentine, Hiott, Corley, Hodges, Mack, Anderson, Cole, GA Brown, RL Brown, MS McLeod, Tallon, Bales, Crosby, Clyburn, Hosey, McEachern, Neal, Douglas, King, Gilliard, Forrester, Henegan, Jefferson (House Journal-page 33)
01/27/15	House	Debate adjourned until Wed. 1-28-15 (House Journal-page 38)
01/28/15	House	Amended (House Journal-page 25)
01/28/15	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 25)
01/28/15	House	Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 53)
01/29/15	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 19)

01/29/15	House	Roll call Yeas-102 Nays-1 (House Journal-page 21)
01/29/15	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 4)
01/29/15	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 4)
01/29/15		Scrivener's error corrected
02/03/16	Senate	Committee report: Majority favorable with amend., minority unfavorable Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 33)
02/25/16	Senate	Special order, set for February 25, 2016 (Senate Journal-page 30)
04/05/16	Senate	Committee Amendment Amended (Senate Journal-page 58)
04/05/16	Senate	Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 58)
04/06/16	Senate	Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 39)
04/07/16	Senate	Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 50)
04/13/16	Senate	Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 39)
04/26/16	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 95)
04/26/16	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 95)
04/27/16	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 96)
04/27/16	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 96)
04/27/16	Senate	Roll call Ayes-38 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 96)
04/28/16		Scrivener's error corrected
04/29/16		Scrivener's error corrected
05/04/16	House	Debate adjourned until Tues., 5-17-16 (House Journal-page 18)
05/18/16	House	Debate adjourned until Thur., 5-19-16 (House Journal-page 67)
05/19/16	House	Senate amendment amended (House Journal-page 27)
05/19/16	House	Roll call Yeas-101 Nays-2 (House Journal-page 49)
05/25/16	Senate	Non-concurrence in House amendment (Senate Journal-page 14)
05/26/16	House	House insists upon amendment and conference committee appointed Reps. Pope, GM Smith, Norrell (House Journal-page 2)
05/26/16	Senate	Conference committee appointed L. Martin, Malloy, Campsen (Senate Journal-page 11)
06/15/16	House	Free conference powers granted (House Journal-page 190)
06/15/16	House	Roll call Yeas-92 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 190)
06/15/16	House	Free conference committee appointed Pope, GM Smith, Norrell (House Journal-page 191)
06/15/16	Senate	Free conference powers granted (Senate Journal-page 147)
06/15/16	Senate	Free conference committee appointed Larry Martin, Campsen, Malloy (Senate Journal-page 147)
06/15/16	Senate	Free conference report received and adopted (Senate Journal-page 147)
06/15/16	Senate	Roll call Ayes-41 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 147)
06/15/16	House	Free conference report adopted (House Journal-page 194)
06/15/16	House	Roll call Yeas-99 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 216)
06/15/16	Senate	Ordered enrolled for ratification
06/17/16		Ratified R 306
06/23/16		Signed By Governor
07/07/16		Effective date See Act for Effective Date
07/07/16		Act No. 282