**South Carolina General Assembly**

118th Session, 2009-2010

**S. 56**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Ford

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Introduced in the Senate on January 13, 2009

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Profanity

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/10/2008 Senate Prefiled

12/10/2008 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/13/2009 Senate Introduced and read first time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑98

1/13/2009 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑98

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/10/2008](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\56_20081210.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑15‑370 SO AS TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO COMMUNICATE PROFANITY IN A PUBLIC FORUM OR PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION; BY ADDING SECTION 16‑15‑430 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF DISSEMINATING PROFANITY TO A MINOR AND PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR THE OFFENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 16‑15‑305, RELATING TO DISSEMINATING OBSCENITY, SO AS TO SPECIFY BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN PUBLICATIONS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 16‑15‑375, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF MORALITY AND DECENCY OFFENSES AGAINST MINORS, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE OFFENSE OF DISSEMINATING PROFANITY TO A MINOR.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 15, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑15‑370. (A) It is unlawful for a person in a public forum or place of public accommodation wilfully and knowingly to publish orally or in writing, exhibit, or otherwise make available material containing words, language, or actions of a profane, vulgar, lewd, lascivious, or indecent nature.

(B) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

SECTION 2. Article 3, Chapter 15, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑15‑430. (A) It is unlawful for a person to disseminate profanity to a minor if he wilfully and knowingly publishes orally or in writing, exhibits, or otherwise makes available material containing words, language, or actions of profane, vulgar, lewd, lascivious, or indecent nature.

(B) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

SECTION 3. Section 16‑15‑305(A)(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3) publishes orally or in writing, exhibits, or otherwise makes available anything obscene to ~~any~~ a group or individual; or”

SECTION 4. The first undesignated paragraph of Section 16‑15‑375 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“The following definitions apply to Section 16‑15‑385, disseminating or exhibiting to minors harmful material or performances; Section 16‑15‑387, employing a person under the age of eighteen years to appear in a state of sexually explicit nudity in a public place; Section 16‑15‑395, first degree sexual exploitation of a minor; Section 16‑15‑405, second degree sexual exploitation of a minor; Section 16‑15‑410, third degree sexual exploitation of a minor; Section 16‑15‑415, promoting prostitution of a minor; ~~and~~ Section 16‑15‑425, participating in prostitution of a minor; and Section 16‑15‑430, disseminating profanity to a minor.”

SECTION 5. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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