~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

RECALLED

May 6, 2010

**H. 4542**

Introduced by Reps. Harrison, Weeks and McLeod

S. Printed 5/6/10--S.

Read the first time April 21, 2010.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The State Ethics Commission indicates that the enactment of this bill will have no impact on the state general fund or on federal and/or other funds.

*Approved By:*

Harry Bell

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8‑13‑320, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROHIBITION OF THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION UNTIL FINAL DISPOSITION OF AN ETHICS INVESTIGATION AND REQUIRE THAT THE INFORMATION MAY NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL A FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE HAS BEEN MADE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8‑13‑320(10)(g) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 387 of 2006, is further amended to read:

“(g) All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential until ~~final disposition of a matter~~ a finding of probable cause or dismissal unless the respondent waives the right to confidentiality. The wilful release of confidential information before a finding of probable cause or dismissal is a misdemeanor, and ~~any~~ a person releasing ~~such~~ confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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