**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**S. 56**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Malloy

Document Path: l:\s-res\gm\033p.kmm.gm.docx

Introduced in the Senate on January 12, 2021

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

Summary: Law enforcement and public safety

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/9/2020 Senate Prefiled

12/9/2020 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/12/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 151](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

1/12/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 151](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=56&session=124&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/9/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\56_20201209.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, TITLE 23 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY, BY ADDING SECTION 23-1-250, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN STATEMENTS MADE DURING QUESTIONING OR INTERROGATION MUST BE AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDED, TO PROVIDE THAT A COURT MUST INSTRUCT A JURY THAT IT MAY DRAW AN ADVERSE INFERENCE FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO FAILS TO RECORD A STATEMENT, TO PROVIDE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PERSON’S STATEMENT MAY BE USED FOR IMPEACHMENT PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A STATEMENT OBTAINED IN ANOTHER STATE OR BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ADMISSIBLE IN THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE THAT AN INAUDIBLE PORTION OF A RECORDING DOES NOT RENDER IT INADMISSIBLE, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑1‑250. (A) For the purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Electronic recording’ means a video or audio recording, with a preference for video recording, if practicable, that is a complete, uninterrupted, accurate, and unaltered record of an interrogation.

(2) ‘Interrogation’ means any questioning by a law enforcement officer, in a place of detention, that is reasonably likely and intended to elicit incriminating responses, including circumstances in which a reasonable person in the subject’s or officer’s position would consider the subject to be a suspect or in custody. If the subject is in custody, then recording must begin when the subject should have been advised of his Miranda rights and end when questioning has completely finished.

(3) ‘Place of detention’ means a police station, sheriff’s office, courthouse, solicitor’s office, juvenile or adult correctional or holding facility, regional correctional center or county jail, building under the permanent control of a law enforcement agency at which a person is subjected to questioning or is in custody pursuant to the authority of a law enforcement officer, or police vehicle that is equipped with electronic recording equipment.

(4) ‘Reasonable exception’ means circumstances in which:

(a) a sworn affidavit was made that provides an explanation of why it was not practicable to electronically record a statement or why recording was not feasible because of exigent circumstances, to ensure an interrogating officer’s good faith adherence to the provisions required by this section to the extent possible under the circumstances. A law enforcement officer conducting a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation shall electronically, or in a sworn written affidavit, record an explanation of any exigent or impracticable circumstances before conducting the interrogation, if feasible, or as soon as practicable thereafter;

(b) the equipment to audio or video record a statement could not be reasonably obtained;

(c) a law enforcement officer who obtained a statement reasonably believed that the person being questioned or interrogated was not a suspect or that the subject matter of the questioning was not a crime;

(d) the equipment used to audio or video record the statement malfunctioned, despite reasonable maintenance of the equipment, and timely repair or replacement to accommodate recording was not feasible;

(e) a law enforcement officer who obtained a statement reasonably believed that the circumstances for which the person was being questioned or taken into custody was not a crime. However, a recording must be initiated immediately, if feasible, if an individual reveals facts and circumstances during a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation that gives the officer conducting the questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation reason to believe that a crime has been committed;

(f) a law enforcement officer conducting a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation; the officer’s superior; or the prosecutor subsequently and reasonably believes that the electronic recording would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or jeopardize the safety of an officer or other individual. In this circumstance, the prosecuting agency may move for an order of redaction or an order excusing the prosecution from the requirements of this section, and no jury instruction in that event is required; or

(g) a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation necessarily took place in a jurisdiction not subject to the laws of South Carolina or the statement was taken by a law enforcement officer under circumstances in which it was not reasonably likely that the statement would be used in prosecution for a violation of the criminal laws of this State.

(B) Any law enforcement officer conducting a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation of a criminal offense designated as a felony or a Class A misdemeanor shall be subject to the requirements contained in this section and shall make an electronic recording of the questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation in its entirety, as practical, to include an explanation of constitutional rights and a waiver of those rights.

(C) All statements made by a person during a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation must be presumed to fall within the electronic recording requirements of this section. The burden is upon the State to establish a reasonable explanation for noncompliance and to demonstrate the applicability of the enumerated exceptions or exigent circumstances.

(D) Except as provided in subsections (E), (F), and (G), if a law enforcement officer fails to comply with subsection (B), then a court shall instruct a jury that it may draw an adverse inference for the law enforcement officer’s failure to comply with subsection (B).

(E) A non-electronically recorded statement made during a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation may be used for the purpose of impeachment as long as it is shown that the statement was freely, knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently made and that there was no applicable reasonable exception excusing the law enforcement officer’s failure to electronically record the statement.

(F) If a law enforcement officer fails to comply with the provisions contained in subsection (B), then this failure does not bar the use of any evidence derived from a statement, if the court determines that the evidence is otherwise admissible.

(G) Any statement made during a questioning, interrogation, or custodial interrogation is admissible against a person in a criminal proceeding in this State if:

(1) the statement was obtained in another state and was obtained in compliance with the laws of that state; or

(2) the statement was obtained by a federal law enforcement officer in this State or another state, was obtained in compliance with the laws of the United States, and was not taken by a federal law enforcement officer in an attempt to circumvent this section.

(H) The existence of inaudible portions of a video recording that are not the result of bad faith by a law enforcement officer to produce an inaudible result, standing alone, shall not render a statement out of compliance with subsection (B), but this subsection shall not override a court’s discretion to admit or bar the admission of such video recording for any other grounds.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑