**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 5246**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Wetmore, Brittain, M.M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Hartnett, Leber, Gilliard, Bustos, Pendarvis, Jefferson, Landing and Garvin

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Introduced in the House on March 7, 2024

Introduced in the Senate on April 25, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Summary: State seabird

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/7/2024 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 12](h:\hj\20240307.docx))

3/7/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 12](h:\hj\20240307.docx))

4/17/2024 House Recalled from Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 10](h:\hj\20240417.docx))

4/23/2024 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 16](h:\hj\20240423.docx))

4/23/2024 House Roll call Yeas-104 Nays-0 ([House Journal‑page 17](h:\hj\20240423.docx))

4/24/2024 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 13](h:\hj\20240424.docx))

4/25/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 6](h:\sj\20240425.docx))

4/25/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Family and Veterans' Services** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](h:\sj\20240425.docx))

4/30/2024 Senate Polled out of committee **Family and Veterans' Services**

4/30/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Family and Veterans' Services**

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=5246&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/07/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/5246_20240307.docx)

[04/17/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/5246_20240417.docx)

[04/30/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/5246_20240430.docx)

Polled Out Of Committee

Majority Favorable

April 30, 2024

H. 5246

Introduced by Reps. Wetmore, Brittain, M. M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Hartnett, Leber, Gilliard, Bustos, Pendarvis, Jefferson, Landing and Garvin

S. Printed 04/30/24--S.

Read the first time April 25, 2024

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The committee on Senate Family and Veterans' Services

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 5246) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 1-1-612 so as to provide that the Black Skimmer is the official seabird of the State, etc., respectfully

Report:

Has polled the Bill out majority favorable.

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1-1-612 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE BLACK SKIMMER IS THE OFFICIAL SEABIRD OF THE STATE.

Whereas, the Black Skimmer is a medium‑sized specialized seabird that can be found in the coast zones of South Carolina year-round; and

Whereas, skimmers are distinctive and unique as the only birds in the world with a longer lower mandible than upper mandible; and

Whereas, the black skimmer demonstrates a feeding behavior that is considered one of the most graceful and picturesque of all seabirds; and

Whereas, the South Carolina State Wildlife Action Plan (2015) has listed the Black Skimmer as a Species of Highest Priority in need of conservation; and

Whereas, the Black Skimmer nests in superlative numbers on Crab Bank Island as well as other nesting islands inside Cape Romain NWR and has a history of relying on the SC Department of Natural Resources Seabird Sanctuary network of islands; and

Whereas, the Black Skimmer and the habitat it relies on and the threats affecting its population, is representative of many other coastal shorebirds and seabirds that are listed as state‑threatened and federally threatened and endangered; and

Whereas, Black Skimmers and other similar South Carolina coastal birds add to the unique and beautiful character of South Carolina, increasing quality of life. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Article 9, Chapter 1, Title 1 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 1-1-612. The Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) is the official seabird of the State.

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

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