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# JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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2025-2026 Session

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The House Judiciary Committee will meet on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 10:00am in Room 516** of the Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina. The Judiciary committee staff has attempted to contact the interested parties of all bills listed on the agenda for this meeting.

Written testimony may be emailed to [HJudComm@schouse.gov](mailto:HJudComm@schouse.gov).

## **CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **Favorable**

**H. 4758** – **Rep. W. Newton** - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION [46-55-5](#) SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER IS TO ENCOURAGE THE LAWFUL CULTIVATION, HARVESTING, AND MANUFACTURING OF HEMP; BY AMENDING SECTION [46-55-10](#), RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS, AND TO REVISE THE DEFINITIONS OF EXISTING TERMS; AND BY ADDING SECTIONS [46-55-70](#), [46-55-80](#), AND [46-55-90](#) SO AS TO REGULATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF CONSUMABLE HEMP, TO PROVIDE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, OR TO PROHIBIT THE LAWFUL POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, SALE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN CBD PRODUCTS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES.

### **Favorable**

**H. 4759 - Rep. W. Newton** - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION [46-55-5](#) SO AS TO PROVIDE A PURPOSE OF REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS; BY AMENDING SECTION [46-55-10](#), RELATING TO HEMP FARMING DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD DEFINITIONS FOR "CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCT" AND "INTOXICATING HEMP PRODUCT"; BY ADDING SECTION [46-55-70](#) SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF CERTAIN CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS; BY ADDING SECTION [46-55-80](#) SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT INTERSTATE COMMERCE IS NOT BEING LIMITED; AND BY ADDING CHAPTER 14 TO TITLE 61 SO AS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS RELATING TO INTOXICATING HEMP BEVERAGES, PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT, PROVIDE FOR INTOXICATING HEMP BEVERAGE PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSING AND TAXES.

**Favorable**

**S. 336 – Sen. Alexander** - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION [2-19-90](#), RELATING TO APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION, SO AS TO SET THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF March FOR THE ELECTIONS OF JUDGES BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

**Favorable**

**H. 4755 - Rep. Gatch** - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS [2-19-5](#), [2-19-20](#), [2-19-30](#), [2-19-35](#), [2-19-50](#), [2-19-60](#) AND [2-19-70](#), ALL RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION SCREENING AND ELECTION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES, SO AS TO REVISE THE STAFFING AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMISSION AND TRANSFER THAT AUTHORITY TO THE GOVERNOR, TO PROHIBIT SITTING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS FROM SERVING ON THE COMMISSION, TO PROHIBIT THE COMMISSION FROM CONSIDERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CRITERIA ALONG WITH OTHER SIMILAR CRITERIA, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS, BUSINESS, & PROBATE LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Favorable as Amended**

**H. 4145 – Rep. Bernstein** – A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "SOUTH CAROLINA PRAY SAFE ACT" BY ADDING SECTION [23-3-90](#) SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRAY SAFE GRANT PROGRAM WITHIN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE AT RISK OF BEING VICTIMS OF A RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED CRIME.

**Favorable**

**S. 477 – Sen. Davis** – A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION [40-43-210](#), RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A "SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVE" IN THE PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION; BY AMENDING SECTION [40-43-230](#), RELATING TO PHARMACISTS PERMITTED TO DISPENSE SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SO AS TO PROVIDE SUCH DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION [40-43-240](#), RELATING

TO WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS BY THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO AUTHORIZE PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES WITHOUT PATIENT-SPECIFIC WRITTEN ORDERS, SO AS TO INSTEAD PROVIDE THE DISPENSATIONS MAY BE MADE UNDER STANDING ORDERS OR WITHOUT STANDING ORDERS WHEN DISPENSED OR ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO CERTAIN WRITTEN JOINT PROTOCOLS.

#### **Favorable as Amended**

**S. 415 – Sen. Young** – A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION [63-7-20](#), RELATING TO CHILDREN'S CODE DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD THE TERM "LICENSED"; BY AMENDING SECTION [63-9-1110](#), RELATING TO ADOPTION BY A STEPPARENT OR RELATIVE, SO AS TO APPLY TO CHILDREN PLACED WITH RELATIVES OR FICTIVE KIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION; BY AMENDING SECTION [63-7-2320](#), RELATING TO THE KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PROGRAM, SO AS TO LOWER THE MINIMUM AGE OF A KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT FROM TWENTY-ONE TO EIGHTEEN AND TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO USE DIFFERENT STANDARDS WHEN LICENSING RELATIVES AND FICTIVE KIN; BY AMENDING SECTION [63-7-2350](#), RELATING TO RESTRICTIONS ON FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, OR LEGAL GUARDIAN PLACEMENTS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION [63-7-2400](#), RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN WHO MAY BE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME, SO AS TO REMOVE THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT LIMITATIONS FROM KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS.

### **CRIMINAL LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE**

#### **Favorable as Amended**

**S. 405 – Sen. Alexander** - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION [16-3-85](#), RELATING TO HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AGE OF A CHILD UNDER THIS SECTION FROM UNDER THE AGE OF ELEVEN TO UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

#### **Favorable**

**H. 3774 – Rep. J.E. Johnson** – A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION [42-1-560](#), RELATING TO THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR FILING A THIRD-PARTY ACTION IN A WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM, SO AS TO MAKE THE FILING OF A NOTICE FORM PERMISSIVE.

#### **Favorable**

**H. 4720 – Rep. Rose** - TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 17-22-50 AND 17-22-60, BOTH RELATING TO PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY, BOTH SO AS TO PROVIDE A PERSON MAY PARTICIPATE IN A PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM IF TWENTY YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE THE DATE OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM BY THE PERSON, RATHER THAN LIMITING ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION TO ONLY ONCE.

*This is not an exclusive list of bills to be discussed. The agenda is subject to change.*