

## Session 126 - (2025-2026)

### S\*0002 (Rat #0010, Act #0003 of 2025) General Bill, By Peeler, Alexander, Davis, Devine, Garrett, Turner, Jackson and Sutton

**Summary:** Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 12 TO TITLE 44 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMPRISED OF THE OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH, AND THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S POWERS, DUTIES, AND AUTHORITY; BY AMENDING SECTION 1-30-10, RELATING TO DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO ADD THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND TO REMOVE THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; BY AMENDING SECTION 8-17-370, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE STATE EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, SO AS TO EXEMPT THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND CERTAIN OTHER DEPARTMENT STAFF FROM THE STATE EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 44-20-30, 44-20-210, 44-20-220, 44-20-230, 44-20-240, AND 44-20-255, ALL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO INCLUDE DEFINITION REVISIONS, ELIMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMISSION, RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT AS THE OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND REASSIGNMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S DUTIES; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 44-49-10 AND 44-49-20, BOTH RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES BY RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT AS THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 44-9-10, 44-9-20, AND 44-9-30, ALL RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO INCLUDE RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT AS THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE DIRECTOR, AND ELIMINATING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH'S COMMISSION AND REASSIGNING THE COMMISSION'S DUTIES; BY ADDING SECTION 1-30-150 SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP AND EXECUTE A PLAN TO ENSURE SERVICES AND SUPPORT ARE PROVIDED, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR OF COMMUNITY LIVING INTEGRATION AND A HEALTH PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE; BY AMENDING SECTION 44-21-80, RELATING TO REGIONAL TERTIARY LEVEL DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION CENTERS, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT THE CENTERS PROVIDE NEURODEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION AND LIMITED TREATMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS UP TO TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE WHO HAVE CERTAIN SUSPECTED OR DIAGNOSED NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS; BY REPEALING SECTIONS 44-9-40 AND 44-9-50 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. - RATIFIED TITLE

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|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/11/24 | Senate | Prefiled                                                                                        |
| 12/11/24 | Senate | Referred to Committee on Medical Affairs                                                        |
| 01/14/25 | Senate | Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 23)                                         |
| 01/14/25 | Senate | Referred to Committee on Medical Affairs (Senate Journal-page 23)                               |
| 01/15/25 |        | Scrivener's error corrected                                                                     |
| 01/21/25 |        | Scrivener's error corrected                                                                     |
| 02/20/25 | Senate | Committee report: Favorable with amendment Medical Affairs (Senate Journal-page 10)             |
| 02/25/25 |        | Scrivener's error corrected                                                                     |
| 02/26/25 | Senate | Committee Amendment Adopted (Senate Journal-page 28)                                            |
| 02/26/25 | Senate | Read second time (Senate Journal-page 28)                                                       |
| 02/26/25 | Senate | Roll call Ayes-42 Nays-2 (Senate Journal-page 28)                                               |
| 02/27/25 |        | Scrivener's error corrected                                                                     |
| 02/27/25 | Senate | Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 11)                                      |
| 03/05/25 | House  | Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 5)                                           |
| 03/05/25 | House  | Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs (House Journal-page 5) |

04/03/25 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs (House Journal-page 4)  
04/08/25 Scrivener's error corrected  
04/09/25 House Amended (House Journal-page 30)  
04/09/25 House Read second time (House Journal-page 30)  
04/09/25 House Roll call Yeas-99 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 30)  
04/10/25 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments (House Journal-page 13)  
04/16/25 Senate Concurred in House amendment and enrolled (Senate Journal-page 50)  
04/16/25 Senate Roll call Ayes-40 Nays-2 (Senate Journal-page 50)  
04/24/25 Ratified R 10  
04/28/25 Signed By Governor  
05/07/25 Effective date 04/28/25  
05/07/25 Act No. 3