Session 126 - (2025-2026)

S*0415 (Rat #0103, Act #0099 of 2026) General Bill, By Young, Elliott, Sutton, Ott, Devine, Reichenbach and Zell

Summary: Child Welfare Caregivers

AN ACT 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. - RATIFIED TITLE

03/04/25	**Senate**	**Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 9)**
03/04/25	**Senate**	**Referred to Committee on Family and Veterans' Services (Senate Journal-page 9)**
03/26/25	**Senate**	**Committee report: Favorable Family and Veterans' Services (Senate Journal-page 15)**
03/28/25		**Scrivener's error corrected**
04/01/25	**Senate**	**Read second time (Senate Journal-page 26)**
04/01/25	**Senate**	**Roll call Ayes-45 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 26)**
04/02/25	**Senate**	**Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 9)**
04/03/25	**House**	**Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 27)**
04/03/25	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 27)**
02/03/26	**House**	**Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 6)**
02/05/26	**House**	**Amended (House Journal-page 27)**
02/05/26	**House**	**Read second time (House Journal-page 27)**
02/05/26	**House**	**Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 28)**
02/05/26	**House**	**Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day (House Journal-page 29)**
02/06/26	**House**	**Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments**
02/11/26	**Senate**	**Concurred in House amendment and enrolled**
02/25/26		**Ratified R 103**
02/27/26		**Signed By Governor**
03/05/26		**Effective date 02/27/26**
03/05/26		**Act No. 99**