

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

S 0723 General Bill, By Blackmon, Climer, Kennedy, Reichenbach, Rice, Zell, Garrett and Walker

Summary: CSAM penalties

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-395, RELATING TO FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PRESUMPTIONS; DEFENSES; PENALTIES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-405, RELATING TO SECOND DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PRESUMPTIONS; DEFENSES; PENALTIES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-410, RELATING TO THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PENALTIES; EXCEPTION, SO AS TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES BASED ON THE NUMBER OF IMAGES POSSESSED, INCLUDING A PENALTY OF UP TO TEN YEARS IF THERE ARE ONE TO TWENTY-FIVE IMAGES, ONE TO TEN YEARS IF THERE ARE TWENTY-SIX TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY IMAGES, AND A PENALTY OF TWO TO TEN YEARS IF THERE ARE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY IMAGES; AND TO ESTABLISH THAT A PERSON WHO IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER AND VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECTION, UPON CONVICTION, MUST SERVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 12/10/25 | Senate | Prefiled |
| 12/10/25 | Senate | Referred to Committee on Judiciary |
| 01/13/26 | Senate | Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 32) |
| 01/13/26 | Senate | Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 32) |
| 02/18/26 | Senate | Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 8) |
| 02/24/26 | Senate | Committee Amendment Adopted |
| 02/24/26 | Senate | Amended (Senate Journal-page 15) |
| 02/24/26 | Senate | Read second time (Senate Journal-page 15) |
| 02/24/26 | Senate | Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 15) |
| 02/25/26 | Senate | Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 15) |
| 02/26/26 | House | Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 16) |
| 02/26/26 | House | Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 16) |