

## Session 126 - (2025-2026)

**H 3530 General Bill, By W. Newton, Pope, Spann-Wilder, Cobb-Hunter, Bernstein, Vaughan, C. Mitchell, Robbins, T. Moore, Henderson-Myers, Gilliard and Williams**

**Summary:** Magistrates' Reform Act

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 2-19-115 SO AS TO REQUIRE CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE POSITIONS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER JUDICIAL CANDIDATES UPON VACANCIES, AND TO DEFINE WHEN VACANCIES OCCUR; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-1-10, RELATING TO APPOINTMENT, TERM AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF MAGISTRATES, SO AS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES AND LIMITATIONS ON MAGISTRATES' HOLDOVER STATUS AND TO REQUIRE MAGISTRATES GOING FORWARD TO HOLD A JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE AND BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-1-15, RELATING TO MAGISTRATES PRESENTLY SERVING, SO AS TO GRANDFATHER MAGISTRATES SERVING IN OFFICE ON JUNE 30, 2025; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-3-10, RELATING TO CIVIL JURISDICTION IN MAGISTRATES COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE CIVIL JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES COURT; BY AMENDING SECTION 22-3-550, RELATING TO CRIMINAL JURISDICTION IN MAGISTRATES COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES COURT; AND BY REPEALING SECTIONS 22-2-10 AND 22-2-15 RELATING TO A SCREENING COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF MAGISTRATES AND THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR NONPARTISAN SELECTION OF MAGISTRATES, RESPECTIVELY.

<b>12/05/24</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Prefiled</b>
<b>12/05/24</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Referred to Committee on Judiciary</b>
<b>01/14/25</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 235)</b>
<b>01/14/25</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 235)</b>
<b>01/28/25</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name removed as sponsor: Pedalino</b>
<b>01/29/25</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bernstein</b>
<b>01/29/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Vaughan</b>
<b>02/04/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: C.Mitchell, Robbins, T.Moore</b>
<b>02/05/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 5)</b>
<b>02/10/26</b>		<b>Scrivener's error corrected</b>
<b>02/11/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned until Thur., 2-12-26 (House Journal-page 15)</b>
<b>02/12/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned until Tues., 2-17-26 (House Journal-page 22)</b>
<b>02/17/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Henderson-Myers</b>
<b>02/17/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 13)</b>
<b>02/18/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 10)</b>
<b>02/19/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 22)</b>
<b>02/24/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned until Wed., 2-25-26 (House Journal-page 62)</b>
<b>02/24/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Gilliard</b>
<b>02/25/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Williams</b>
<b>02/25/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 21)</b>
<b>02/26/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 21)</b>
<b>03/03/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned until Tuesday, March 24. (House Journal-page 17)</b>
<b>03/24/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 47)</b>
<b>03/25/26</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Recommitted to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 29)</b>