

## Session 126 - (2025-2026)

### H 4604 General Bill, By Jones and Spann-Wilder

**Summary:** Merit and Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Act of 2026

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE "MERIT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2026"; AND BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-680 SO AS TO ENSURE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF DEI STRUCTURES AND RACE-CONSCIOUS CONSIDERATIONS, ADMISSIONS, HIRING, PROMOTION, AND RETENTION DECISIONS IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM ARE TRULY MERIT-BASED, TRANSPARENT, AND AUDITABLE.

**12/16/25 House Prefiled**

**12/16/25 House Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works**

**01/13/26 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 34)**

**01/13/26 House Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 34)**