

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H*4804 (Rat #0204, Act #0189 of 2026) General Bill, By T. Moore, Pope, White, Cromer, Edgerton, Burns, Beach, Morgan, Terrible, Pace, Kilmartin, Gilreath, Magnuson, Frank, McCravy, Hartz, D. Mitchell, Haddon, Willis, Vaughan, Pedalino, Chumley, Govan, Wickensimer, Lastinger, C. Mitchell, Yow, Guffey, Bowers, Ligon, Chapman, B. Newton, W. Newton, Forrest, Oremus and Gibson

Summary: Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, penalties

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-395, RELATING TO FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY FOR REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS WHO VIOLATE THE STATUTE; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-405, RELATING TO SECOND DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY FOR REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS WHO VIOLATE THE STATUTE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-410, RELATING TO THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR, 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 PROVIDE A MINIMUM PENALTY OF FIVE YEARS FOR A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER WHO VIOLATES THE STATUTE - RATIFIED TITLE

12/16/25	House	Prefiled
12/16/25	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary
01/13/26	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 95)
01/13/26	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 95)
01/20/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: White
01/28/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Cromer, Edgerton, Burns, Beach, Morgan, Terrible, Pace, Kilmartin, Gilreath, Magnuson, Frank, McCravy, Hartz, D.Mitchell, Haddon, Willis, Wickensimer, Vaughan, Pedalino, Chumley
02/05/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Govan
03/25/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Lastinger, C.Mitchell, Yow, Guffey
03/26/26	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 4)
03/31/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bowers, Ligon, Chapman, B.Newton, W.Newton, Forrest, Oremus, Gibson
03/31/26	House	Amended (House Journal-page 259)
03/31/26	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 259)
03/31/26	House	Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 262)
04/01/26	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 17)
04/01/26	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 19)
04/01/26	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 19)
04/29/26	Senate	Recalled from Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 6)
05/06/26	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 96)
05/06/26	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 96)
05/06/26	Senate	Roll call Ayes-42 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 96)
05/07/26	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 18)
05/13/26	House	Senate amendment amended (House Journal-page 174)
05/13/26	House	Returned to Senate with amendments (House Journal-page 174)
05/13/26	House	Roll call Yeas-111 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 179)
05/13/26	Senate	Concurred in House amendment and enrolled (Senate Journal-page 40)
05/14/26		Ratified R 204
05/18/26		Signed By Governor
06/02/26		Effective date 05/18/26
06/02/26		Act No. 189