

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H*4805 (Rat #0205, Act #0154 of 2026) General Bill, By W. Newton, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Pope, White, Robbins and Hart

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 14-5-610, RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO SIXTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, AND THE ELECTION OF AT-LARGE JUDGES WITHOUT REGARD TO COUNTY OR CIRCUIT OF RESIDENCE, SO AS TO CONVERT THREE AT-LARGE CIRCUIT COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS AND CREATE FOUR NEW JUDGESHIPS; BY AMENDING SECTION 63-3-40, RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF FAMILY COURT JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, SO AS TO CONVERT FOUR AT-LARGE FAMILY COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 9-8-60, RELATING TO RETIREMENT OF JUDGES, SOLICITORS, AND CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDERS, SO AS TO REQUIRE EIGHT YEARS OF EARNED SERVICE RATHER THAN TEN. - 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 96)
01/13/26	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 96)
01/20/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: White
03/31/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Robbins
03/31/26	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 210)
04/01/26	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hart
04/01/26	House	Amended (House Journal-page 22)
04/01/26	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 22)
04/01/26	House	Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 24)
04/02/26	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 37)
04/07/26	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 3)
04/07/26	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 3)
05/05/26	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 45)
05/05/26	Senate	Roll call Ayes-45 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 45)
05/06/26	Senate	Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal-page 82)
05/14/26		Ratified R 205
05/15/26		Signed By Governor
05/26/26		Effective date 05/15/26
05/26/26		Act No. 154