Session 126 - (2025-2026)

S*0062 (Rat #0027, Act #0011 of 2025) General Bill, By Hembree, Rice and Grooms

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-110, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS CONCERNING THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND, SO AS TO REVISE DEFINITIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-115, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES, SO AS PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING PRIORITY AND GENERAL APPLICATIONS, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN EXEMPTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDERS, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-120, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND, SO AS TO RECHARACTERIZE ITS CORPUS AND REVISE ITS USAGES, TO ESTABLISH A TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT FOR THE FUND AND TO PROVIDE THE QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEE, AND TO ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATION AMOUNTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-125, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND PAYMENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE IN MAKING SUCH PAYMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR TRUSTEE PAYMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE TERMS FOR A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TRUSTEE'S DUTIES, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-130, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY TERMINATION NOTICE REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO RESTATE THE SECTION; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-135, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPANT NUMBER LIMITATIONS, SO AS TO REVISE THE LIMITATIONS, ENABLE INCREASES, AND REMOVE A PERIODIC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND USE REVIEW REQUIREMENT; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-140, RELATING TO EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO INCLUDE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS, AND TO REMOVE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; BY AMENDING SECTION 58-8-145, RELATING TO MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO REMOVE A PROVISION ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTRACT WITH QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS FOR RELATED ASSISTANCE; BY ADDING SECTION 59-8-147 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM ON ITS INTERNET WEBSITE, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION PROCESS, AND TO PROVIDE A GRACE PERIOD FOR APPLICANTS TO CORRECT MINOR ERRORS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-150, RELATING TO EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO EXPAND EMPLOYEE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS, TO REVISE EMPLOYEE SURETY BOND REQUIREMENTS, TO REVISE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS, AND TO REMOVE A PROVISION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO PROMULGATE RELATED REGULATIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-160, RELATING TO THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND REVIEW PANEL, SO AS TO RESTATE THE SECTION; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-165, RELATING TO DISTRICT-LEVEL STUDENT TRANSFER POLICIES, SO AS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING LANGUAGE WITH PROVISIONS CONCERNING INTERDISTRICT TRANSFERS; BY AMENDING SECTION 59-8-170, RELATING TO AN EXEMPTION FROM HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS, SO AS TO MAKE THE PROVISION APPLICABLE TO SCHOLARSHIP AND NONSCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS, AND TO PROVIDE SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS ARE SUBJECT TO HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY RULES; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 59-150-350, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE LOTTERY FUNDING, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND. - RATIFIED TITLE

12/11/24	**Senate**	**Prefiled**
12/11/24	**Senate**	**Referred to Committee on Education**
01/14/25	**Senate**	**Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 54)**
01/14/25	**Senate**	**Referred to Committee on Education (Senate Journal-page 54)**
01/14/25	**Senate**	**Polled out of committee Education (Senate Journal-page 119)**
01/14/25	**Senate**	**Committee report: Favorable Education (Senate Journal-page 119)**
01/15/25	**Senate**	**Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 12)**
01/16/25	**Senate**	**Amended (Senate Journal-page 19)**
01/16/25	**Senate**	**Roll call Ayes-37 Nays-2 (Senate Journal-page 19)**
01/28/25	**Senate**	**Amended (Senate Journal-page 16)**
01/28/25	**Senate**	**Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 16)**
01/29/25	**Senate**	**Amended (Senate Journal-page 13)**
01/29/25	**Senate**	**Debate interrupted (Senate Journal-page 13)**
01/30/25		**Scrivener's error corrected**

01/30/25	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 10)
01/30/25	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 10)
01/30/25	Senate	Roll call Ayes-32 Nays-12 (Senate Journal-page 10)
01/31/25		Scrivener's error corrected
02/04/25	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 8)
02/04/25	Senate	Roll call Ayes-31 Nays-9 (Senate Journal-page 8)
02/04/25		Scrivener's error corrected
02/06/25	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 43)
02/06/25	House	Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 43)
02/20/25	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 34)
02/25/25	House	Requests for debate-Rep(s). Weeks, JL Johnson, King, Grant, Cobb-Hunter, Hewitt, Govan, McDaniel, Clyburn, Hosey, Whitmire, Hager, Bowers, JA Moore, Erickson, Rankin, Gilliam, Bauer, Bernstein, Spann-Wilder, Anderson, Wetmore (House Journal-page 32)
02/26/25	House	Amended (House Journal-page 31)
02/26/25	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 31)
02/26/25	House	Roll call Yeas-79 Nays-38 (House Journal-page 75)
02/27/25	House	Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments (House Journal-page 37)
02/27/25	House	Roll call Yeas-80 Nays-32 (House Journal-page 38)
04/16/25	Senate	House amendment amended (Senate Journal-page 55)
04/16/25	Senate	Roll call Ayes-29 Nays-13 (Senate Journal-page 55)
04/22/25		Scrivener's error corrected
04/23/25		Scrivener's error corrected
04/29/25	Senate	House amendment amended (Senate Journal-page 52)
04/29/25	Senate	Returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 52)
04/29/25		Scrivener's error corrected
05/01/25	House	Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled (House Journal-page 167)
05/01/25	House	Roll call Yeas-73 Nays-32 (House Journal-page 170)
05/06/25		Ratified R 27
05/07/25		Signed By Governor
05/12/25		Effective date See Act for Effective Date
05/12/25		Act No. 11