

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

S 0723 General Bill, By Blackmon, Climer, Kennedy, Reichenbach, Rice, Zell, Garrett and Walker

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-395, RELATING TO FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PRESUMPTIONS; DEFENSES; PENALTIES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT; BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-405, RELATING TO SECOND DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PRESUMPTIONS; DEFENSES; PENALTIES, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PENALTY TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-410, RELATING TO THIRD DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR DEFINED; PENALTIES; EXCEPTION, 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 ESTABLISH THAT A PERSON WHO IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER AND VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECTION, UPON CONVICTION, MUST SERVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS.

12/10/25	Senate	Prefiled
12/10/25	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary
01/13/26	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 32)
01/13/26	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 32)
02/18/26	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 8)
02/24/26	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted
02/24/26	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 15)
02/24/26	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 15)
02/24/26	Senate	Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 15)
02/25/26	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 15)
02/26/26	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 16)
02/26/26	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 16)