

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H 4804 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

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, 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, 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, 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 THIS SECTION, UPON CONVICTION, MUST SERVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS

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)