**South Carolina General Assembly**

118th Session, 2009-2010

**A6, R30, H3121**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. J.E. Smith, E.H. Pitts, T.R. Young, Hutto, M.A. Pitts, Allison and Parker

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Introduced in the House on January 13, 2009

Introduced in the Senate on March 3, 2009

Last Amended on February 26, 2009

Passed by the General Assembly on April 22, 2009

Governor's Action: May 6, 2009, Signed

Summary: Turtles

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/16/2008 House Prefiled

12/16/2008 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**

1/13/2009 House Introduced and read first time [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑56

1/13/2009 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑56

1/27/2009 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: T.R.Young

2/3/2009 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hutto

2/19/2009 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: M.A.Pitts

2/19/2009 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-19-09.docx)‑2

2/24/2009 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Allison, Parker

2/26/2009 House Debate adjourned [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-26-09.docx)‑119

2/26/2009 House Amended [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-26-09.docx)‑144

2/26/2009 House Read second time [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-26-09.docx)‑146

2/26/2009 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-26-09.docx)‑146

2/27/2009 House Read third time and sent to Senate [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\02-27-09.docx)‑2

3/3/2009 Senate Introduced and read first time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\03-03-09.docx)‑11

3/3/2009 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\03-03-09.docx)‑11

4/1/2009 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\04-01-09.docx)‑15

4/2/2009 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\04-02-09.docx)‑12

4/2/2009 Senate Read second time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\04-02-09.docx)‑12

4/6/2009 Scrivener's error corrected

4/14/2009 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\04-14-09.docx)‑36

4/22/2009 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\04-22-09.docx)‑50

4/22/2009 House Roll call Yeas‑95 Nays‑0 [HJ](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2009\04-22-09.docx)‑50

4/30/2009 Ratified R 30

5/6/2009 Signed By Governor

5/15/2009 Effective date 05/06/09

5/19/2009 Act No. 6

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/16/2008](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20081216.docx)

[2/19/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20090219.docx)

[2/26/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20090226.docx)

[4/1/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20090401.docx)

[4/2/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20090402.docx)

[4/6/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\3121_20090406.docx)

(A6, R30, H3121)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 50‑15‑75 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON OR A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING IN ONE VEHICLE TO REMOVE, OR ATTEMPT TO REMOVE, FROM THIS STATE MORE THAN A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CERTAIN NAMED SPECIES OF TURTLES, TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Removal of turtle species unlawful**

SECTION 1. Chapter 15, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑15‑75. (A) It is unlawful for a person, or a group of individuals traveling in one vehicle, to remove, or attempt to remove from this State more than ten, either in one species or a combination of species, of the named species of turtles at one time with a maximum of twenty turtles of these species, either individually or in combination in any one year: yellowbelly turtle (Trachemys scripta), Florida cooter (Pseudemys floridana), river cooter (Pseudemys concinna), chicken turtle (Deirochelys reticularia), eastern box turtle (Terrapene carolina), eastern painted turtle (Chrysemys picta), spiny softshell turtle (Apalone spinifera), Florida softshell turtle (Apalone ferox), and common snapping turtle (Chelydra serpentina).

(B) The provisions of this section do not prohibit the sale, offer for sale, or purchase of the yellowbelly turtle (Trachemys scripta) species and the common snapping turtle (Chelydra serpentina) species if these turtles were taken from a permitted aquaculture facility or a private pond pursuant to a permit issued by the department at the request of the owner or owner’s agent. Any person transporting more than ten yellowbelly turtle (Trachemys scripta) species or common snapping turtle (Chelydra serpentina) species must be in possession of a permit pursuant to which the turtles were taken or acquired and, upon request, must provide it to authorized agents of the department. A person selling, offering to sell, or purchasing these species must have documentation from the aquaculture facility as to the origin of the turtles. The department may charge twenty‑five dollars for a permit.

(C) A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished by a fine of up to two hundred dollars or up to thirty days in jail, or both. A violator also must have his permit permanently revoked and may never be issued another one. Each turtle removed or in possession of a person attempting to remove them is a separate violation of this section.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 30th day of April, 2009.

Approved the 6th day of May, 2009.

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