**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**H. 3669**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Harrison and Harrell

Document Path: l:\council\bills\agm\18687sd11.docx

Introduced in the House on February 15, 2011

Introduced in the Senate on March 15, 2011

Last Amended on March 10, 2011

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Attorney General must approve any civil action undertaken by a solicitor

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/15/2011 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\02-15-11.docx))

2/15/2011 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\02-15-11.docx))

3/9/2011 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 2](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-09-11.docx))

3/10/2011 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-10-11.docx))

3/10/2011 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-10-11.docx))

3/10/2011 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-10-11.docx))

3/11/2011 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 1](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\03-11-11.docx))

3/15/2011 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\03-15-11.docx))

3/15/2011 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\03-15-11.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/15/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3669_20110215.docx)

[3/9/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3669_20110309.docx)

[3/10/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3669_20110310.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

March 10, 2011

**H. 3669**

Introduced by Reps. Harrison and Harrell

S. Printed 3/10/11--H.

Read the first time February 15, 2011.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑7‑385 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MUST APPROVE ANY CIVIL ACTION UNDERTAKEN BY A SOLICITOR OF THIS STATE EITHER UNDER HIS OWN SIGNATURE IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OR BY OUTSIDE COUNSEL RETAINED AS PROVIDED BY LAW BY THE SOLICITOR IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 15‑3‑570, RELATING TO ACTIONS TO SECURE A PENALTY OR FORFEITURE BY A PRIVATE PARTY FOR A PENALTY OR FORFEITURE GIVEN TO THE PRIVATE PARTY, OR UPON FAILURE OF THE PRIVATE PARTY TO COMMENCE THE ACTION WITHIN THE TIME PRESCRIBED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE SOLICITOR OF THE CIRCUIT WHERE THE OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STATE, SO AS TO DELETE THE AUTHORITY OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE CIRCUIT WHERE THE OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED TO BRING THE ACTION.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 7, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑7‑385. Except in actions for forfeiture proceedings initiated by or pursuant to a seizure by a law enforcement agency, for estreatment of bail bonds, for nuisance actions pursuant to Chapter 43, Title 15, or in matters where the Attorney General’s approval is not required by law by specific exception to the provisions of this section, the Attorney General must approve any civil action undertaken by a solicitor of this State either under his own signature in his official capacity on behalf of the State or by outside counsel retained as provided by law by the solicitor in his official capacity on behalf of the State.”

SECTION 2. Section 15‑3‑570 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 15‑3‑570. An action upon a statute for a penalty or forfeiture given, in whole or in part, to any person who will prosecute for it must be commenced within one year after the commission of the offense. If the action ~~be~~ is not commenced within the year by a private party it may be commenced within two years thereafter in behalf of the State by the Attorney General ~~or the solicitor of the circuit where the offense was committed~~, unless a different limitation ~~be~~ is prescribed in the statute under which the action is brought.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor, but only applies to any civil action commenced after the effective date of this act.

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