**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**H. 3170**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. W.J. McLeod, Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E. Smith, Munnerlyn and Knight

Document Path: l:\council\bills\nbd\11043vr13.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3169

Introduced in the House on January 8, 2013

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

Summary: Grounds for divorce

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/18/2012 House Prefiled

12/18/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/8/2013 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 113](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2013\01-08-13.docx))

1/8/2013 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 113](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2013\01-08-13.docx))

4/18/2013 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E.Smith, Munnerlyn, Newton

2/4/2014 House Member(s) request name removed as sponsor: Newton

2/26/2014 House Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 55](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\02-26-14.docx))

2/27/2014 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Knight

3/4/2014 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 3‑6‑14 ([House Journal‑page 103](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\03-04-14.docx))

3/6/2014 House Requests for debate‑Rep(s). GR Smith, Loftis, Bingham, Lucas, Delleney, Pope, Simrill, Balentine, Taylor, Spires, Atwater, Henderson, Nanney, Allison, Tallon, Chumley, Woods, Ryhal, Hardwick, HA Crawford, Owens, Hosey, Clyburn, Forrester, McEachern, Norrell, KR Crawford, Lowe, Bowen, Sandifer, Putnam, Gagnon, Thayer, Sellers, Gamble, Riley, Southard, Jefferson, Quinn, Vick, Wells, VS Moss, Hamilton, Bedingfield ([House Journal‑page 17](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\03-06-14.docx))

4/9/2014 House Recommitted to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 66](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-09-14.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/18/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\3170_20121218.docx)

[2/26/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\3170_20140226.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 26, 2014

**H. 3170**

Introduced by Reps. W.J. McLeod, Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E. Smith and Munnerlyn

S. Printed 2/26/14--H.

Read the first time January 8, 2013.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Joint Resolution (H. 3170) proposing an amendment to Section 3, Article XVII of the Constitution of South Carolina, 1895, relating to grounds for divorce, so as to provide that a divorce, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

F. GREGORY DELLENEY, JR. for Committee.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3, ARTICLE XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A DIVORCE MAY BE GRANTED ON THE GROUND OF CONTINUOUS SEPARATION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DAYS RATHER THAN ONE YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 3, Article XVII of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

“Section 3. Divorces from the bonds of matrimony shall be allowed on the grounds of adultery, desertion, physical cruelty, continuous separation for a period of at least ~~one year~~ one hundred fifty days or habitual drunkenness.”

SECTION 2. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballot:

“Must Section 3, Article XVII of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to provide that a divorce may be granted on the ground of continuous separation for a period of at least one hundred fifty days, rather than on the ground of continuous separation for a period of at least one year?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

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