**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A208, R232, S1028**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Verdin

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Introduced in the Senate on January 27, 2016

Introduced in the House on April 14, 2016

Last Amended on April 12, 2016

Passed by the General Assembly on June 2, 2016

Governor's Action: June 3, 2016, Signed

Summary: Department of Agriculture

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/27/2016 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\01-27-16.docx))

1/27/2016 Senate Referred to Committee on **Agriculture and Natural Resources** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\01-27-16.docx))

3/24/2016 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture and Natural Resources** ([Senate Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\03-24-16.docx))

3/31/2016 Scrivener's error corrected

4/7/2016 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 29](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-07-16.docx))

4/7/2016 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 29](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-07-16.docx))

4/12/2016 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-12-16.docx))

4/13/2016 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 24](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-13-16.docx))

4/14/2016 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-14-16.docx))

4/14/2016 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-14-16.docx))

5/24/2016 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 34](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\05-24-16.docx))

6/1/2016 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\06-01-16.docx))

6/1/2016 House Roll call Yeas‑108 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\06-01-16.docx))

6/2/2016 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\06-02-16.docx))

6/2/2016 Ratified R 232

6/3/2016 Signed By Governor

6/9/2016 Effective date 06/03/16

6/9/2016 Act No. 208

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/27/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160127.docx)

[3/24/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160324.docx)

[3/31/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160331.docx)

[4/12/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160412.docx)

[4/12/2016-A](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160412A.docx)

[5/24/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1028_20160524.docx)

(A208, R232, S1028)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 46‑3‑280 SO AS TO CREATE A PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INTEGRATE VETERANS INTO THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORT VETERANS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, TO PROVIDE THAT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY MAY DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO FURTHER ADVANCE THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND HELP VETERANS PROMOTE THEIR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS, TO ESTABLISH IN THE STATE TREASURY THE SOUTH CAROLINA VETERANS AND WARRIORS TO AGRICULTURE PROGRAM AND FUND, ITS FUNDING MECHANISM AND HOW FUNDS ARE TO BE SPENT, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

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

**Agriculture programs to assist veterans established**

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 46 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 46‑3‑280. (A)(1) There is created a program within the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to integrate veterans into the field of agriculture and support veterans currently working in agriculture. The Department of Agriculture, the Division of Veterans’ Affairs, the Adjutant General, Clemson University, South Carolina State University, and any other institution of higher learning that offers agricultural programs shall work in conjunction to recruit and train eligible veterans, and develop and support the program.

(2) Clemson University, in conjunction with the entities listed in subsection (A)(1), may develop a program that may include, but is not limited to, using repurposed land for agricultural development, promoting high tunnel crops and production, expanding the apiary industry, developing cottage industries, exploring niche crops, raising more livestock, increasing the aquaculture industry and helping veterans promote their agricultural products through farmers markets and cooperatives.

(B) There is established in the state treasury a separate and distinct fund known as the ‘South Carolina Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program and Fund’. The fund shall consist of gifts, grants and donations, and legislative appropriations which may be made to support the program. Expenditures from the fund shall be used exclusively to pay costs, fees, and expenses necessary to administer the program.

(C) The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 2nd day of June, 2016.

Approved the 3rd day of June, 2016.

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