**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A180, R191, H5218**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Gilliard, Anderson, Limehouse, Mack, Hosey, Whipper and R.L. Brown

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Introduced in the House on April 14, 2016

Introduced in the Senate on April 28, 2016

Last Amended on April 26, 2016

Passed by the General Assembly on May 12, 2016

Governor's Action: May 23, 2016, Signed

Summary: Water Safety Awareness Month

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

4/14/2016 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-14-16.docx))

4/14/2016 House Referred to Committee on **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions** ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-14-16.docx))

4/19/2016 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: R.L.Brown

4/20/2016 House Committee report: Favorable **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions** ([House Journal‑page 348](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-20-16.docx))

4/21/2016 Scrivener's error corrected

4/26/2016 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-26-16.docx))

4/26/2016 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-26-16.docx))

4/26/2016 House Roll call Yeas‑95 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-26-16.docx))

4/27/2016 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\04-27-16.docx))

4/28/2016 Senate Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-28-16.docx))

5/11/2016 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\05-11-16.docx))

5/11/2016 Senate Roll call Ayes‑41 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\05-11-16.docx))

5/12/2016 Senate Read third time and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\05-12-16.docx))

5/17/2016 Ratified R 191

5/23/2016 Signed By Governor

5/26/2016 Effective date 05/23/16

5/27/2016 Act No. 180

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=5218&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/14/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\5218_20160414.docx)

[4/20/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\5218_20160420.docx)

[4/21/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\5218_20160421.docx)

[4/26/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\5218_20160426.docx)

[4/28/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\5218_20160428.docx)

(A180, R191, H5218)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53‑3‑117 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE MONTH OF MAY EVERY YEAR IS DECLARED “WATER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE STATE TO PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING OF WATER SAFETY PRACTICES AND THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF WATER SAFETY IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE DROWNING DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN IN THIS STATE.**

Whereas, drowning ranks as one of the leading causes of death in our nation; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 2005 to 2009, there was an average of three thousand five hundred fifty‑three unintentional drownings (nonboating related) in the United States, an average of ten deaths per day; and

Whereas, children aged five to fourteen most often drown in swimming pools and open water such as rivers, lakes, dams, and canals; and

Whereas, a swimming pool is fourteen times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child aged four and under; and

Whereas, understanding the precious gift South Carolina children are to the future of this State, the General Assembly seeks to bring awareness of the importance of water safety by designating the month of May as “Water Safety Awareness Month” every year. Now, therefore,

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

**Water Safety Awareness Month designated**

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 53 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 53‑3‑117. The month of May of every year is declared ‘Water Safety Awareness Month’ in South Carolina to promote an understanding of water safety practices and the critical importance of water safety in an effort to reduce drowning deaths among children in this State.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 17th day of May, 2016.

Approved the 23rd day of May, 2016.

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