**South Carolina General Assembly**

122nd Session, 2017-2018

**A64, R97, H3215**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. J.E. Smith

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Introduced in the House on January 10, 2017

Introduced in the Senate on March 29, 2017

Last Amended on May 9, 2017

Passed by the General Assembly on May 11, 2017

Governor's Action: May 19, 2017, Signed

Summary: Impersonating a lawyer

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/15/2016 House Prefiled

12/15/2016 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/10/2017 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 114](file:///h:\hj\20170110.docx))

1/10/2017 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 114](file:///h:\hj\20170110.docx))

3/22/2017 House Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\hj\20170322.docx))

3/28/2017 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 40](file:///h:\hj\20170328.docx))

3/28/2017 House Roll call Yeas‑100 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 40](file:///h:\hj\20170328.docx))

3/29/2017 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 11](file:///h:\hj\20170329.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

3/29/2017 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\sj\20170329.docx))

4/13/2017 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Young (ch), Sabb, Talley

4/26/2017 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\sj\20170426.docx))

5/9/2017 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 69](file:///h:\sj\20170509.docx))

5/9/2017 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 69](file:///h:\sj\20170509.docx))

5/10/2017 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\sj\20170510.docx))

5/10/2017 Senate Roll call Ayes‑34 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\sj\20170510.docx))

5/11/2017 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 42](file:///h:\sj\20170511.docx))

5/11/2017 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\hj\20170511.docx))

5/11/2017 House Roll call Yeas‑92 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\hj\20170511.docx))

5/15/2017 Ratified R 97

5/19/2017 Signed By Governor

5/25/2017 Effective date 5/19/17

5/31/2017 Act No. 64

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3215&session=122&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/15/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\3215_20161215.docx)

[3/22/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\3215_20170322.docx)

[4/26/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\3215_20170426.docx)

[5/9/2017](file:///p:\pprever\2017-18\3215_20170509.docx)

(A64, R97, H3215)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑17‑770 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF IMPERSONATING A LAWYER AND PROVIDE GRADUATED PENALTIES.**

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

**Impersonating a lawyer, penalties**

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 17, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑17‑770. (A) It is unlawful for a person other than a lawyer, who is licensed to practice law in this State or in another state or jurisdiction in the United States and not disbarred or suspended from the practice of law in any state or jurisdiction, to represent to any person that he is a lawyer for the purpose of soliciting business, obtaining anything of value, or providing legal advice or assistance. A person who violates the provisions of this section:

(1) for a first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both;

(2) for a second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than three years, or both; and

(3) for a third or subsequent offense, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both.

(B) The provisions of this section do not alter the provisions of Chapter 5, Title 40, regulating the practice of law.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 15th day of May, 2017.

Approved the 19th day of May, 2017.

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