**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**H. 3231**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. G.M. Smith, Norrell, Mace, Bernstein and Hixon

Document Path: l:\council\bills\bh\7073ahb19.docx

Introduced in the House on January 8, 2019

Introduced in the Senate on April 10, 2019

Last Amended on April 9, 2019

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

Summary: Divorce

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/18/2018 House Prefiled

12/18/2018 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/8/2019 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 136](file:///h:\hj\20190108.docx))

1/8/2019 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 136](file:///h:\hj\20190108.docx))

3/28/2019 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Mace

4/2/2019 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bernstein, Hixon

4/4/2019 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\hj\20190404.docx))

4/9/2019 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 130](file:///h:\hj\20190409.docx))

4/9/2019 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 130](file:///h:\hj\20190409.docx))

4/9/2019 House Roll call Yeas‑99 Nays‑4 ([House Journal‑page 131](file:///h:\hj\20190409.docx))

4/10/2019 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\hj\20190410.docx))

4/10/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\sj\20190410.docx))

4/10/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\sj\20190410.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3231&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/18/2018](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\3231_20181218.docx)

[4/4/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\3231_20190404.docx)

[4/9/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\3231_20190409.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

April 9, 2019

**H. 3231**

Introduced by Reps. G.M. Smith, Norrell, Mace, Bernstein and Hixon

S. Printed 4/9/19--H.

Read the first time January 8, 2019.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 20‑3‑10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE, SO AS TO ADD AS A GROUND CONDUCT OR TREATMENT THAT DESTROYS THE WELL-BEING, HAPPINESS, AND WELFARE OF A SPOUSE AND RENDERS CONTINUED COHABITATION UNSAFE OR UNENDURABLE.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Section 20‑3‑10 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 20‑3‑10. No divorce from the bonds of matrimony shall be granted except upon one or more of the following grounds, to wit:

(1) adultery;

(2) desertion for a period of one year;

(3) physical cruelty; provided, that this ground shall be construed to include willful or other abhorrent conduct or treatment which destroys or tends to destroy the mental and physical wellbeing, happiness, and welfare of the other and renders continued cohabitation unsafe or intolerable;

(4) habitual drunkenness; provided, that this ground shall be construed to include habitual drunkenness caused by the use of any narcotic drug or illegal or illicit drugs; or

(5) on the application of either party if and when the husband and wife have lived separate and apart without cohabitation for a period of one year. A plea of res judicata or of recrimination with respect to any other provision of this section shall not be a bar to either party obtaining a divorce on this ground.”

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

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