**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**A39, R47, H3689**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Rutherford and Caskey

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Introduced in the House on January 12, 2023

Introduced in the Senate on March 9, 2023

Last Amended on March 8, 2023

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: May 16, 2023, Signed

Summary: Airboats

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/12/2023 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 338)

 1/12/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 338)

 3/7/2023 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 2)

 3/8/2023 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Caskey

 3/8/2023 House Amended (House Journal‑page 24)

 3/8/2023 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 24)

 3/8/2023 House Roll call Yeas-88 Nays-1 (House Journal‑page 24)

 3/9/2023 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 23)

 3/9/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 5)

 3/9/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 5)

 5/3/2023 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 12)

 5/8/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

 5/9/2023 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 82)

 5/9/2023 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 82)

 5/10/2023 Senate Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal‑page 24)

 5/11/2023 Ratified R 47

 5/16/2023 Signed By Governor

 5/26/2023 Effective date 05/16/23

 5/26/2023 Act No. 39

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3689&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/12/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3689_20230112.docx)

[03/07/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3689_20230307.docx)

[03/08/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3689_20230308.docx)

[05/04/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3689_20230504.docx)

[05/08/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3689_20230508.docx)

(A39, R47, H3689)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50‑21‑860, RELATING TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF AIRBOATS, SO AS TO LIMIT USE ON THE BROAD RIVER AND STEVENS CREEK.

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

Restrictions on the use of airboats

SECTION 1. Section 50‑21‑860 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 50‑21‑860. As used in this section, “airboat” means a watercraft propelled by air pressure caused by a motor mounted on the watercraft aboveboard.

 (A) It is unlawful for a person to operate an airboat on the public waters of this State from the freshwater‑saltwater dividing line, established by Section 50‑17‑30, seaward.

 (B) It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Waccamaw, the Great Pee Dee, the Little Pee Dee, the Black, and the Sampit Rivers in Georgetown and Horry Counties from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise and anytime during the season for hunting duck.

 (C) It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of that portion of Lake Marion and Santee Swamp west of the I‑95 bridge upstream to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers during the season for hunting waterfowl.

 (D) It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River in Richland County from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise.

 (E) It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of Stevens Creek in Edgefield County from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise.

 A person violating the provisions of this section, upon conviction, must be punished as provided by Section 50‑1‑130.

 The provisions of this section do not apply to the operation of airboats by law enforcement, emergency medical, civil defense, noxious weed control, military personnel, state and federally approved wildlife banding, surveying, biological research programs, and private waters.

Time effective

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

Ratified the 11th day of May, 2023.

Approved the 16th day of May, 2023.

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