**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**A148, R164, H4871**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Haddon, Ligon and Forrest

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Introduced in the House on January 17, 2024

Introduced in the Senate on April 2, 2024

Last Amended on April 17, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: May 13, 2024, Signed

Summary: Protecting farm animals in transport

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/17/2024 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 15)

 1/17/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 15)

 3/7/2024 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 5)

 3/20/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 69)

 3/21/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 41)

 3/26/2024 House Amended (House Journal‑page 12)

 3/26/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 12)

 3/27/2024 House Debate adjourned (House Journal‑page 17)

 3/27/2024 House Amended (House Journal‑page 27)

 3/27/2024 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 27)

 3/27/2024 House Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 28)

 3/28/2024 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 21)

 4/2/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 16)

 4/2/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Agriculture and Natural Resources** (Senate Journal‑page 16)

 4/11/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture and Natural Resources** (Senate Journal‑page 3)

 4/17/2024 Senate Amended (Senate Journal‑page 77)

 4/17/2024 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 77)

 4/17/2024 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 77)

 4/18/2024 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal‑page 13)

 4/24/2024 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled (House Journal‑page 18)

 4/24/2024 House Roll call Yeas-76 Nays-27 (House Journal‑page 18)

 5/8/2024 Ratified R 164

 5/13/2024 Signed By Governor

 5/29/2024 Effective date 05/13/24

 5/29/2024 Act No. 148

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4871&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/17/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240117.docx)

[03/07/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240307.docx)

[03/26/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240326.docx)

[03/27/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240327.docx)

[04/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240411.docx)

[04/17/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4871_20240417.docx)

(A148, R164, H4871)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 47‑9‑420 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE INTERFERENCE OR INTERACTION WITH FARM ANIMALS BEING TRANSPORTED BY A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

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

Prohibition of the interference or interaction with farm animals being transported by a motor vehicle

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 9, Title 47 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 47‑9‑420. (A) No person may interfere with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals. For purposes of this subsection, “interfere” shall be defined as intentional, knowing, or reckless acts that disrupt or otherwise impede the transportation of farm animals without prior consent of the driver of the motor vehicle.

 (B) No person may harass a farm animal while being transported by a motor vehicle without the prior consent of the driver of the motor vehicle. For purposes of this subsection, “harass” shall be defined as intentional, knowing, or reckless acts having the effect of causing apparent emotional distress or fear.

 (C) Prior consent of the driver of a motor vehicle transporting farm animals may not be inferred by a person seeking to interfere or interact with a farm animal being transported solely because the driver has not specifically prohibited the person from doing so.

 (D) Consent to interfering or interacting with a farm animal is invalid if it is obtained from the driver of the motor vehicle transporting the farm animal using duress or under false pretenses.

 (E) The prohibitions of this section do not apply to:

 (1) a law enforcement officer if the person is acting within the scope of his duties;

 (2) a firefighter, paramedic, or other emergency personnel if the person is acting within the scope of his duties; or

 (3) any other person permitted by law, if the person is acting within the scope of his duties.

 (F) Any person convicted under the provisions of this section is subject to a penalty of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the court. In case such offender repeats the same or commits a like offense, upon conviction is subject to a penalty of two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Time effective

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

Ratified the 8th day of May, 2024.

Approved the 13th day of May, 2024.

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