**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 316**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Elliott

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Introduced in the Senate on February 5, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Summary: Civil Litigation Reform

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 2/5/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 44)

 2/5/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 44)

 4/16/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 20)

 4/22/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=316&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[02/05/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/316_20250205.docx)

[04/16/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/316_20250416.docx)

[04/22/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/316_20250422.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Committee Report

April 16, 2025

S. 316

Introduced by Senator Elliott

S. Printed 4/16/25--S. [SEC 4/22/2025 12:14 PM]

Read the first time February 5, 2025

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The committee on Senate Judiciary

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 316) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 1‑7‑95 so as to provide guidelines and protections for the attorney general when bringing an enforcement, etc., respectfully

Report:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass:

LUKE RANKIN for Committee.

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 1‑7‑95 SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES AND PROTECTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHEN BRINGING AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN THE NAME OF THE STATE; BY ADDING SECTION 39‑5‑55 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH THE REMEDY OF DISGORGEMENT; AND BY ADDING SECTION 39‑5‑85 SO AS TO PROVIDE PRIVILEGE TO MATERIALS PREPARED OR DRAFTED WHILE INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 7, Title 1 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 1‑7‑95. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when the Attorney General brings or defends an action in the name of the State of South Carolina pursuant to any power granted by common law, the Constitution of this State, or any provision of law, the Attorney General acts in the public interest of the State of South Carolina and not as the legal representative or attorney of any department or agency of state government, including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches or any of the boards connected therewith. Such departments, agencies, or boards are not parties to these actions, and the documents or electronically stored information of such departments, agencies, or boards are not in the possession, custody, or control of the Attorney General.

 (B) This section does not affect the ability of the Attorney General to bring or defend an action in a proprietary capacity on behalf of and representing any such department, agency, or board.

SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Title 39 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 39‑5‑55. The Attorney General may, in an action brought under this article, obtain the remedy of disgorgement.

SECTION 3. Chapter 5, Title 39 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 39‑5‑85. Materials prepared or drafted by the Attorney General or his staff or shared with the Attorney General or his staff for law enforcement purposes in the public interest while the Attorney General or his staff are investigating potential violations of this article shall be considered privileged. This privilege survives the end of the investigation whether by litigation, settlement, or otherwise.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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