**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 383**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Davis, Goldfinch, Graham, Zell and Rankin

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Introduced in the Senate on February 25, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Summary: Official state migratory bird

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/25/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 7](h:\sj\20250225.docx))

2/25/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Family and Veterans' Services** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](h:\sj\20250225.docx))

4/30/2025 Senate Polled out of committee **Family and Veterans' Services**

4/30/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Family and Veterans' Services**

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=383&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[02/25/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/383_20250225.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS by ENACTing THE “PROTHONOTARY WARBLER RECOGNITION ACT” BY ADDING SECTION 1‑1‑613 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (PROTONOTARIA CITREA) AS THE OFFICIAL STATE MIGRATORY BIRD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea) is a strikingly beautiful, golden‑yellow songbird that migrates annually between South Carolina and its wintering grounds in Central and South America; and

Whereas, South Carolina provides critical breeding, stopover, and foraging habitat for the Prothonotary Warbler during its annual lifecycle, particularly in the state’s bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, and wetlands, such as Audubon’s 18,000 acre Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes swamp, providing tree cavities for nesting and an abundant supply of insects for food, which are essential for nesting, feeding, and resting as the species travels thousands of miles between continents; and

Whereas, the warbler is an indicator species, meaning its presence reflects the health of South Carolina’s wetland ecosystems, and protecting its habitat benefits not only the Prothonotary Warbler but also a diverse array of wildlife, including other migratory birds, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates that rely on these environments; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s natural resources—including its rivers, forests, and wetlands—are vital to the state’s economy, culture, and biodiversity, and recognizing the Prothonotary Warbler as the official state migratory bird will underscore South Carolina’s commitment to conservation, ecotourism, and the protection of its natural heritage; and

Whereas, promoting awareness of the Prothonotary Warbler and its habitat needs will help encourage responsible land and water management, ensuring that South Carolina’s rich environmental legacy is preserved for future generations. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the “Prothonotary Warbler Recognition Act.”

SECTION 2. Article 9, Chapter 1, Title 1 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 1‑1‑613. The Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea) is the official state migratory bird of South Carolina.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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