**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3830**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. Lawson

Companion/Similar bill(s): 143, 180, 3603

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Introduced in the House on January 29, 2025

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

Summary: Orders of Protection

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/29/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 15](h:\hj\20250129.docx))

1/29/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 15](h:\hj\20250129.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3830&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/29/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3830_20250129.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 20‑4‑20, RELATING TO TERMS DEFINED IN THE “PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT,” SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION FOR “HOUSEHOLD MEMBER” AND TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR “DATING RELATIONSHIP.”

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

SECTION 1.A. Section 20‑4‑20(b) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(b) “Household member” means:

(i) a spouse;

(ii) a former spouse;

(iii) persons who have a child in common;

(iv) a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited; or

(v) persons who are presently or were recently in a dating relationship together.

B. Section 20‑4‑20 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(g)(i) “Dating relationship” means a romantic, courtship, or engagement relationship between two individuals that need not include sexual involvement. In addition to any other factors the court deems relevant, the court may consider the following factors in making a determination of whether a relationship exists or existed:

(A) the length of the relationship;

(B) the nature or type of the relationship;

(C) the frequency of interaction between the two individuals involved in the relationship; and

(D) the time since termination of the relationship, if applicable.

(ii) “Dating relationship” does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

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

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