**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3967**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Haddon, Ligon, Brewer, Bannister, Forrest, Herbkersman, Hixon, Duncan and Sanders

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Introduced in the House on February 12, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Bioenergy; Forest Products

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 2/12/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 15)

 2/12/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 15)

 2/19/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Duncan,
 Sanders

 4/29/2025 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** (House Journal‑page 2)

 4/30/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

 4/30/2025 House Read second time

 4/30/2025 House Roll call Yeas-111 Nays-0

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3967&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[02/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3967_20250212.docx)

[04/29/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3967_20250429.docx)

[04/30/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3967_20250430.docx)

Committee Report

April 29, 2025

H. 3967

Introduced by Reps. Haddon, Ligon, Brewer, Bannister, Forrest, Herbkersman, Hixon, Duncan and Sanders

S. Printed 4/29/25--H. [SEC 4/30/2025 10:23 AM]

Read the first time February 12, 2025

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The committee on House Agriculture, Natural Res. and Environmental Affairs

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3967) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 48‑23‑185 so as to define “biomass” and other relevant terms; to require that energy produced from certain, etc., respectfully

Report:

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

WILLIAM HIXON for Committee.

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 48‑23‑185 SO AS TO DEFINE “BIOMASS” AND OTHER RELEVANT TERMS; TO REQUIRE THAT ENERGY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN SOURCES BE CONSIDERED CARBON NEUTRAL AND FROM OTHER SOURCES CARBON NEGATIVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 23, Title 48 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 48‑23‑185. (A) For purposes of this section:

 (1) “Biomass” means bioenergy feedstocks from forest products manufacturing including, without limitation:

 (a) forest products manufacturing residuals including, without limitation:

 (i) pulping liquors;

 (ii) pulping byproducts;

 (iii) woody manufacturing residuals;

 (iv) paper recycling residuals;

 (v) wastewater and processed water treatment plant residuals; and

 (vi) anaerobic digester biogas;

 (b) harvest residues including, without limitation, trees or portions of harvested trees;

 (c) downed wood from extreme weather events or natural disasters;

 (d) nonhazardous landscape or right of way trimmings and municipal trimmings;

 (e) plant material removed for purposes of invasive or noxious plant species control;

 (f) biowaste including, without limitation, landfill gas;

 (g) forest biomass derived from residues created as a byproduct of timber harvesting;

 (h) forest management activities conducted for timber stand improvement or to increase yield, for ecological restoration, or to maintain or enhance forest health;

 (i) biomass materials described by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as fuels pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 241; and

 (j) other wood products including, without limitation, lumber, crates, and pallets.

 (2) “Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage” means the process of capturing and permanently storing carbon dioxide for biomass energy generation.

 (B)(1) Bioenergy produced from biomass is considered renewable and carbon neutral. When bioenergy produced from biomass is paired with bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, the bioenergy is considered carbon negative.

 (2) Bioenergy produced from agricultural harvesting is considered renewable and carbon neutral. When the bioenergy produced from agricultural harvesting is paired with bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, the bioenergy is considered carbon negative.

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

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