

## Session 118 - (2009-2010)

**H 3498 General Bill, By J.E. Smith**

***Similar (S 0136)***

**Summary:** Legislative oversight of executive departments

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 1-30-10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO REQUIRE ORGANIZATION AND REORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND DISSOLUTION OF AGENCY DIVISIONS TO BE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY STATUTE, TO DELETE OBSOLETE PROVISIONS, REQUIRE AGENCIES TO REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORE EFFICIENT AGENCY ADMINISTRATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR TO REPORT THAT IT HAS NO RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THESE REPORTS, AND REQUIRE AGENCIES TO SUBMIT FIVE-YEAR PLANS TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO AMEND SECTION 8-27-10, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF REPORT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION, BY PROVIDING THAT A REPORT MAY BE A WRITTEN OR ORAL ALLEGATION OR TESTIMONY TO A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE; BY ADDING SECTION 8-27-60 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN LAW PROTECTING EMPLOYEES FOR REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION MUST BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET WEBSITE OF EACH PUBLIC BODY SUBJECT TO THE LAW; AND BY ADDING CHAPTER 2 TO TITLE 2 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE A DUTY TO REVIEW AND STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE STATE AGENCIES WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION, TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT JURISDICTION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCESS BY WHICH A COMMITTEE MAY INITIATE AN OVERSIGHT STUDY OR INVESTIGATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE MAY ACQUIRE EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION RELATED TO THE STUDY OR INVESTIGATION, TO PROVIDE FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORTS, THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE REQUESTED, AND THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORTS, TO PROVIDE THAT ALL TESTIMONY GIVEN TO AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE MUST BE GIVEN UNDER OATH, TO PROVIDE THAT WITNESSES TESTIFYING IN FRONT OF AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE MAY BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AND TO PROVIDE THAT WITNESSES ARE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF ANY PRIVILEGE WHICH THE WITNESS COULD HAVE CLAIMED IN COURT AS A PARTY TO A CIVIL ACTION.

**02/11/09 House Introduced and read first time HJ-9**

**02/11/09 House Referred to Committee on Judiciary HJ-10**