

## Session 115 - (2003-2004)

**H 4099 General Bill, By Breeland, J. Hines, M. Hines, Hosey and Mack**

***Similar (H 3104, H 4121)***

**Summary:** Nurturing Responsible Families Initiative Act

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 7, TITLE 20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S CODE, SO AS TO ADD ARTICLE 34 ENACTING THE SOUTH CAROLINA NURTURING RESPONSIBLE FATHERS AND FAMILIES INITIATIVE ACT TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON GOVERNMENT BENEFITS, TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM THE INVOLVEMENT OF TWO PARENTS, AND TO FACILITATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES; TO ESTABLISH THE LOW-INCOME FATHERHOOD COMMISSION TO PROMOTE INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PLAN TO PROMOTE FATHER INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO FATHERS AND FAMILIES IN NEED, AND TO REQUIRE THE PLAN TO INCLUDE VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THE STATEWIDE PLAN; TO REQUIRE STATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND FOR REFERRAL OF FATHERS TO SERVICE DELIVERY ENTITIES THAT CAN PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE; TO PROMOTE THE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND WORK DEVELOPMENT BOARDS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME FATHERS; TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FATHERS IN PAYING CHILD SUPPORT DEBT; TO PROVIDE REDUCTIONS IN CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES TO LOW-INCOME FATHERS WHO MEET CERTAIN ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT, AND PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS; TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CROSS MATCH INMATES AND CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGORS, TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FATHERS IN OBTAINING APPROPRIATE CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS, AND TO INFORM THEM OF THEIR CHANGING OBLIGATIONS UPON RELEASE; TO ESTABLISH THE WORK AND FAMILY REINTEGRATION INITIATIVE TO HELP REDUCE INCARCERATION RECIDIVISM THROUGH PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING, AND PARENTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS; AND TO REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ACCESS CENTERS TO HELP PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS REENTERING THE FAMILY AND WORKFORCE FROM PRISON.

**04/29/03 House Introduced and read first time HJ-72**

**04/29/03 House Referred to Committee on Judiciary HJ-74**