**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**H. 3203**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. Bernstein

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Introduced in the House on January 13, 2015

Last Amended on April 29, 2015

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**

Summary: Utility trailer

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/18/2014 House Prefiled

12/18/2014 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works**

1/13/2015 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 147](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

1/13/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 147](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

4/16/2015 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-16-15.docx))

4/20/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

4/22/2015 House Requests for debate‑Rep(s). Bernstein, Robinson‑Simpson, Hamilton, Toole, Loftis, Burns, Hixon, Pope, Spires, Clarey, Hiott, Chumly, Forrester, Anderson, Tallon, Douglas, McEachern, WJ McLeod, Riley, Yow, Hardwick, Finlay, Gambrell, HA Crawford, Hardee, Knight ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-22-15.docx))

4/23/2015 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 4‑28‑15 ([House Journal‑page 109](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-23-15.docx))

4/29/2015 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 132](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-29-15.docx))

4/29/2015 House Committed to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 132](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-29-15.docx))

4/29/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑66 Nays‑28 ([House Journal‑page 135](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\04-29-15.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3203&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/18/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3203_20141218.docx)

[4/16/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3203_20150416.docx)

[4/20/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3203_20150420.docx)

[4/29/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3203_20150429.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED--NOT PRINTED IN THE HOUSE

Amt. No. 4 (Doc. Path 3203c001.agm.ab15)

Amt. No. 3 (Doc. Path 3203c001.nbd.cz15)

April 29, 2015

**H. 3203**

Introduced by Rep. Bernstein

S. Printed 4/16/15--H.

Read the first time January 13, 2015.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑245 SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM “UTILITY TRAILER” AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EQUIPMENT THAT MUST BE USED TO ATTACH A TOWING VEHICLE TO A UTILITY TRAILER.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as “Charlie’s Law”.

SECTION 2. Section 56‑5‑5150 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑5‑5150. (A) As used in this section, a ‘vehicle’ includes, but is not limited to a utility trailer. When a vehicle is towing another vehicle on a public road or highway, the towing vehicle must be attached to the towed vehicle by ~~a~~ two safety ~~chain,~~ chains or cable devices~~, or equivalent device~~ in addition to the regular drawbar, tongue, trailer hitch, ~~or other connection~~ trailer coupler with trailer ball and hinch pin.

(B) The safety connections or attachments must be of sufficient strength to maintain connection of the towed vehicle to the pulling vehicle under all conditions while the towed vehicle is being pulled by the towing vehicle.

(C) The provisions of this section do not apply to vehicles using a hitch known as a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly. No part of this section shall conflict with the requirements of a vehicle subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

(D) A violation of this section is subject to a penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars or thirty days imprisonment.

(E) The provisions of this section do not apply to vehicles or utility trailers:

(1) used for farming purposes; or

(2) that utilize a chain that is adequate for the weight capacity of the trailer.”

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

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