**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 176**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Climer and Gustafson

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Introduced in the Senate on January 10, 2023

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

Summary: Public Utilities

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 11/30/2022 Senate Prefiled

 11/30/2022 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

 1/10/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 95)

 1/10/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 95)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=176&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[11/30/2022](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/176_20221130.docx)

A bill

to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 58-1-60 so as to PROHIBIT A PUBLIC UTILITY FROM INCLUDING IN ITS RATE BASE OR OTHERWISE RECOVER FROM ITS CUSTOMERS ANY LEGAL FEES PAID BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY FOR A MATTER IN WHICH THE PUBLIC UTILITY WAS FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL STATUTE, REGULATION, OR ORDINANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 58‑1‑60. A public utility, as defined in Section 58‑3‑5, that has rates subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission shall not be permitted to include as a part of its rate base nor otherwise recover from its customers any legal fees paid by the public utility for a matter in which the public utility was found to have violated a federal, state, or local statute, regulation, or ordinance.

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

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