**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 4646**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. M.M. Smith, Carter, Hartnett, Kilmartin, Bauer and Hardee

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Introduced in the House on January 9, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Summary: First Responders Communication Act

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 12/14/2023 House Prefiled

 12/14/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

 1/9/2024 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 109)

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 1/11/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Kilmartin

 1/16/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bauer

 1/30/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hardee

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4646&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/14/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4646_20231214.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS by ENACTing THE “FIRST RESPONDERS COMMUNICATION ACT” BY ADDING SECTION 8‑15‑90 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE MAY NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM COMMUNICATING WITH AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL FOR ANY JOB‑RELATED PURPOSE.

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the “First Responders Communication Act”.

SECTION 2. Chapter 15, Title 8 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 8‑15‑90. (A) A public employee may not be prohibited from communicating with an elected public official for any job‑related purpose.

 (B) For purposes of this section, “public employee” means any person providing services for the State of South Carolina, state agencies, counties, municipalities, or subdivisions of such governmental bodies in South Carolina for which compensation is paid.

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

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