

Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H*3276 (Rat #0059, Act #0040 of 2025) General Bill, By Pope, Robbins, Chapman, W. Newton, Taylor, Forrest, McGinnis, Calhoon, Bernstein, Wooten, Hart, Erickson, Bradley, Ligon, Anderson, Schuessler, Hixon, M.M. Smith and Hartnett

Similar (S 0090, H 3536, H 3806)

Summary: SC Hands-Free Act

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "SOUTH CAROLINA HANDS-FREE AND DISTRACTED DRIVING ACT" BY AMENDING SECTION 56-5-3890, RELATING TO UNLAWFUL USE OF WIRELESS ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLES, SO AS TO DELETE CERTAIN TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS, TO DEFINE THE TERM "MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICE," TO PROVIDE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES MAY NOT BE USED WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE, TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF DISTRACTED DRIVING AND PROVIDE PENALTIES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF FINES IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, TO PROVIDE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UPON WHICH THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE SHARING OF CERTAIN INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TO PROVIDE THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS RELATED TO CITIZENS ARRESTS; BY AMENDING SECTION 56-1-720, RELATING TO POINTS THAT MAY BE ASSESSED AGAINST A PERSON'S DRIVING RECORD FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVING VIOLATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE OF DISTRACTED DRIVING IS A TWO-POINT VIOLATION; TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT SIGNS ADVISING MOTORISTS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE ONLY WARNINGS MAY BE ISSUED FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD; AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL FILE A REPORT WITH CERTAIN OFFICIALS CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONS STOPPED PURSUANT TO THIS ACT. - RATIFIED TITLE

12/05/24	House	Prefiled
12/05/24	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary
01/14/25	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 152)
01/14/25	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 152)
01/29/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: McGinnis
02/11/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Calhoon
02/13/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bernstein
02/18/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Wooten
03/20/25	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 9)
03/25/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hart, Henderson-Myers, Erickson, Bradley
03/25/25		Scrivener's error corrected
03/26/25	House	Debate adjourned until Thur., 3-27-25 (House Journal-page 27)
03/26/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Ligon
03/27/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Gilliard, Anderson, Rivers, Schuessler
03/27/25	House	Member(s) request name removed as sponsor: Henderson-Myers
03/27/25	House	Requests for debate-Rep(s). King, Long, Gibson, Frank, Edgerton, Magnuson, Kilmartin, White, Terrible, Chumley, Cromer, Gilreath, Huff, Williams, McDaniel, Grant, Garvin, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Rose, Kirby, Hosey, Taylor (House Journal-page 26)
03/27/25	House	Amended (House Journal-page 35)
03/27/25	House	Debate adjourned (House Journal-page 35)
04/01/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hixon
04/03/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: M.M.Smith
04/09/25	House	Member(s) request name removed as sponsor: Gilliard, Rivers
04/09/25	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hartnett
04/09/25	House	Amended (House Journal-page 65)
04/09/25	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 65)
04/09/25	House	Roll call Yeas-85 Nays-25 (House Journal-page 65)
04/10/25	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 44)
04/15/25	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 13)
04/15/25	Senate	Referred to Committee on Transportation (Senate Journal-page 13)
04/16/25	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Transportation (Senate Journal-page 22)

04/29/25	Senate	Special order, set for April 29, 2025 (Senate Journal-page 51)
04/30/25	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted
04/30/25	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 58)
04/30/25	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 58)
04/30/25	Senate	Roll call Ayes-40 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 58)
05/01/25	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 85)
05/06/25	House	Debate adjourned until Wed., 5-7-25 (House Journal-page 210)
05/07/25	House	Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled (House Journal-page 41)
05/07/25	House	Roll call Yeas-77 Nays-37 (House Journal-page 41)
05/08/25		Ratified R 59
05/12/25		Signed By Governor
05/19/25		Effective date 09/01/25
05/19/25		Act No. 40