

Session 109 - (1991-1992)

S 1416 General Bill, By M.T. Rose and Courson

A Bill to amend Section 59-31-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to adoption of new textbooks, so as to require the State Board of Education to condemn or disapprove any school textbook containing any known factual or grammatical error; to amend Section 59-31-510 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to contracts with publishers and distributors for rental or purchase of books, so as to provide that a contract must include the requirement that all textbooks rented or purchased by the State be free of any factual or grammatical error; that the publisher be required to sign a certificate of accuracy guaranteeing that each textbook is free of any factual or grammatical error; that any publisher or distributor providing a textbook containing a factual or grammatical error be assessed a fine or liquidated damages of one hundred thousand dollars and be prohibited from selling or renting a textbook to the State for a period of two years; to amend Section 59-31-600 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to standards for textbook adoption, so as to provide that the Textbook Evaluating and Rating Committee be made up of at least eighty percent non-educators with expertise in areas under consideration; that the Textbook Evaluating and Rating Committee shall include in its rating and evaluation criteria considerations for accuracy of facts and grammar, satisfaction of state mandates for graduation criteria, support for the free enterprise system, demonstration of the benefits of free enterprise in the United States, communications through textbooks and other instructional materials of the benefits of representative democracy, individual liberty, personal responsibility, economic and political freedom, and other traditional values and principals of western civilization and American society espoused in the United States Declaration of Independence and embodied in the United States Constitution, and give the highest weight in choosing books to the accuracy of facts presented in the materials; that the curriculum staff at the Department of Education shall be responsible for monitoring the work of the Textbook Evaluating and Rating Committee to ensure that high quality accurate textbooks are recommended; that employees of the State Department of Education who are charged with overseeing the textbook selection process hold current teacher certificates in areas under their jurisdiction; to prohibit persons from serving on the Textbook Selection or Review Committee if such person is receiving compensation from, either directly or indirectly, or is a current employee, or has been an employee of a textbook publishing or distribution company within the past five years; to require that any staff member at the State Department of Education who has been an employee of a textbook publishing company within the past five years recuse himself from the selection process of books; to prohibit acceptance or solicitation by any state employee, or offering or providing to a state employee, anything of value by a publisher or supplier of school textbooks or instructional materials; and to amend Chapter 31, Title 59 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, by adding Section 59-31-700, so as to provide that proposed textbooks be placed on public display for a period of sixty days in each of the ninety-one school district offices with notice to the public in paid advertisement in local newspapers prior to any final adoption by the State Board of Education.

03/19/92	Senate	Introduced and read first time SJ-19
03/19/92	Senate	Referred to Committee on Education SJ-19
04/23/92	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Education SJ-22
04/28/92	Senate	Amended SJ-49
04/28/92	Senate	Read second time SJ-51
04/28/92	Senate	Ordered to third reading with notice of amendments SJ-51
04/29/92	Senate	Read third time and sent to House SJ-284
04/30/92	House	Introduced and read first time HJ-8
04/30/92	House	Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works HJ-10