

Session 125 - (2023-2024)

S 0367 General Bill, By Adams, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Garrett, Rice, Harpootlian, Cash, Senn, Cromer and Gustafson

Summary: Bonds and Electronic Monitoring

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17-15-20, RELATING TO CONDITIONS OF APPEARANCE, RECOGNIZANCE, OR APPEARANCE BOND; DISCHARGE, VALIDITY, AND RELIEF OF SURETY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPEARANCE BOND SHALL AUTOMATICALLY CONVERT TO A PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE BOND AFTER THREE YEARS FOR A CIRCUIT COURT OFFENSE AND AFTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS FOR A MAGISTRATE'S OR MUNICIPAL COURT OFFENSE; BY AMENDING SECTION 17-15-30, RELATING TO MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURT MUST CONSIDER A DEFENDANT'S PRIOR CHARGES AND EXISTING BONDS WHEN DETERMINING BOND; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-53-10 TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITION FOR ELECTRONIC MONITORING; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-53-50, RELATING TO SURETY RELIEVED ON BOND, TO PROVIDE THAT FAILURE TO PAY PREMIUM FEES ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE INCARCERATION OF THE DEFENDANT; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-53-70, RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF BENCH WARRANT, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURT MUST NOTIFY THE BONDSMAN WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE ISSUANCE OF A BENCH WARRANT; BY ADDING SECTION 38-53-83 TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY A QUALIFIED AND LICENSED BONDSMAN OR RUNNER MAY ENGAGE IN ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF A DEFENDANT; BY ADDING SECTION 38-53-84 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON ENGAGED IN THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF A DEFENDANT MUST NOTIFY THE SOLICITOR WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF ANY VIOLATION OF A CONDITION OF THE BOND BY THE DEFENDANT AND TO PROVIDE THAT FAILURE TO PAY THE MONITORING FEES IS A REVOKABLE CONDITION OF THE BOND; BY AMENDING SECTION 38-53-170, RELATING TO UNLAWFUL ACTS BY A BONDSMAN, TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION OF PREMIUMS, FEES, AND COLLATERAL; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 38-53-310, RELATING TO WRITTEN REPORT TO BE FILED WITH CLERK OF COURT, TO PROVIDE THAT A BONDSMAN MUST PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT TO THEIR INSURANCE PROVIDER WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF EACH BOND, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE CLERK OF COURT MAY BE SATISFIED WITH GIVING THE CLERK ACCESS TO AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE THAT CONTAINS THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

01/10/23 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 209)

01/10/23 Senate Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 209)

01/12/23 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Malloy (ch), Sabb, Adams, Garrett, Gustafson

02/09/23 Scrivener's error corrected

02/22/23 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 16)

02/27/23 Scrivener's error corrected