

## Session 121 - (2015-2016)

**S\*0426 (Rat #0053, Act #0030 of 2015) General Bill, By Sheheen, Hayes, Malloy and Allen**

**Similar (S 0209, H 3412)**

**Summary:** Mental Health Court Program Act

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO ENACT THE "MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM ACT"; BY ADDING CHAPTER 31 TO TITLE 14 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR A SYSTEM THAT DIVERTS MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS TO APPROPRIATE TREATMENT PROGRAMS RATHER THAN INCARCERATION, TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MENTAL HEALTH COURT, TO PROVIDE THAT EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH COURTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE, TO PROVIDE THAT EACH SOLICITOR MAY ESTABLISH A PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE AS A MENTAL HEALTH COURT JUDGE, TO PROVIDE THAT MENTAL HEALTH COURT JUDGES HAVE THE SAME PROTECTIONS FROM CIVIL LIABILITY AND IMMUNITY AS OTHER JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN THIS STATE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT SOLICITORS WHO ACCEPT STATE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM MUST ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF FUNDING. - ratified title

02/05/15	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 6)
02/05/15	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 6)
02/09/15	Senate	Referred to Subcommittee: Massey (ch), Bennett, McElveen
03/18/15	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 12)
03/19/15		Scrivener's error corrected
03/26/15	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted (Senate Journal-page 26)
03/26/15	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 26)
03/26/15	Senate	Roll call Ayes-41 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 26)
03/27/15		Scrivener's error corrected
03/31/15	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 16)
04/14/15	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 32)
04/14/15	House	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 32)
05/06/15	House	Committee report: Favorable Judiciary (House Journal-page 36)
05/12/15	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 11)
05/12/15	House	Roll call Yeas-98 Nays-2 (House Journal-page 11)
05/13/15	House	Read third time and enrolled (House Journal-page 10)
05/28/15		Ratified R 53
06/01/15		Signed By Governor
06/04/15		Effective date 06/01/15
06/05/15		Act No. 30