**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**S. 553**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators L. Martin, Fair, Massey and Campbell

Document Path: l:\council\bills\swb\5294cm15.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3853

Introduced in the Senate on March 12, 2015

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Corrections and Penology**

Summary: Disclosure of execution team member

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/12/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-12-15.docx))

3/12/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Corrections and Penology** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-12-15.docx))

3/3/2016 Senate Polled out of committee **Corrections and Penology** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\03-03-16.docx))

3/3/2016 Senate Committee report: Majority favorable, minority unfavorable **Corrections and Penology** ([Senate Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\03-03-16.docx))

3/4/2016 Scrivener's error corrected

5/31/2016 Senate Recommitted to Committee on **Corrections and Penology**

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=553&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/12/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\553_20150312.docx)

[3/3/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\553_20160303.docx)

[3/4/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\553_20160304.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

POLLED OUT OF COMMITTEE

March 3, 2016

**S. 553**

Introduced by Senators L. Martin, Fair, Massey and Campbell

S. Printed 3/3/16--S. [SEC 3/4/16 12:07 PM]

Read the first time March 12, 2015.

**THE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 553) to amend Section 24‑3‑580, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the disclosure of the identity of a member of an execution team, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

Has polled the Bill out majority favorable; minority unfavorable.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 24‑3‑580, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITY OF A MEMBER OF AN EXECUTION TEAM AND PENALTIES RELATED TO THE UNLAWFUL DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PLANNING OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXECUTION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND CLASSIFIED AS A STATE SECRET, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PURCHASE OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROCUREMENT CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT OUT‑OF‑STATE ACQUISITIONS OF A DRUG USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS EXEMPT FROM PROVISIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY, TO PROVIDE THAT A PHARMACY OR PHARMACIST INVOLVED IN SUPPLYING, MANUFACTURING, OR COMPOUNDING ANY DRUG USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A DEATH SENTENCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE REGULATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24‑3‑580 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 203 of 2010, is amended to read:

“Section 24‑3‑580. (A)(1) As used in this section, the term ‘execution team’ shall be construed broadly to include any person or entity that participates in the planning or administration of the execution of a death sentence, including any person or entity that prescribes, compounds, tests, uses, manufactures, imports, transports, distributes, supplies, prepares, or administers the drugs, medical supplies, or medical equipment utilized in the execution of a death sentence.

(2) ‘Identifying information’ shall be construed broadly to include any record or information that reveals a name, date of birth, social security number, personal identifying information, personal or business contact information, or professional qualifications. The term ‘identifying information’ also includes any residential or business address; any residential, personal, or business telephone number; any residential, personal, or business facsimile number; any residential, personal, or business email address; and any residential, personal, or business social media account or username.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any identifying information of a person or entity that participates in the planning or administration of the execution of a death sentence shall be confidential and, without exception, shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion or process for disclosure to any person or entity in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding in the courts, administrative agencies, boards, commissions, legislative bodies, or quasi‑legislative bodies of this State, or in any other similar body that exercises any part of the sovereignty of the State. This identifying information shall be classified as a state secret.

(C) A person ~~may~~ shall not knowingly disclose ~~the identity~~ identifying information of a current or former member of an execution team or disclose a record or any identifying information that would identify a person as being a current or former member of an execution team. ~~However, this information may be disclosed only upon a court order under seal for the proper adjudication of pending litigation.~~ Any person or entity whose identity is disclosed in violation of this section shall have a civil cause of action against the person who is in violation of this section and may recover actual damages and, upon a showing of a wilful violation of this section, punitive damages.

(D) Any purchase or acquisition of drugs, medical supplies, and medical equipment necessary to execute a death sentence shall be exempt from the entirety of the South Carolina Procurement Code and all of its attendant regulations.

(E) The out‑of‑state acquisition of any drug intended for use by the department in the administration of the death penalty shall be exempt from all licensing processes and requirements administered by the Department of Health and Environmental Control or by any other department or agency of the State of South Carolina. Furthermore, the out‑of‑state acquisition of any drug intended for use by the department in the administration of the death penalty shall be exempt from all regulations promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy.

(F) Any pharmacy or pharmacist, whether located within or without the State, involved in the supplying, manufacturing, or compounding of any drug intended for use by the department in the administration of the death penalty shall be exempt from all licensing processes and requirements of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30‑40‑10 et seq., no department or agency of this State, no political subdivision, and no other government or quasi‑government entity shall disclose the identifying information of any execution team member or any details regarding the procurement and administrative processes referenced in subsections (D) through (F).

(H) This section shall be broadly construed by the courts of this State so as to give effect to the General Assembly’s intent to ensure the absolute confidentiality of the identifying information of any person or entity directly or indirectly involved in the planning or execution of a death sentence within this State.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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