COMMITTEE REPORT

May 20, 2015

**H. 3133**

Introduced by Reps. Rutherford and G.R. Smith

S. Printed 5/20/15--H. [SEC 5/21/15 12:48 PM]

Read the first time January 13, 2015.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3133) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 23‑3‑462 so as to provide that a county solicitor must petition the family court, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 in its entirety and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑462. When a registered juvenile sex offender reaches twenty‑one years of age and is released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, South Carolina Department of Corrections, or South Carolina Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, the person may petition the family court to remove the person’s requirement to register as a sex offender. If the Family Court determines at a hearing that the person who is registered as a juvenile sex offender is likely to or does pose an ongoing serious or aggressive threat to the public, the court shall order that the delinquent act be deemed an adult criminal conviction for the purpose of registration, notification, and public information access pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23. If the Family Court determines the person is not likely to or does not pose an ongoing serious or aggressive threat to the public, the juvenile is no longer required to register as a sex offender and his information must be deleted from the sex offender registry. The Attorney General or Circuit Solicitor shall have the right to be heard and the right to have the person assessed. The burden of proof is on the petitioner which must be proven by clear and convincing evidence. The court shall have the discretion to order treatment or any other relevant items as a condition of removal. The petitioner cannot reapply for three years if denied unless otherwise ordered by the court.

In considering the petition, the court shall consider:

(1) the likelihood the petitioner will reoffend, based on a risk assessment or an evaluation by a mental health professional, the cost of which shall be borne by the petitioner unless the petitioner is indigent;

(2) the age of the petitioner at the time of the offense;

(3) mitigating factors, including whether the petitioner has completed any treatment programs;

(4) aggravating factors including, but not limited to, use of force or weapons;

(5) any assessments of the person performed at the request of the Attorney General or Circuit Solicitor; and

(6) other factors the court considers relevant.” /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

F. GREGORY DELLENEY, JR. for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 23‑3‑462 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY SOLICITOR MUST PETITION THE FAMILY COURT TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO CONTINUE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER WHO IS A REGISTERED JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER, WHO IS AT LEAST TWENTY‑ONE YEARS OF AGE, OR HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PERSON MUST CONTINUE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER IF THE FAMILY COURT DETERMINES THAT HE IS LIKELY TO OR POSES AN ONGOING THREAT TO THE PUBLIC, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IF NO PETITION IS FILED WITHIN NINETY DAYS FOLLOWING THE TWENTY‑FIRST BIRTHDAY OF THE PERSON OR THE DATE OF HIS RELEASE FROM CUSTODY, OR IF THE FAMILY COURT DETERMINES THAT THE PERSON IS NOT LIKELY TO OR DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO THE PUBLIC, THEN THE PERSON IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER AND HIS INFORMATION MUST BE DELETED FROM THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑3‑462. When a registered juvenile sex offender reaches twenty‑one years of age or is otherwise released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, the county solicitor must petition the family court to continue the person’s registration to the sex offender registry maintained by SLED. If the family court determines at a hearing that the person who is registered as a juvenile sex offender is likely to or does pose an ongoing serious or aggressive threat to the public, the court shall order that the delinquent act be deemed an adult criminal conviction for the purpose of registration, notification, and public information access pursuant to Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23. If no petition is filed within ninety days following the twenty‑first birthday of the person or the date of his release from custody, or if the family court determines the person is not likely to or does not pose an ongoing serious or aggressive threat to the public, the juvenile is no longer required to register as a sex offender and his information must be deleted from the sex offender registry.”

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

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