**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**H. 3551**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. White, Forrest, Caskey, Hixon, Hill and Gagnon

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Introduced in the House on January 12, 2021

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Firearms or ammunition, regulation and public use

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/16/2020 House Prefiled

12/16/2020 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/12/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 235](file:///h:\hj\20210112.docx))

1/12/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 235](file:///h:\hj\20210112.docx))

1/13/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Caskey

4/15/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hixon

1/27/2022 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hill, Gagnon

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/16/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\3551_20201216.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 23‑31‑510, AND 23‑31‑520, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BOTH RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE OWNERSHIP, TRANSFER, OR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION AND THE PUBLIC USE AND CONFISCATION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION, SO AS TO PROVIDE BOTH PROVISIONS ALSO APPLY TO THE REGULATION OF KNIVES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 23‑31‑510 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 23‑31‑510. No governing body of any county, municipality, or other political subdivision in the State may enact or promulgate any regulation or ordinance that regulates or attempts to regulate:

(1) the transfer, ownership, possession, carrying, or transportation of knives, firearms, ammunition, components of firearms, or any combination of these things; or

(2) a landowner discharging a firearm on the landowner’s property to protect the landowner’s family, employees, the general public, or the landowner’s property from animals that the landowner reasonably believes pose a direct threat or danger to the landowner’s property, people on the landowner’s property, or the general public. For purposes of this item, the landowner’s property must be a parcel of land comprised of at least twenty‑five contiguous acres. Any ordinance regulating the discharge of firearms that does not specifically provide for an exclusion pursuant to this item is unenforceable as it pertains to an incident described in this item; otherwise, the ordinance is enforceable.”

SECTION 2. Section 23‑31‑520 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 23‑31‑520. This article does not affect the authority of any county, municipality, or political subdivision to regulate the careless or negligent discharge or public brandishment of knives or firearms, nor does it prevent the regulation of public brandishment of firearms during the times of or a demonstrated potential for insurrection, invasions, riots, or natural disasters. This article denies any county, municipality, or political subdivision the power to confiscate a firearm or ammunition unless incident to an arrest.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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