**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 127**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Johnson

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Prefiled in the Senate on December 11, 2024

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Finance**

Summary: Catawba Nation

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/11/2024 Senate Prefiled

12/11/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Finance**

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20241211.docx)

[12/11/2024-A](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20241211a.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 9‑11‑10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE CATAWBA NATION WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER; AND BY ADDING SECTION 9‑11‑43 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE CATAWBA NATION IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THE POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCESS FOR ADMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9‑11‑10(17) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

(17) “Employer” means:

(a) the State;

(b) a political subdivision, agency, or department of the State which employs police officers and which has been admitted to the system as provided in Section 9‑11‑40; and

(c) a service organization, the membership of which is composed solely of persons eligible to be members as defined by this section, if the compensation received by the employees of the service organization is provided from monies paid by the members as dues, or otherwise, or from funds derived from public sources and if the contributions prescribed by this chapter are to be paid from the funds of the service organization.; and

(d) the Catawba Nation upon its admission to the system as provided in Section 9‑11‑43.

SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Title 9 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 9‑11‑43. (A) The Catawba Nation may become an employer for the purposes of this chapter by applying to the board for admission to the system pursuant to Section 9‑11‑40, complying with the requirements of Section 9‑11‑40, and complying with the board’s rules and regulations. The application must set forth the requested date of admission, which must be the January first, the April first, the July first, or the October first next following receipt by the board of the application.

(B) An employee of the Catawba Nation may not become a member of the system unless substantially all of the employee’s time is devoted solely to the performance of governmental service as a police officer pursuant to Section 27-16-70(C).

(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as a condition to joining the system, the Catawba Nation agrees to be subject to all of the state laws, regulations, administrative policies, and plan provisions related to the administration and enforcement of the requirements of the system and agrees that any and all disputes arising pursuant to or by virtue of its participation in the system will be resolved in the appropriate state court or administrative tribunal, notwithstanding any sovereign immunity that might otherwise apply. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect, modify, diminish, or otherwise impair any sovereign immunity enjoyed by the Catawba Nation with respect to any other provision of state law unrelated to the administration and enforcement of the requirements of the system.

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

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