**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 184**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Johnson, Young and Adams

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

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

Summary: Dram Shop

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time

 1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/14/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/184_20250114.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 15‑3‑710 SO AS TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR LIABILITY FOR A PERSON OR ESTABLISHMENT WHO UNLAWFULLY FURNISHES ALCOHOL TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INJURES A THIRD PARTY BASED UPON WHAT THE FURNISHER KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES; TO SPECIFY WHEN THE RIGHT OF ACTION IS NOT AVAILABLE, AND TO PROVIDE THE EVIDENTIARY STANDARD FOR VISIBLE INTOXICATION.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 15 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 15‑3‑710. (A) As used in this section:

 (1) “Alcohol” means beer, wine, alcoholic liquors, or alcoholic beverages as defined in Section 61‑6‑20; alcoholic liquor by the drink or alcoholic beverage by the drink as defined in Section 61‑6‑20; or any other type of alcoholic beverage that contains any amount of alcohol and is used as a beverage for human consumption.

 (2) “Licensee” means any person or entity licensed to sell alcohol by the State of South Carolina or any agency or department thereof.

 (3) “Visibly intoxicated” means an individual displayed visible signs and symptoms of intoxication that would have been obvious to a reasonable person.

 (B) A licensee that sells, serves, or otherwise furnishes alcohol to an individual who is at least twenty‑one years old is civilly liable to a third party for actual damages arising out of the sale, service, or furnishing of alcohol to that individual if:

 (1) the licensee knew or should have known that the individual was visibly intoxicated at the time of the sale, service, or furnishing of the alcohol.

 (2) at the time of the sale, service, or furnishing of the alcohol, the licensee knew or should have known that the individual would become intoxicated based on factors that would be obvious to a reasonable person including, but not limited to, the licensee’s knowledge of the number of alcoholic beverages served to the individual while on the licensee’s premises; and

 (3) the individual’s intoxication or the sale, service, or furnishing of the alcohol was a proximate cause of bodily injury, death, or property damage to the third party.

 (C) A licensee that sells, serves, or otherwise furnishes alcohol to an individual who is less than twenty‑one years old is civilly liable to a third party for actual damages arising out of the sale, service, or furnishing of the alcohol to that individual if the individual’s intoxication or the sale, service, or furnishing of the alcohol was a proximate cause of bodily injury, death, or property damage to the third party.

 (D) Upon the death of any party, the action or right of action authorized by this section will survive to or against the party’s personal representative.

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

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