**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 209**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Massey

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Introduced in the Senate on January 15, 2025

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

Summary: Probate Judge Qualifications

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/15/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 6)

 1/15/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 6)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=209&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/15/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/209_20250115.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 14‑23‑1040, RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROBATE JUDGES, SO AS TO REENACT SECTION 14‑23‑1040 AND PROVIDE THAT IT SHALL BE ENFORCEABLE BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2026.

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

SECTION 1. Section 14‑23‑1040 of the S.C. Code as amended by 1988 Act No. 678, Part IV, Section 3, relating to eligibility requirements for Probate Judges, is reenacted to read:

 Section 14‑23‑1040. No person is eligible to hold the office of judge of probate who is not at the time of his election a citizen of the United States and of this State, has not attained the age of twenty‑one years upon his election, has not become a qualified elector of the county in which he is to be a judge, and has not received a four‑year bachelor's degree from an accredited post‑secondary institution or if he has received no degree he must have four years’ experience as an employee in a probate judge’s office in this State.

SECTION 2. Section 14‑23‑1040 of the S.C. Code as reenacted by this act is enforceable beginning on July 1, 2026.

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

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