**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3037**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. Garvin

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Prefiled in the House on December 5, 2024

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

Summary: Citizens' Arrest

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/5/2024 House Prefiled

12/5/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/05/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3037_20241205.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 17‑13‑20, RELATING TO CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN CITIZENS MAY ARREST, SO AS TO LIMIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A CITIZEN MAY ARREST, INCLUDING TAKING THE LIFE OF THE PERSON, TO ARREST A PERSON WHO HAS ENTERED A DWELLING HOUSE WITHOUT EXPRESS OR IMPLIED PERMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 17‑13‑20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 17‑13‑20. A citizen may arrest a person in the nighttime by efficient means as the darkness and the probability of escape render necessary, even if the life of the person should be taken, when the person:

(a) has committed a felony;

(b) has entered a dwelling house without express or implied permission;

(c) has broken or is breaking into an outhouse with a view to plunder;

(d) has in his possession stolen property; or

(e) being under circumstances which raise just suspicion of his design to steal or to commit some felony, flees when he is hailed has entered a dwelling house without express or implied permission.

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

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