**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3796**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Kilmartin and Beach

Document Path: LC-0068DG25.docx

Introduced in the House on January 28, 2025

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

Summary: Personhood

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/28/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 22)

 1/28/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (House Journal‑page 22)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3796&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/28/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3796_20250128.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING article 29 to chapter 1, title 1 SO AS TO PROHIBIT A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY FROM GRANTING OR RECOGNIZING LEGAL PERSONHOOD IN CERTAIN ITEMS.

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

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

Article 29

Legal Personhood

 Section 1‑1‑1910. (A) As used in this article:

 (1) “Body of water” means any natural or man‑made accumulation of water, regardless of whether the accumulation of water is static or subject to a force that causes a hydrological current.

 (2) “Governmental entity” means:

 (a) a court;

 (b) the General Assembly;

 (c) the governing body of a political subdivision; or

 (d) another entity of the State or a political subdivision, if the entity has adjudicatory or rulemaking authority.

 (3) “Human being” means a member of the species classified as Homo sapiens;

 (4) “Land” means the solid terrestrial surface or subsurface of the earth.

 (5) “Legal personhood” means:

 (a) the legal rights and obligations of an individual under the laws of this State; or

 (b) the legal rights and obligations of a person other than an individual under the laws of this State.

 (6) “Political subdivision” means the same as that term is defined in Section 2‑7‑76.

 (7) “Real property” means any building, fixture, improvement, appurtenance, structure, or other development that is affixed permanently to land.

 (8) “State” means the same as that term is defined in Section 1‑3‑490.

 (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a governmental entity may not grant legal personhood to, nor recognize legal personhood in:

 (1) artificial intelligence;

 (2) an inanimate object;

 (3) a body of water;

 (4) land;

 (5) real property;

 (6) atmospheric gases;

 (7) an astronomical object;

 (8) weather;

 (9) a plant;

 (10) a nonhuman animal; or

 (11) any other member of a taxonomic domain that is not a human being.

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

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