**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 504**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Blackmon, Hembree, Zell, Chaplin, Nutt, Stubbs, Fernandez, Elliott, Walker, Ott and Graham

Document Path: SEDU-0029DB25.docx

Introduced in the Senate on March 26, 2025

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

Summary: Distribution of controlled substance within proximity

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 3/26/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 3/26/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 8)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=504&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/26/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/504_20250326.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑53‑445, RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES WITHIN PROXIMITY OF SCHOOL, SO AS TO INCLUDE CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND DAY PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE RELATED DEFINITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 44‑53‑445(A), (B), and (C) of the S.C. Code are amended to read:

 Section 44‑53‑445. (A) It is a separate criminal offense for a person to distribute, sell, purchase, manufacture, or to unlawfully possess with intent to distribute, a controlled substance while in, on, or within a one‑half mile radius of the grounds of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school; a public playground or park; a public vocational or trade school or technical educational center; or a public or private college or university; a childcare facility as defined in Section 63‑13‑20; or a day program as defined in Section 44‑20‑30.

 (B) For a person to be convicted of an offense pursuant to subsection (A), the person must:

 (1) have knowledge that he is in, on, or within a one‑half mile radius of the grounds of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school; a public playground or park; a public vocational or trade school or technical educational center; or a public or private college or university; a child care facility as defined in Section 63‑13‑20; or a day program as defined in Section 44‑20‑30; and

 (2) actually distribute, sell, purchase, manufacture, or unlawfully possess with intent to distribute, the controlled substance within a one‑half mile radius of the grounds of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school; a public playground or park; a public vocational or trade school or technical educational center; or a public or private college or university; a child care facility as defined in Section 63‑13‑20; or a day program as defined in Section 44‑20‑30.

 (C) A person must not be convicted of an offense pursuant to subsection (A) if the person is stopped by a law enforcement officer for the controlled substance offense within a one‑half mile radius of the grounds of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school; a public playground or park; a public vocational or trade school or technical educational center; or a public or private college or university, but did not actually commit the controlled substance offense within a one‑half mile radius of the grounds of a public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school; a public playground or park; a public vocational or trade school or technical educational center; or a public or private college or university, or a child care facility as defined in Section 63‑13‑20; or a day program as defined in Section 44‑20‑30.

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

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