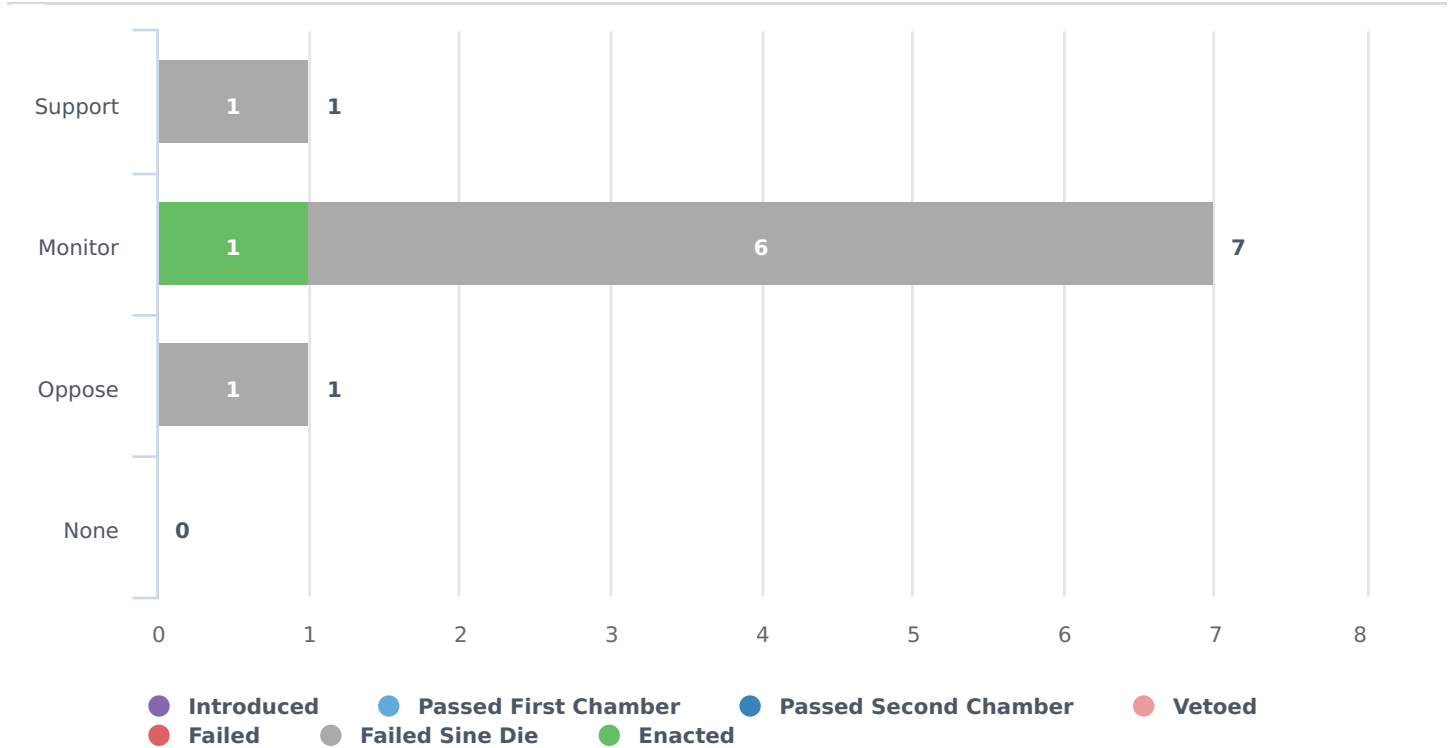


South Carolina - 2024 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: May 20, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: SC (9)

Title
Animal Cruelty

Description
A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Amending Section 47-1-170, Relating To The Penalties For A Cruelty To Animals Conviction, So As To Require The Payment Of All Reasonable Costs Incurred Related To The Conviction And To Prohibit A Person Convicted Of A Subsequent Offense Of Cruelty To Animals From Owning An Animal For A Period Not To Exceed Five Years.

Primary Sponsors
Jerry Carter

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 9, 2022, 10:40 AM
Amends Title 47 (Animals, Livestock & Poultry), Chapter 1 (Cruelty to Animals), Section 471-1-170 (Penalties for Violation of Chapter) of the SC Code of Laws so as to require the payment of all reasonable costs incurred related to the conviction and to prohibit a person convicted of a subsequent offense of cruelty to animals from owning an animal for a period not to exceed 5 years. Provides that the owner or person having charge or custody of an animal cruelly used who is convicted of any violation of this chapter forfeits ownership, charge, or custody of the animal and at the discretion of the court, the person who is charged with or convicted of a violation of this chapter must be ordered to pay all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from the person convicted of animal cruelty. Provides that a person who, after his first conviction, is convicted of any subsequent violation of this chapter forfeits ownership, charge, or custody of all animals and may not own an animal for up to five years from the date of the subsequent conviction.

Introduction Date: 2022-12-08

Title
Fargo's and Hyco's Law

Description
A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Enacting "Fargo'S And Hyco'S Law"; And By Amending Article 11, Chapter 3, Title 47, Relating To Teasing, Maltreating, And Injuring Police Dogs, So As To Increase The Penalties And To Make A Technical Change.

Primary Sponsors
Neal Collins

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 9, 2022, 10:48 AM
"Fargo's and Hyco's Law" would amend Title 47 (Animals, Livestock & Poultry), Chapter 3 (Dogs & Other Domestic Pets), Article 11 (Teasing, Maltreating, and Injuring Police Dogs Prohibited) of SC Code of Laws by increasing the penalties for violation of this Section. Increases the penalty for violation to not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$20,000, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 2 years nor more than 10 years. (Current code is not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000 and imprisoned not less than 1 year nor more than 5 years). Provides that, in addition to any other penalty provided in this section, a person convicted of a violation of this section must pay restitution to the law enforcement department or agency in the amount that would cover the full cost of restoring or replacing an animal that was injured or killed, including all related purchase, training, and veterinary expenses incurred as a result of the incident. Provides that, in addition to any other penalty imposed upon a person convicted of violating this section, the court also may require a person convicted of a violation of this section to perform one year of animal-related community service.

Introduction Date: 2022-12-08

State SC	Bill Number H 4047	Last Action Act No 119 2024 03 14	Status Enacted
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Title
Nongame and endangered wildlife species

Description
An Act To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Adding Section 50-15-100 So As To Prohibit The Release Of Records Regarding The Occurrence Of Rare, Threatened, Endangered, Or Imperiled Plant And Animal Species By The Department Of Natural Resources. - Ratified Title

Primary Sponsors
Russell Ott

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 1, 2023, 2:32 PM
Amends Title 50 (Fish, Game & Watercraft), Chapter 15 (Nongame & Endangered Species), Article 1 (Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Species) of the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding a new Section 50-15-100 to prohibit the release of records regarding the occurrence of rare, threatened, endangered or imperiled plant and animal species by the Department of Natural Resources. Provides that the Department may not release records in its possession that contain site-specific information, including but not limited to, unique numeric identifiers of precise geographic locations, telemetry, or other locational data, regarding the occurrence of federal- or state-listed rare, threatened, species in need of management, endangered, or otherwise imperiled plant and animal species on public or private property, except in support of scientific, conservation, or educational purposes. Provides that the owner or owners of private property upon which threatened, endangered, or at-risk species occur shall be entitled to records specific to said property upon the request to the department.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-28

State SC	Bill Number H 4303	Last Action Member S Request Name Added As Sponsor Guffey 2024 03 07	Status Failed sine die
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Title
Rabies Control Act

Description
A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Amending Section 47-5-20, Relating To Definitions So As To Define "Compendium"; By Amending Section 47-5-60, Relating To Inoculation Of Pets, So As To Permit A Certified Vaccine Technician To Administer Rabies Inoculations When Supervised By A Veterinarian Licensed To Practice In This State; By Amending Section 47-5-90, Relating To Reports Of Animal Bites To The Health Department, So As To Require The Date Of Birth Of The Person Bitten By A Pet Or Other Animal; By Amending Section 40-69-20, Relating To Definitions So As To Define "Certified Vaccine Technician"; And By Adding Section 40-69-310 So As To Provide Who May Administer Vaccines To Animals.

Primary Sponsors
Micah Caskey

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 7, 2023, 6:09 PM
Amends Title 47 (Animals, Livestock & Poultry), Chapter 5 (Rabies Control), Section 47-5-60 (Inoculation of pets; certificates and tags) of the SC Code of Laws so as to permit a Certified Vaccine Technician to administer rabies inoculations when supervised by a licensed veterinarian. Provides that a rabies inoculation for pets must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN, or someone under a licensed veterinarian's supervision. Provides that evidence of rabies inoculation is a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian OR A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE THAT INCLUDES THE NAME OF THE SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN. Provides that a veterinarian OR A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE may stamp or write THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S name and address on the certificate.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-06

Title
Captive Wildlife

Description

A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Adding Chapter 17 To Title 50 So As To Regulate Captive Wildlife By Defining Terms, Outlining The Permitting Process, Listing Exceptions, And Providing Penalties For Violations, Among Other Things; By Amending Section 50-16-40, Relating To Exceptions To The Permit Requirement For Wildlife Imported For Exhibition Purposes, So As To Limit The Exceptions; And By Repealing Section 50-11-1180 Relating To The Authority Of The Department To Issue Permits To Collect Protected Wildlife For Scientific Or Propagating Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Bill Hixon

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2024, 2:54 PM

Amends Title 50 (Fish, Game & Watercraft) of the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding a new Chapter 17 (Captive Wildlife) so as to regulate captive wildlife by: (1) Defining terms; (2) Outlining the permitting process; and (3) Providing penalties for violations. Provides that the department may promulgate regulations related to wildlife possession and to implement this chapter. Provides that the following activities are prohibited: (1) The possession of live, captive wildlife without a permit or other authorization issued by the department; (2) The importation or possession of any recognized live North American furbearer species; (3) The sale, trade, transfer of possession, or barter of live furbearing animals destined for export out of the United States, notwithstanding any provision of Article 12, Chapter 11, Title 50; (4) The import or export of live, captive wildlife into the State without an import or export permit from the department; and (5) breeding captive wildlife except in recognized AZA breeding programs. Provides that possession of native reptiles and amphibians as regulated by Chapter 15, Title 50 is exempt from this chapter. Provides for standards of care, recordkeeping requirements, and penalties for violation of this section. For purposes of this section: "Captive wildlife" means any wildlife, game animal, furbearing animal, part, product, egg, offspring, nest, dead body, derivative, or part thereof which is managed, protected, or the taking of which is specifically regulated by the department. "Department" means the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, or its successors.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-17

Title
Protected tenants

Description

A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Adding Article 11 To Chapter 40, Title 27 So As To Provide Definitions, To Provide For Certain Protected Tenant'S Rights, To Provide For Situations In Which A Protected Tenant May Terminate A Lease, To Provide For Certain Reports Of Domestic Violence, To Create The Domestic Violence Shelter Fund, And To Provide That Certain Law Enforcement Is Directed To Take Appropriate Action To Assist Domestic Violence Victims.

Primary Sponsors
J.A. Moore

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 31, 2024, 6:52 PM

Amends Title 27 (Property & Conveyances), Chapter 40 (Residential Landlord and Tenant Act) of the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding a new Article 11 (Protected Tenants) to provide for certain reports of domestic violence (to include companion animals) and to create the Domestic Violence Shelter Fund. Provides that definitions for "Dating violence and abuse" and "Domestic violence and abuse" shall include the infliction of fear of such imminent conduct, taken against a domestic animal when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the perpetrator is or has been in a dating relationship, when that person has a close bond of affection to the domestic animal. Creates a trust and agency account in the State Treasury to be known as the "Domestic Violence Shelter Fund". Provides that each county clerk shall remit to the fund, by the 10th of the month, 10 dollars from each 24 dollars collected during the previous month from the issuance of marriage licenses. Provides that the Department of Health and Human Services shall use the funds for the purpose of providing protective shelter services for domestic violence victims.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-31

Title

Dangerous wild animals

Description

A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Adding Chapter 8 To Title 47 Entitled "Public Contact With Dangerous Wild Animals" So As To Define Terms, To Prohibit Direct Contact With Dangerous Wild Animals, To Provide Exceptions, To Allow For Enforcement By Animal Control Authorities, Local Law Enforcement Agents, State Law Enforcement Agents, And County Sheriffs, And To Provide Penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Seth Rose

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2024, 5:20 PM

Amends Title 47 (Animals, Livestock and Poultry) of the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding a new Chapter 8 (Public Contact with Dangerous Wild Animals) to: (1) Prohibit direct contact with dangerous wild animals; and (2) Allow for enforcement by certain animal control and law enforcement authorities. Provides that it is unlawful for any person to allow any member of the public to come into direct contact with a dangerous wild animal. Provides that a person who violates this chapter must be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days for a first offense, and must be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days for a second offense. Provides that the animal control authority and its staff and agents, local law enforcement agents, state law enforcement agents, and county sheriffs are authorized and empowered to enforce the provisions of this chapter. Provides that this chapter does not apply to direct contact between a dangerous wild animal and: (1) The owner of the dangerous wild animal; (2) The owner of the facility in which the specified animal is kept; (3) An employee or agent of the owner of the dangerous wild animal, or an accompanying employee receiving professional training, while acting in the course and scope of official duty; (4) A veterinarian licensed pursuant to Chapter 69, Title 40 a veterinary student accompanying a licensed veterinarian, or a registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian; (5) A law enforcement officer or animal control authority acting in the course and scope of official duty; (6) A board member of the facility where the animal is kept, trainer, service provider, or professional production crew who: (i) is accompanied by the facility's owner or trained employee; (ii) is performing work with the specified animal away from public view; and (iii) under a contract or other engagement with the facility's owner; and (7) The Department of Natural Resources or its employee or agent, while acting in the course and scope of official duty. For purposes of this section: "Dangerous wild animal" means any live member of the following, or any hybrid thereof: (1) bear; (2) elephant; and (3) nonhuman primate. "Direct contact" means physical contact including, but not limited to, any proximity without a permanent barrier or sufficient vertical height designed to prevent physical shared space between the public and a dangerous wild animal.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-13

Title

Sentencing Reform

Description

A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws To Amend Section 17-25-322, Relating To A Restitution Hearing, So As To Require That The Court Must Take Into Consideration The Financial Resources Of The Defendant And Ability Of The Defendant To Pay, To Require If A Court Finds A Defendant Faces Financial Hardship That That Defendant Must Pay No Less Than A Specified Amount, And To Require A Hearing If The Defendant Is Six Months In Arrears; To Amend Section 24-21-280, Relating To Duties And Powers Of Probation Agents, So As To Require Probation Agents To Take Into Consideration An Offender'S Effective Use Of Discretionary Funds, To Provide For Supervision For Sentences Of Three Hundred Sixty-Five Days Or More, To Specify How Compliance Credits May Be Awarded And How Programs May Be Recognized By Regulation As Proper For Incentives, To Inform The Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee Of The Programs Designated For Compliance Credits, And To Provide That Offender Eligibility For Compliance Credits As Provided In This Section Be Extended To Offenders Whose Offenses Occurred Prior To January 1, 2011; To Amend Section 24-21-440, Relating To The Period Of Probation, So As To Provide That The Period Be Dependent Upon The Offense For Which The Defendant Has Been Sentenced, That Restitution Payments Must Not Be Required For The First Three Months Of Supervision And That The Period For Supervision Of Restitution Payments Must Be Determined By A Judge, That The Supervision Of Restitution Payment Must Not Exceed Five Years And Is Only Revocable After The Completion Of Probation For Failure To Make Restitution Payments; To Amend Section 24-21-560, Relating To The Community Supervision Program, So As To Clarify That Once Community Supervision Is Completed An Offender Is Still Subject To The Other Requirements Of Supervision; To Amend The S.C. Code By Adding Section 43-5-1191, So As To Exempt Individuals From The Eligibility Restriction On Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program And Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Benefits For Individuals With Drug Convictions That Would Otherwise Be Eligible And To Provide For Ineligibility In The Event An Individual Violates Probation, Community Supervision, Or Parole; And To Provide That The Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee Study And Make A Report To The General Assembly Concerning The Collection Of Restitution And The Risk And Needs Tool Used To Evaluate The Entire Supervision Population; To Add Article 7, To Chapter 27, Title 24 To Provide The Circumstances In Which An Inmate Who Has Been Incarcerated At Least Fifteen Years May Petition The Court To Have His Sentence Modified; To Amend Section 24-13-150, Relating To The Early Release Of An Inmate To Reduce The Number Of Years An Inmate Who Has Committed A "No Pa... (click bill link to see more).

Primary Sponsors

Gerald Malloy

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 8, 2022, 1:18 PM

Amends Title 47 (Animals, Livestock and Poultry), Article 15 (Protection of Guide Dogs - "Layla's Law"), Section 47-3-950 (Unauthorized control over guide dog or service animal; penalties) to clarify sentencing guidelines. Provides that a person who violates Subsection (A) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than \$2,000 or imprisoned not MORE THAN 1 year, or both. (Current statute is not less than 1 year, or both). Subsection (A) reads: It is unlawful for a person to wrongfully obtain or exert unauthorized control over a guide dog or service animal with the intent to deprive the guide dog or service animal user of his guide dog or service animal.

Introduction Date: 2022-12-07

Title
Rabies Control Act

Description

A Bill To Amend The South Carolina Code Of Laws By Amending Section 47-5-20, Relating To Definitions, So As To Define Compendium; By Amending Section 47-5-60, Relating To Inoculation Of Pets, So As To Permit A Certified Vaccine Technician To Administer Rabies Inoculations When Supervised By A Veterinarian Licensed To Practice In This State; By Amending Section 47-5-90, Relating To Reports Of Animal Bites To The Health Department, So As To Require The Date Of Birth Of The Person Bitten By A Pet Or Other Animal; By Amending Section 40-69-20, Relating To Definitions So As To Define Certified Vaccine Technician; And By Adding Section 40-69-310 So As To Provide Who May Administer Vaccines To Animals.

Primary Sponsors
Katrina Shealy

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 13, 2024, 12:46 PM

Amends Title 47 (Animals, Livestock & Poultry), Chapter 5 (Rabies Control), Section 47-5-60 (Inoculation of pets; certificates and tags) of the SC Code of Laws so as to permit a Certified Vaccine Technician to administer rabies inoculations when supervised by a licensed veterinarian. Provides that a rabies inoculation for pets must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN, or someone under a licensed veterinarian's supervision. Provides that evidence of rabies inoculation is a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian OR A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE THAT INCLUDES THE NAME OF THE SUPERVISING VETERINARIAN. Provides that a veterinarian OR A CERTIFIED VACCINE TECHNICIAN WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THIS STATE may stamp or write THE LICENSED VETERINARIAN'S name and address on the certificate.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-12