**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**H. 3072**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Pendarvis, Robinson, Cobb‑Hunter, Matthews, Henegan, McDaniel and Henderson‑Myers

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Introduced in the House on January 12, 2021

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry**

Summary: Eviction proceeding

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/9/2020 House Prefiled

12/9/2020 House Referred to Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry**

1/12/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 59](file:///h:\hj\20210112.docx))

1/12/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry** ([House Journal‑page 59](file:///h:\hj\20210112.docx))

2/23/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Matthews

4/14/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Henegan, McDaniel, Henderson‑Myers

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/9/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\3072_20201209.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 27‑40‑680 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A TENANT HAS THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN AN EVICTION PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE TENANT AND A LANDLORD AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COURT TO APPOINT COUNSEL TO DEFEND A TENANT IF IT DETERMINES THE TENANT IS UNABLE TO FINANCIALLY RETAIN ADEQUATE LEGAL COUNSEL.

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

SECTION 1. Subarticle 1, Article 7, Chapter 40, Title 27 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 27‑40‑680. A tenant is entitled to legal counsel in an eviction proceeding rising from the termination or alleged noncompliance with a rental agreement with the landlord. If the magistrate or circuit court judge determines that the tenant is unable financially to retain adequate legal counsel, the court shall appoint qualified and experienced counsel to defend the tenant throughout the eviction proceeding. Such counsel must be paid fees and costs that the court deems appropriate.”

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

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