Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H*4805 (Rat #0205, Act #0154 of 2026) General Bill, By W. Newton, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Pope, White, Robbins and Hart

Summary: Judicial Seats

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 14-5-610, RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO SIXTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, AND THE ELECTION OF AT-LARGE JUDGES WITHOUT REGARD TO COUNTY OR CIRCUIT OF RESIDENCE, SO AS TO CONVERT THREE AT-LARGE CIRCUIT COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS AND CREATE FOUR NEW JUDGESHIPS; BY AMENDING SECTION 63-3-40, RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF FAMILY COURT JUDGES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH CIRCUIT, SO AS TO CONVERT FOUR AT-LARGE FAMILY COURT SEATS TO RESIDENT SEATS; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 9-8-60, RELATING TO RETIREMENT OF JUDGES, SOLICITORS, AND CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDERS, SO AS TO REQUIRE EIGHT YEARS OF EARNED SERVICE RATHER THAN TEN. - RATIFIED TITLE

12/16/25	**House**	**Prefiled**
12/16/25	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary**
01/13/26	**House**	**Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 96)**
01/13/26	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 96)**
01/20/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: White**
03/31/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Robbins**
03/31/26	**House**	**Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 210)**
04/01/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hart**
04/01/26	**House**	**Amended (House Journal-page 22)**
04/01/26	**House**	**Read second time (House Journal-page 22)**
04/01/26	**House**	**Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 24)**
04/02/26	**House**	**Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 37)**
04/07/26	**Senate**	**Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 3)**
04/07/26	**Senate**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 3)**
05/05/26	**Senate**	**Read second time (Senate Journal-page 45)**
05/05/26	**Senate**	**Roll call Ayes-45 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 45)**
05/06/26	**Senate**	**Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal-page 82)**
05/14/26		**Ratified R 205**
05/15/26		**Signed By Governor**
05/26/26		**Effective date 05/15/26**
05/26/26		**Act No. 154**