**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**H. 3169**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. W.J. McLeod, Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E. Smith, Munnerlyn, Whipper and Knight

Document Path: l:\council\bills\nbd\11042vr13.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3170

Introduced in the House on January 8, 2013

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

Summary: Grounds for divorce

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/18/2012 House Prefiled

12/18/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/8/2013 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 113](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2013\01-08-13.docx))

1/8/2013 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 113](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2013\01-08-13.docx))

4/18/2013 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E.Smith, Munnerlyn, Newton

5/30/2013 House Member(s) request name removed as sponsor: Newton

2/26/2014 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Whipper

2/26/2014 House Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 56](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\02-26-14.docx))

2/27/2014 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Knight

3/4/2014 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 3‑6‑14 ([House Journal‑page 104](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\03-04-14.docx))

3/6/2014 House Requests for debate‑Rep(s). GR Smith, Sellers, McEachern, Sandifer, WJ McLeod, Weeks, Skelton, Hosey, Forrester, Allison, Tallon, Woods, Chumley, JR Smith, Henderson, Nanney, Clemmons, Stringer, Goldfinch, Hardwick, HA Crawford, Loftis, VS Moss, Kennedy, Hamilton, Spires, Atwater, Huggins, Balentine, Burns, McCoy, Crosby, Southard, Toole ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\03-06-14.docx))

4/9/2014 House Recommitted to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 68](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-09-14.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/18/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\3169_20121218.docx)

[2/26/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\3169_20140226.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 26, 2014

**H. 3169**

Introduced by Reps. W.J. McLeod, Bannister, Spires, Jefferson, Williams, Taylor, J.E. Smith, Munnerlyn and Whipper

S. Printed 2/26/14--H.

Read the first time January 8, 2013.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3169) to amend Section 20‑3‑10, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to grounds for divorce, so as to provide that a divorce may be granted, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

F. GREGORY DELLENEY, JR. for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 20‑3‑10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A DIVORCE MAY BE GRANTED ON THE GROUND OF CONTINUOUS SEPARATION FOR ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DAYS, RATHER THAN FOR ONE YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20‑3‑10 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 20‑3‑10. No divorce from the bonds of matrimony ~~shall~~ may be granted except upon one or more of the following grounds~~, to wit~~:

(1) adultery;

(2) desertion for a period of one year;

(3) physical cruelty;

(4) habitual drunkenness; ~~provided, that~~ this ground ~~shall~~ must be construed to include habitual drunkenness caused by the use of any narcotic drug; or

(5) on the application of either party if and when the husband and wife have lived separate and apart without cohabitation for a period of one ~~year~~ hundred fifty days. A plea of res judicata or of recrimination with respect to any other provision of this section ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ a bar to either party obtaining a divorce on this ground.”

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

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