**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**A131, R136, H4439**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Clemmons, Bryant, Hosey, R. Williams, Blackwell, Clary and Rivers

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Introduced in the House on April 9, 2019

Introduced in the Senate on April 17, 2019

Passed by the General Assembly on March 10, 2020

Governor's Action: April 10, 2020, Signed

Summary: Atomic Veterans Day

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 4/9/2019 House Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference ([House Journal‑page 170](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20190409.docx))

 4/10/2019 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Rivers

 4/10/2019 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 46](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20190410.docx))

 4/10/2019 House Roll call Yeas‑103 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 46](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20190410.docx))

 4/11/2019 House Read third time and sent to Senate

 4/17/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20190417.docx))

 4/17/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Family and Veterans' Services** ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20190417.docx))

 2/12/2020 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Family and Veterans' Services** ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20200212.docx))

 3/4/2020 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 93](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20200304.docx))

 3/4/2020 Senate Roll call Ayes‑46 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 93](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20200304.docx))

 3/10/2020 Senate Read third time and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 28](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20200310.docx))

 4/8/2020 Ratified R 136

 4/10/2020 Signed By Governor

 4/13/2020 Effective date 04/10/20

 4/13/2020 Act No.  131

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4439&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/9/2019](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2019-20%5C4439_20190409.docx)

[4/9/2019-A](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2019-20%5C4439_20190409A.docx)

[2/12/2020](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2019-20%5C4439_20200212.docx)

(A131, R136, H4439)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53‑3‑250 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF JULY OF EACH YEAR AS “ATOMIC VETERANS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.**

Whereas, throughout the history of this great State and nation, brave South Carolinians, answering the call of duty and service, have defended our freedoms as members of the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, more than two hundred thousand American service members, including South Carolinians, participated in aboveground nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, served with the United States military occupation forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki before 1946, or were held as prisoners of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki; and

Whereas, with the aid of American service members, the United States conducted the Trinity nuclear test, the world’s first detonation of a nuclear device, in New Mexico on July 16, 1945, as a result of the Manhattan Project; and

Whereas, all these atomic veterans may have been exposed to radiation during their military service and, due to that exposure, may have developed cancer or other medical conditions; and

Whereas, many atomic veterans were prevented by secrecy laws or oaths from seeking medical care or disability compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for conditions they may have developed as a result of radiation exposure; and

Whereas, in 1996, the United States Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements Act, thus freeing atomic veterans to describe their military involvement in nuclear testing in order to file for VA benefits; and

Whereas, atomic veterans may be eligible for free medical care from the VA and compensation in the form of a partial or full service‑connected disability allowance, including potential payments to a surviving spouse or children; and

Whereas,the National Association of Atomic Veterans was formed in 1979 to help atomic veterans obtain medical care and assistance; and

Whereas,it is altogether fitting and proper that atomic veterans be recognized for their service and sacrifice. Now, therefore,

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

**Atomic Veterans Day**

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 53 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

 “Section 53‑3‑250. The sixteenth day of July of each year is designated as ‘Atomic Veterans Day’ in South Carolina”.

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 8th day of April, 2020.

Approved the 10th day of April, 2020.

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