**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 712**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Concurrent Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Goldfinch and Campsen

Document Path: LC-0258PH-PH23.docx

Introduced in the Senate on April 11, 2023

Introduced in the House on May 16, 2023

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions**

Summary: North Atlantic right whales

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 4/11/2023 Senate Introduced (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 4/11/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Agriculture and Natural Resources** (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 5/9/2023 Senate Polled out of committee **Agriculture and Natural Resources** (Senate Journal‑page 17)

 5/9/2023 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture and Natural Resources** (Senate Journal‑page 17)

 5/11/2023 Senate Adopted, sent to House (Senate Journal‑page 176)

 5/16/2023 House Introduced (House Journal‑page 10)

 5/16/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions** (House Journal‑page 10)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=712&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[04/11/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/712_20230411.docx)

[05/09/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/712_20230509.docx)

Polled Out Of Committee

Majority Favorable

May 09, 2023

S. 712

Introduced by Senators Goldfinch and Campsen

S. Printed 05/09/23--S.

Read the first time April 11, 2023

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The committee on Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

To who was referred a Concurrent Resolution (S. 712) to encourage the South Carolina Congressional Delegation to assist in finding reasonable solutions to protect North Atlantic Right Whales and South Carolina’s coastal, etc., respectfully

Report:

Has polled the Concurrent Resolution out majority favorable.

WESLEY CLIMER for Committee.

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A concurrent RESOLUTION

To encourage the south carolina congressional delegation to assist in finding reasonable solutions to protect north atlantic right whales and south carolina’s coastal culture and economy.

Whereas, South Carolina coastal waters serve as an important seasonal habitat for the North Atlantic right whale, which are a highly‑valued species by the people of South Carolina and an important part of our marine ecosystem; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes the North Atlantic right whale is a critically endangered species and supports mitigation measures to prevent human‑related mortality; and

Whereas, the National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing changes to the North Atlantic right whale vessel strike reduction rule that will impose a 10 knot maximum speed limit for nearly half the year out to 40 nautical miles for vessels 35 feet and longer; and

Whereas, there are significant concerns that the changes to the rule currently being considered by the National Marine Fisheries Service are not based on the best available science; are unenforceable; risk human safety; will not meaningfully protect right whales; and will have significant negative impacts on South Carolina’s anglers, boaters, the fishing and boating industry, maritime shipping industry, and coastal economies if implemented; and

Whereas, with recent advancements in aerial surveillance, passive acoustic monitoring, satellite tagging, sonar, and DNA‑detection technologies, combined with the relatively few individual right whales off our coast, mitigation would be more successful and less economically harmful by using real‑time information to alert boaters of right whale presence and implementing slow‑speed requirements when and where whales are present; and

Whereas, Congress has already set in motion the ability for the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement real conservation measures through Section 11303 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023, which authorized a pilot program to design and deploy a near real‑time monitoring and mitigation program for threatened or endangered whales. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, urge the South Carolina Congressional Delegation to assist coastal communities by appropriating funds to the National Marine Fisheries Service for the implementation of a real‑time monitoring program with the capacity to alert anglers, recreational boaters, and mariners to known locations of North Atlantic right whales.

Be it further resolved that our Congressional Delegation urge the Secretary of Commerce to pause implementation of any changes to the North Atlantic right whale vessel strike reduction rule until such time as a real‑time monitoring program is implemented; anglers, recreational boaters, and mariners have the opportunity to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service to be a part of the solution; and other, more effective mitigation measures than those in the proposed rules can be implemented.

Be it further resolved that the copy of this resolution be presented to the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, Governor’s office, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

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