**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 175**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Zell

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3535

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

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

Summary: Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 107)

 1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 107)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=175&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/14/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/175_20250114.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE “HELPING ALLEVIATE LAWFUL OBSTRUCTION (HALO) ACT”; BY ADDING SECTION 16‑3‑1092 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF IMPEDING, INTERFERING, THREATENING, OR HARASSING A FIRST RESPONDER ENGAGED IN THE LAWFUL PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY.

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the “Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act”.

SECTION 2. Article 11, Chapter 3, Title 16 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 16‑3‑1092. (A) As used in this section, the term “first responder” includes a firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or other individual with specialized training and skills who, in the course of his professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.

 (B) It is unlawful for a person, after receiving a verbal warning not to approach from a person he knows or reasonably should know is a first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to knowingly and wilfully violate the warning and approach or remain within twenty‑five feet of the first responder with the intent to:

 (1) impede or interfere with the first responder’s ability to perform his duty;

 (2) threaten the first responder with harm; or

 (3) harass or taunt the first responder.

 (C) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than sixty days.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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