**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 73**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Hembree

Companion/Similar bill(s): 71, 346, 3052, 3093, 3392, 3533

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

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

Summary: Enhanced Penalties

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/11/2024 Senate Prefiled

12/11/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 60](h:\sj\20250114.docx))

1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 60](h:\sj\20250114.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=73&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/73_20241211.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 16-3-605 SO AS TO CREATE AN ENHANCED PENALTY FOR CONVICTIONS BY PERSONS UNDER SECTION 16-3-600 AGAINST EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 16 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 16-3-605. (A) As used in this section, "educational professional" means a licensed teacher, principal, administrator, or other educational provider who works on school grounds.

(B) If a person is convicted of an offense as defined in Section 16-3-600, and the offense was committed against an educational professional during the performance of his official duties, then he must be imprisoned up to an additional five years, in addition to the punishment provided for the principal crime.

(C) The court may impose this sentence to run consecutively or concurrently.

(D) The penalty provided under this section may not be suspended nor probation granted.

(E) The additional punishment may not be imposed unless the indictment alleged as a separate count that the offense was committed against an educational professional who was acting at the time of the offense in his official capacity and conviction was had upon this count in the indictment. The penalties prescribed in this section may not be imposed unless the person convicted was, at the same time, indicted and convicted of a crime as defined in Section 16-3-600.

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

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