QUICK TIPS FOR

Reading a Bill

Bills can look intimidating. They are full of legal language, strikeouts, and strange formatting, but you don't have to be a lawyer to understand what's going on. With a few tricks, you can learn to quickly spot what matters most.

Start with the Basics

At the top of the page, you'll find:

- **Bill Number:** tells you if it's a House (H.) or Senate (S.) bill. The bill number stays the same throughout the process, even as it moves between chambers.

  EXAMPLE
  H. 3728 = House Bill 3728
  S. 200 = Senate Bill 200

- **Sponsor(s):** the legislator(s) who introduced it. These names show where the bill started and who's supporting it.
- **Primary Sponsor:** The legislator who introduces the bill and leads its progress.
- **Co-Sponsors:** Other legislators who publicly sign on to support the bill after it's introduced.
- Where and when it was introduced
- Last action or amendment date
- Current location
- **History of Legislative Actions:** a timeline showing every step the bill has taken, from introduction to amendments and votes.

Skip to the "Section by Section" Parts

Bills are written as changes to existing law. Look for these key clues:

- **"Amended to read"** = wording is being changed.
- **"Added"** = new language is being introduced.
- **"Repealed"** = that law or section is being deleted.

Look for Strikeouts and Underlines

Strikeouts show what's being removed, and underlines show what's being added. Focus on what's changing. If you see pages of text without strikeouts or underlines, it's often new law being added entirely.

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Find the Definitions Section

Bills often define key terms early on (for example: “Employer” means any business with 15 or more employees). Always check these, as definitions can completely change how a bill applies. For example, a bill about “public employees” might define that term narrowly, excluding teachers or certain workers.

Read the “Purpose” or “Intent” if Available

Some bills start with a “Findings” or “Purpose” section explaining why the bill exists. It helps you understand the goal behind the legal wording.

Keep Notes in Plain Language

When you’re reading a bill for advocacy work, write a one-sentence summary in your own words. Note who it affects and how. Highlight any new requirements, penalties, or rights.

EXAMPLE **“This bill adds a new requirement for childcare centers to report staffing ratios to the state every year.”**

Don’t Go It Alone

Even seasoned advocates talk through bills together. Ask a partner, coalition member, or even a WREN staffer to walk through it with you. Everyone catches something different.

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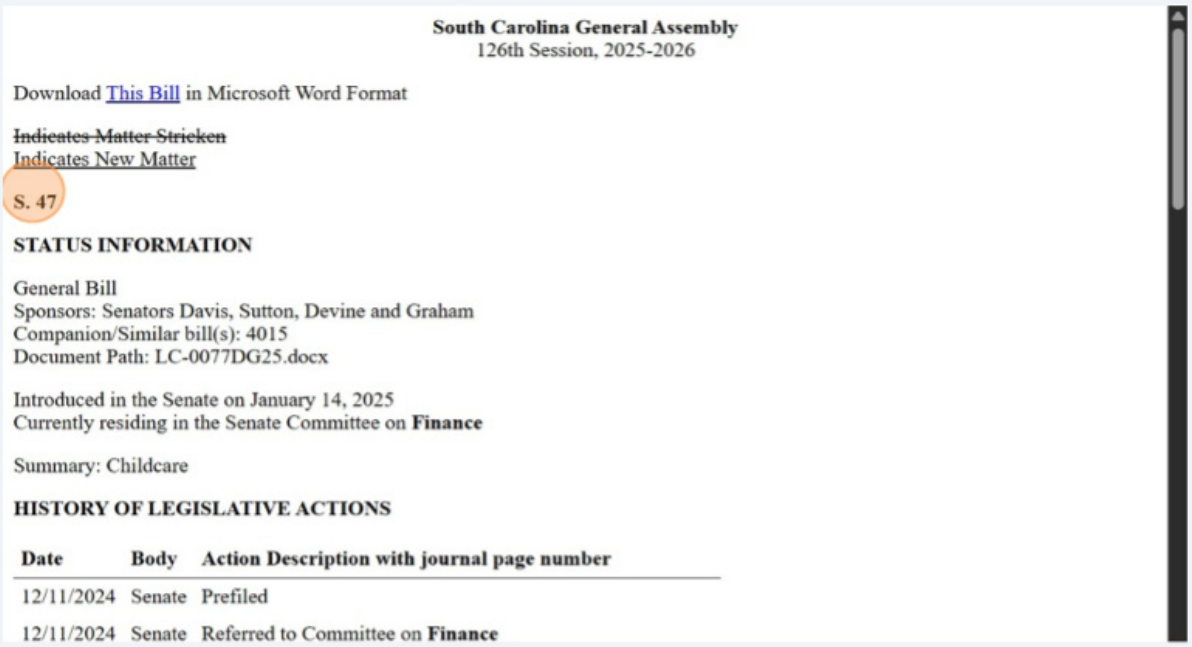
1 The bill number is here.



South Carolina General Assembly
126th Session, 2025-2026

Download This Bill in Microsoft Word Format

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~
Indicates New Matter

S. 47

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill
Sponsors: Senators Davis, Sutton, Devine and Graham
Companion/Similar bill(s): 4015
Document Path: LC-0077DG25.docx

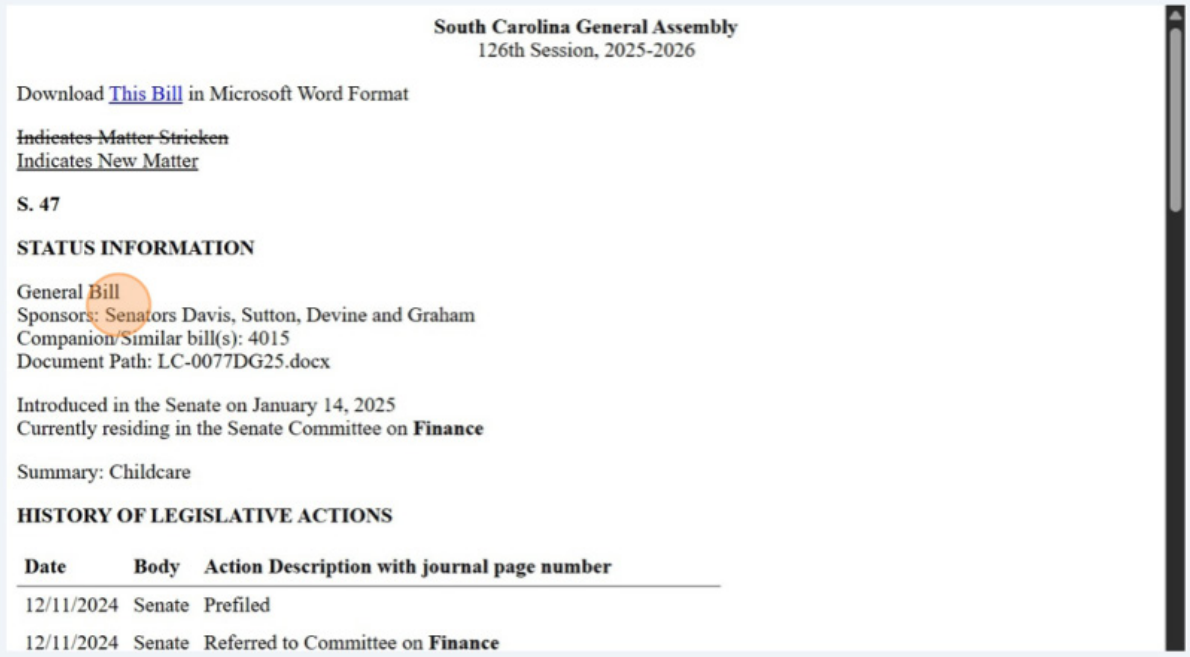
Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025
Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Finance**

Summary: Childcare

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 **Finance**

2 This is where you see the sponsors of the legislation



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3 This is the introduction date

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1/14/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on **Finance** (Senate Journal-page 47)

View the latest legislative information at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

4 This shows that it was assigned to the "Finance" committee

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

Summary: Childcare

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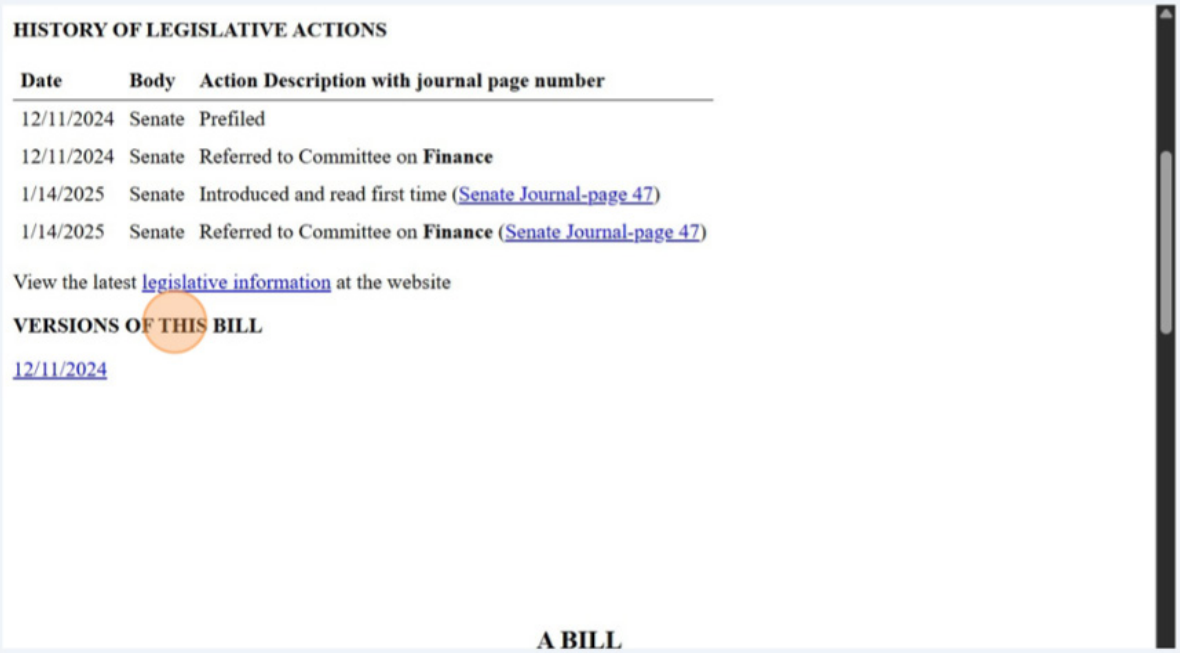
VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

12/11/2024

QUICK TIPS FOR

Reading a Bill

5 Here you can see other versions of the bill



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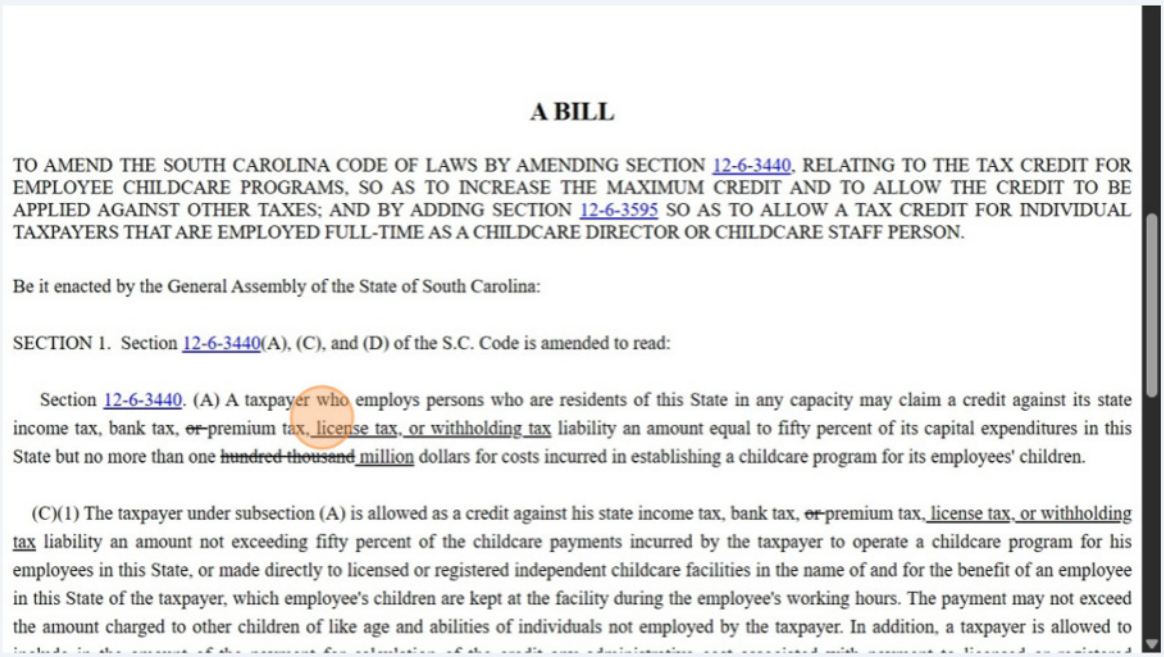
12/11/2024

A BILL

6 Underlined items means it is a change to current law



A BILL

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-6-3440, RELATING TO THE TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYEE CHILDCARE PROGRAMS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM CREDIT AND TO ALLOW THE CREDIT TO BE APPLIED AGAINST OTHER TAXES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 12-6-3595 SO AS TO ALLOW A TAX CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS THAT ARE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME AS A CHILDCARE DIRECTOR OR CHILDCARE STAFF PERSON.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12-6-3440(A), (C), and (D) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 12-6-3440. (A) A taxpayer who employs persons who are residents of this State in any capacity may claim a credit against its state income tax, bank tax, ~~or~~ premium tax, license tax, or withholding tax liability an amount equal to fifty percent of its capital expenditures in this State but no more than one ~~hundred thousand~~ million dollars for costs incurred in establishing a childcare program for its employees' children.

(C)(1) The taxpayer under subsection (A) is allowed as a credit against his state income tax, bank tax, ~~or~~ premium tax, license tax, or withholding tax liability an amount not exceeding fifty percent of the childcare payments incurred by the taxpayer to operate a childcare program for his employees in this State, or made directly to licensed or registered independent childcare facilities in the name of and for the benefit of an employee in this State of the taxpayer, which employee's children are kept at the facility during the employee's working hours. The payment may not exceed the amount charged to other children of like age and abilities of individuals not employed by the taxpayer. In addition, a taxpayer is allowed to

QUICK TIPS FOR

Reading a Bill

7 Strike through means it is deleting current law

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(C)(1) The taxpayer under subsection (A) is allowed as a credit against his state income tax, bank tax, ~~or~~ premium tax, license tax, or withholding tax liability an amount not exceeding fifty percent of the childcare payments incurred by the taxpayer to operate a childcare program for his employees in this State, or made directly to licensed or registered independent childcare facilities in the name of and for the benefit of an employee in this State of the taxpayer, which employee's children are kept at the facility during the employee's working hours. The payment may not exceed the amount charged to other children of like age and abilities of individuals not employed by the taxpayer. In addition, a taxpayer is allowed to include in the amount of the payment for calculation of the credit any administrative cost associated with payment to licensed or registered independent childcare facilities not to exceed two percent. The credits allowed may not exceed ~~three~~ twelve thousand dollars per child for each participating employee a year.

(2) Where an employee in this State chooses to utilize the provisions of this subsection which authorize direct payments to licensed childcare facilities not operated by the employer and licensed or registered with the Department of Social Services in accordance with Section 63-13-20,