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**An Amendment  
Presented By Sarah Britt and Ashley Truax  
Charleston Southern University**

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**Purpose:** To enhance traffic safety among young drivers by amending Title 56 of South Carolina law.

**Whereas,** Teenagers that are at least 15 years of age are currently required to only hold a driving permit for 180 days before earning the privilege of a conditional license.

**Whereas,** A conditional license allows the teenage driver to drive unaccompanied within the daylight hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm (6:00pm daylight savings time).

**Whereas,** Inexperience is a major cause of teenage crash rate; thus, requiring more practice time behind the wheel will give young drivers the opportunity to develop better driving skills.

**Whereas,** In the states of North Carolina and Georgia, teenage drivers must hold a permit for a full year before earning their restricted license

**Whereas,** The current Title 56-1-175 states: “The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a conditional driver's license to a person who is at least fifteen years of age and less than sixteen years of age.”

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Amend article 56 that states “The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a conditional driver's license to a person who is at least fifteen years of age and less than sixteen years of age” by striking the entire section.

**Section II:** Strike all sections pertaining to the aforementioned section 56-1-175.

**Section III:** This amendment shall take effect upon passage by the General Assembly and Signature of the Governor.

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**A Bill**  
**Presented By Jinae Vinson**  
**Charleston Southern University**

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**Purpose:** To attempt to ensure the safety of all South Carolina citizens by mandating a mental health evaluation for all those interested in the purchase of a firearm.

**Whereas,** Persons who suffer with mental health disorders and have access to firearms can lead to serious injuries or death to one's self and/or others.

**Whereas,** In April 2007, a mentally unstable student at Virginia Tech University shot and killed 32 people, injured 17 others, and then committed suicide.

**Whereas,** There have been 146 mass shootings since 2006 which have resulted in over 900 deaths.

**Whereas,** By submitting mental health information to NICS, an increase of 1.3% of prospective purchasers were denied over a period of 5 years.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** All prospective concealed weapons permit holders and purchasers of firearms in South Carolina must complete a mental health evaluation before receiving a concealed weapons permit. This mental health evaluation must be completed at every renewal of the concealed weapons permit, which occurs every four years. The cost of the evaluation must be paid by the prospective purchaser. Any available history of any prior denied persons and submission of mental health records must be given to NICS.

**Section II:** Current firearm owners and concealed weapons permit holders must complete a mental health evaluation in order to purchase another firearm and keep their concealed weapons license.

**Section III:** Any opposes to a mental health evaluation will result in license revoked.

**Section III:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.

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**A Bill**  
**Presented By Makayla Rox**  
**Charleston Southern University**

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**Purpose:** To attempt to ensure the safety of all South Carolina drivers by mandating that all elderly South Carolina residents renew their driver’s license in order to continue to drive on South Carolina roads.

**Whereas,** In 2008, more than 5,500 older adults were killed and more than 183,000 were injured in motor vehicle accidents.

**Whereas,** Age-related declines in vision and cognitive functioning have been proven to affect one’s driving abilities. Many physical changes are involved that affect the driving abilities of the elderly.

**Whereas,** The National Highway Traffic Administration reported 6,017 people over the age of 65 were killed in an automobile while driving in 2006.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** All South Carolina residents age 67 must renew their driver’s license at the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to continue to drive on South Carolina roads. Licenses may not be renewed by mail.

**Section II:** The renewal of a South Carolina Driver’s license includes: passage of a written knowledge test, passage of a driving skills test, proof of South Carolina residency, and Social Security card.

**Section III:** Upon bill passage, all current South Carolina licensed drivers who are over the age of 67 must get their license renewed within a year of bill passage.

**Section IV:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.

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**A Resolution  
Presented By Kaitlyn Rogers  
Charleston Southern University**

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**Purpose:** To provide students within the South Carolina public school system who have behavioral problems a more productive disciplinary system.

**Whereas,** When students are suspended from school they lose classroom time.

**Whereas,** Many students who are suspended suffer from repeat behavioral issues. On average, a student with behavioral issues gets suspended three times in one school year.

**Whereas,** Students who are suspended can look at their suspension as vacation days instead of punishment.

**Whereas,** During the time of suspension students easily lose track of their studies due to lack of instructional time.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Students in the South Carolina public school system shall receive in-school suspension before out-of-school suspension is executed.

**Section II:** A student shall never receive out-of-school suspension for anything that is not violent or that may harm another person.

**Section III:** A classroom shall be set up that can be used to hold in-school suspension. This room shall have a teacher or staff person in order to provide supervision at all times. No student shall be allowed to leave the classroom, except in the event of an emergency, the necessary usage of the restroom, or for lunch. Students shall be escorted to the lunchroom/cafeteria by the in-school suspension supervisor and remain supervised throughout the duration of their lunch. A staff person must also escort any student who needs to use the restroom.

**Section IV:** Students are required to complete that day's work by the end of the day. It is then turned in to the teacher. Students may ask for help if they do not understand and should be provided with written instruction from the teacher.

**Section V:** Parents must be notified of their child's suspension. This can be done via a *Notice of Suspension* that is to be sent home with the student and returned signed by the parent, a phone call to the parent, or both. Parents can call the school and request further information on reasoning and punishment.

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47 **Section VI:** Small behavioral problems shall result in at least one day of in-school suspension.  
48 Extra days may be added at the discretion of the disciplinarian (i.e. the Dean,  
49 Principal, Vice Principal, etc.).

50 **A.** For the purposes of this resolution, small behavioral problems shall  
51 include, but are not limited to, the following: being tardy, dress code  
52 violations, small behavioral problems in the classroom, cutting class,  
53 public display of affection etc.  
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55 **Section VII:** Larger behavioral problems shall result in longer in-school suspension, starting  
56 with at least three (3) days. Extra days may be added at the discretion of the  
57 disciplinarian (i.e. the Dean, Principal, Vice Principal, etc.).

58 **A.** For the purposes of this resolution, larger behavioral problems shall  
59 include, but are not limited to, the following: fighting, theft, sexual  
60 harassment, vandalism, etc.  
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62 **Section VIII:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina  
63 Student Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.

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**A Bill**  
**Presented By Jaymeson Lane**  
**Charleston Southern University**

**Purpose:** To increase safety for the residents of South Carolina by prohibiting a form of distracted driving that is the source of many motor vehicle accidents.

**Whereas,** According to a study that ranked all 50 U.S. states based on the highest yearly average automobile deaths per 100,000 people from 2007-2009, South Carolina ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for the most dangerous, and 13<sup>th</sup> in total deaths despite being ranked only 24<sup>th</sup> by population.

**Whereas,** A study by Virginia Tech showed that distracted driving now plays a part in 80 percent of all motor vehicle accidents; and, in a study by both Virginia Tech and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the use of a wireless device is the number one source of driver inattention.

**Whereas,** According to research by the University of Utah, distraction from cell phone usage while driving, even hands free, “extends a driver’s reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent.”

**Whereas,** In 2012, the South Carolina House of Representatives voted 93-15 in favor of banning all texting while driving, but it was amended in the Senate to apply only to drivers under the age of 18.

**Whereas,** Many local bans on texting and/or the use of a hand-held device while driving have already been enacted in the city, county, and municipal level, notably the counties of Camden, Clemson, Columbia, Sumter, and Mount Pleasant, as well as in Charleston and Greenville.

**Therefore,** Be it enacted by the South Carolina Student Legislature in regular session assembled the following:

**Section I:** Texting while operating a motor vehicle in the State of South Carolina shall be prohibited.

**A.** For the purposes of this bill, the term texting shall be understood to include any use of an electronic device, handheld or otherwise, to enter or read text for an extended period of time, including but not limited to the following: sending or receiving text messages, sending or receiving emails, and using an e-reader or tablet computer in a manner that requires prolonged physical and/or visual attention.

**Section II:** The use of an electronic device such as a GPS, music player, or other cellular device in a manner that requires only limited and/or intermittent attention, such as changing music, dialing a phone number, entering or reading an address, or using a talk-to-text service, shall not be prohibited, although these and other activities

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47 can still contribute to a distracted driving charge.

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49 **Section III:** An individual responsible for a motor vehicle accident resulting in a fatality  
50 caused by distracted driving while texting, as defined in Section I, Subsection A,  
51 can be given the same penalties as an individual responsible for a motor vehicle  
52 accident resulting in a fatality caused by driving under the influence of a  
53 controlled substance, such as alcohol, narcotics, and any substance that may  
54 impair an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

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56 **Section IV:** All current laws regarding shall be stricken once the law is in effect, except those  
57 already in place at the local level more stringent than the above restrictions, such  
58 as the prohibition of the use of electronic devices altogether.

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60 **Section V:** Specific penalties and fines for motor vehicle operators found in violation of this  
61 law shall be left to the discretion of each county government.

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63 **Section VI:** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage of the South Carolina Student  
64 Legislature and signature into law by its Governor.

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