



PERSONHOOD ACT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[S.217](#) Introduced in SC Senate January 10, 2017

[H.3530](#) Introduced in SC House January 19, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

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[COLUMBIA, SC] The "Personhood Act of South Carolina" has been introduced once again in the South Carolina General Assembly, in both the SC Senate ([S.217](#) introduced January 10), and the SC House ([H.3530](#) introduced January 19). The Senate bill was introduced by then-Senator Kevin Bryant, who was elevated to the position of SC Lieutenant Governor Wednesday, January 25, after former Lt Gov Henry McMaster was elevated to the office of SC Governor on January 24 (following the SC Constitution's order of succession) immediately upon former SC Gov Nikki Haley's resignation after her confirmation by the US Senate to be US Ambassador to the United Nations. At the present time, the Senate bill ([S.217](#)) has 12 Republican co-sponsors in the [46-seat](#) SC Senate, which presently has [27 Republicans](#) and [18 Democrats](#). However the House bill ([H.3530](#)), introduced by Representative Steven Long, currently has 49 Republican co-sponsors in the [124-seat](#) SC House, which presently has [78 Republicans](#) and [44 Democrats](#). Principled pro-life, pro-personhood South Carolinians are asked to visit scstatehouse.gov, contact and ask their SC Senator, ***especially Republicans***, to sign on as co-sponsors of [S.217](#) right away.

Personhood legislation was first introduced in the SC Legislature in [1998](#), and has been active every year since, over the last 19 years [[History of Personhood Legislation in South Carolina \(1998 - 2016\)](#)]. In 2005, a Personhood Act ([H.3213](#)) passed the SC House, albeit with a fatal flaw "exception" amendment, before being killed in the SC Senate; and in 2016, a Personhood Constitutional Amendment ([S.719](#)) passed a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee in March, and passed the full Senate Judiciary Committee in April, before being defeated on the full Senate floor in a vote for Special Order on May 11, 2016 ([24 Senators](#) voted Yes for Special Order, [16 Senators](#) voted No, and [2 Senators](#) voted Present, however a 2/3 super-majority was required by SC Senate Rules, and so even though a majority of Senators voted Yes, the motion failed.)

The "Personhood Act of SC" recognizes the Creator God-given, unalienable right to life of every human being as a "person" beginning at fertilization, in the [South Carolina Code of Laws](#). Senate bill [S.217](#) states:

"The right to life for each born and preborn human being vests at fertilization." and "The rights guaranteed by Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of this State [SC], that no person shall be deprived of life without due process of law nor denied the equal protection of the laws, vest at fertilization for each born and preborn human being." [Section 1-1-330, [S.217](#)]

The State of South Carolina has the power to enact this law pursuant to the power reserved to this State under the [Tenth Amendment](#) to the [United States Constitution](#). [Section 1-1-340, [S.217](#)]

Legal experts defending the constitutionality of States' Personhood legislation in South Carolina (2001), and Mississippi (2009), and Alabama (2011), and Oklahoma (2012) are posted online [here](#) at: www.ChristianLifeandLiberty.net. Go to Item #117 on the "[Personhood Act](#)" page.