**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**A60, R85, S127**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Johnson and Peeler

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3363

Document Path: SR-0093KM25.docx

Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the House on March 4, 2025

Last Amended on May 8, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Governor's Action: May 22, 2025, Signed

Summary: Catawba Nation

**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**

 1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 84)

 1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Finance** (Senate Journal‑page 84)

 2/19/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Finance**

 2/25/2025 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 16)

 2/25/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-43 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 16)

 2/26/2025 Senate Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal‑page 20)

 3/4/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 11)

 3/4/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Ways and Means** (House Journal‑page 11)

 4/30/2025 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Ways and Means** (House Journal‑page 5)

 5/1/2025 House Amended (House Journal‑page 31)

 5/1/2025 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 31)

 5/1/2025 House Roll call Yeas-114 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 33)

 5/1/2025 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day (House Journal‑page 35)

 5/2/2025 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments (House Journal‑page 6)

 5/5/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

 5/6/2025 Senate Non-concurrence in House amendment (Senate Journal‑page 95)

 5/8/2025 House House insists upon amendment and conference committee appointed Reps. B Newton, Pope, Cobb-Hunter (House Journal‑page 15)

 5/8/2025 House Conference report adopted (House Journal‑page 109)

 5/8/2025 House Roll call Yeas-92 Nays-15 (House Journal‑page 111)

 5/8/2025 Senate Conference committee appointed Johnson, Climer, Williams (Senate Journal‑page 36)

 5/8/2025 Senate Conference report adopted (Senate Journal‑page 37)

 5/8/2025 Senate Ordered enrolled for ratification (Senate Journal‑page 40)

 5/20/2025 Ratified R 85

 5/22/2025 Signed By Governor

 5/27/2025 Effective date 05/22/25

 5/27/2025 Act No. 60

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20241211.docx)

[12/11/2024-A](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20241211a.docx)

[02/19/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20250219.docx)

[04/30/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20250430.docx)

[05/01/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20250501.docx)

[05/05/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20250505.docx)

[05/08/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/127_20250508.docx)

**NOTE: THIS IS A TEMPORARY VERSION. THIS DOCUMENT WILL REMAIN IN THIS VERSION UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

(A60, R85, S127)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 9‑11‑10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE CATAWBA NATION WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER; AND BY ADDING SECTION 9‑11‑43 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE CATAWBA NATION IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THE POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCESS FOR ADMISSION.

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

Catawba Nation inclusion in the Police Officers Retirement System

SECTION 1. Section 9‑11‑10(17) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (17) “Employer” means:

 (a) the State;

 (b) a political subdivision, agency, or department of the State which employs police officers and which has been admitted to the system as provided in Section 9‑11‑40;

 (c) a service organization, the membership of which is composed solely of persons eligible to be members as defined by this section, if the compensation received by the employees of the service organization is provided from monies paid by the members as dues, or otherwise, or from funds derived from public sources and if the contributions prescribed by this chapter are to be paid from the funds of the service organization; and

 (d) the Catawba Nation upon its admission to the system as provided in Section 9‑11‑43.

Catawba Nation

SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Title 9 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

 Section 9‑11‑43. (A) The Catawba Nation may become an employer for the purposes of this chapter by applying to the board for admission to the system pursuant to Section 9‑11‑40, complying with the requirements of Section 9‑11‑40, and complying with the board’s rules and regulations. The application must set forth the requested date of admission, which must be the January first, the April first, the July first, or the October first next following receipt by the board of the application.

 (B) An employee of the Catawba Nation may not become a member of the system unless substantially all of the employee’s time is devoted solely to the performance of governmental service as a police officer pursuant to Section 27-16-70(C).

 (C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as a condition to joining the system, the Catawba Nation agrees to be subject to all of the state laws, regulations, administrative policies, and plan provisions related to the administration and enforcement of the requirements of the system and agrees that any and all disputes arising pursuant to or by virtue of its participation in the system will be resolved in the appropriate state court or administrative tribunal, notwithstanding any sovereign immunity that might otherwise apply. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect, modify, diminish, or otherwise impair any sovereign immunity enjoyed by the Catawba Nation with respect to any other provision of state law unrelated to the administration and enforcement of the requirements of the system.

Time effective

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

Ratified the 20th day of May, 2025.

Approved the 22nd day of May, 2025.

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