**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4478**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Burns, Hiott, Pope, McGinnis and Haddon

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Introduced in the House on May 1, 2025

Introduced in the Senate on May 7, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry**

Summary: Emergency Management Division Burn Ban Broadcast

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 5/1/2025 House Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference (House Journal‑page 142)

 5/6/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor:
 McGinnis, Haddon

 5/6/2025 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 61)

 5/6/2025 House Roll call Yeas-115 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 61)

 5/7/2025 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 8)

 5/7/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 11)

 5/7/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** (Senate Journal‑page 11)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4478&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[05/01/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4478_20250501.docx)

[05/01/2025-A](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4478_20250501a.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Introduced

May 1, 2025

H. 4478

Introduced by Reps. Burns, Hiott and Pope

S. Printed 5/1/25--H.

Read the first time May 1, 2025

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 48‑35‑50, RELATING TO THE STATE FORESTER PROHIBITING FIRES, SO AS TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF THE PROHIBITION TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION FOR BROADCAST OF THE PROHIBITION ON ALL TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES WITHIN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

SECTION 1. Section 48‑35‑50 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 48‑35‑50. (A) The State Forester may direct at any time, when deemed necessary in the interest of public safety, that fires covered by this chapter not be started. The State Forester also may prohibit all open burning regardless of whether a permit or notification is required, including campfires, bonfires, and other fires for recreational purposes. This prohibition shall not apply to fires used for nonrecreational purposes such as those for human warmth or for the preparation of food for immediate consumption.

 (B) In the event the State Forester directs that a fire not be started or prohibits all open burning pursuant to this section, notice must be sent to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. The Emergency Management Division must broadcast the State Forester’s direction or prohibition regarding fires on all telecommunication devices within South Carolina.

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

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