

SCS SB 93 -- CAMPUS FREE EXPRESSION ACT

This bill establishes the Campus Free Expression Act to protect free expression on college and university campuses.

The bill specifies that the outdoor areas of campuses of public institutions of higher education in this state must be deemed traditional public forums. Public institutions of higher education may maintain and enforce reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions in service of a significant institutional interest only when the restrictions employ clear, published, content, and viewpoint-neutral criteria and provide for ample alternative means of expression.

Any person must be permitted to freely engage in noncommercial expressive activity on campus as long as the person's conduct is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the institution's functioning.

The Attorney General or any person whose expressive rights were violated under these provisions may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation or to recover compensatory damages, reasonable court costs, and attorney fees. If a court finds a violation occurred, it must award at least \$500 for the initial violation plus \$50 for each day the violation continues. A suit for violation of these provisions must be brought within one year of the day the cause of action accrues as specified in the bill.