**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**S. 560**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators McLeod, Fanning and M.B. Matthews

Document Path: l:\council\bills\nl\13807sd19.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3941, 3942, 4031

Introduced in the Senate on February 26, 2019

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Judge qualifications

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/26/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 11](file:///h:\sj\20190226.docx))

2/26/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 11](file:///h:\sj\20190226.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=560&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/26/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\560_20190226.docx)

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 15, ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE COURT OF APPEALS, AND THE CIRCUIT COURT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR JUSTICES AND JUDGES CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION, NO PERSON MAY BE ELECTED AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OR AS AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OR AS A JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A JUDGE OF A COURT OF RECORD IN THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 15, Article V of the Constitution of this State, be amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

“In addition to the qualifications for justices and judges contained in this section, no person may be elected as the Chief Justice or as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or as a judge of the Court of Appeals who has not previously served as a judge of a court of record in this State.”

SECTION 2. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballots:

“Must Section 15 of Article V of the Constitution of this State relating to qualifications for justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals and the circuit court be amended so as to provide that in addition to the qualifications for justices and judges contained in this section, no person may be elected as the Chief Justice or as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or as a judge of the Court of Appeals who has not previously served as a judge of a court of record in this State?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No.”

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