**South Carolina General Assembly**

118th Session, 2009-2010

**S. 55**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Ford and Elliott

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 63

Introduced in the Senate on January 13, 2009

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

Summary: Supreme Court

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/10/2008 Senate Prefiled

12/10/2008 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/13/2009 Senate Introduced and read first time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑97

1/13/2009 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-13-09.docx)‑97

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/10/2008](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\55_20081210.docx)

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2, ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME COURT, SO AS TO INCREASE FROM FIVE TO SEVEN THE NUMBER OF JUSTICES COMPRISING THE SUPREME COURT ON JANUARY 1, 2011.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 2, Article V of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

“Section 2. ~~The~~ On January 1, 2011, the Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and ~~four~~ six Associate Justices, ~~any three~~ four of whom ~~shall constitute~~ constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chief Justice shall preside, and in his absence the senior Associate Justice shall preside. In all cases decided by the Supreme Court, the concurrence of ~~three~~ four of the Justices ~~shall be~~ is necessary for a reversal of the judgment below.”

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 ballot:

“Must Section 2, Article V of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to increase the composition of the Supreme Court from five to seven justices effective on January 1, 2011?

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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