**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**H. 5031**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Dillard, Robinson‑Simpson, G.R. Smith, Burns, Bannister, Bedingfield, Hamilton, Loftis, Nanney and Stringer

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Introduced in the House on April 2, 2014

Introduced in the Senate on May 1, 2014

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

Summary: Municipal Elections

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

4/2/2014 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-02-14.docx))

4/2/2014 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-02-14.docx))

4/10/2014 House Recalled from Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 111](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-10-14.docx))

4/30/2014 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 94](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-30-14.docx))

4/30/2014 House Roll call Yeas‑99 Nays‑9 ([House Journal‑page 94](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\04-30-14.docx))

5/1/2014 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 29](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\05-01-14.docx))

5/1/2014 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///H:\SJ%20Archive\2014\05-01-14.docx))

5/1/2014 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///H:\SJ%20Archive\2014\05-01-14.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/2/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\5031_20140402.docx)

[4/10/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\5031_20140410.docx)

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Indicates New Matter

RECALLED

April 10, 2014

**H. 5031**

Introduced by Reps. Dillard, Robinson‑Simpson, G.R. Smith, Burns, Bannister, Bedingfield, Hamilton, Loftis, Nanney and Stringer

S. Printed 4/10/14--H.

Read the first time April 2, 2014.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 5‑15‑60, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO METHODS OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEFORE A MUNICIPALITY MAY ADOPT AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE METHOD OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES, THE MUNICIPALITY MUST ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE, AND A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS VOTING IN THE ADVISORY REFERENDUM MUST APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5‑15‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 5‑15‑60. (A) Each municipality in this State shall adopt by ordinance one of the following alternative methods of nominating candidates for and determining the results of its nonpartisan elections:

(1) the nonpartisan plurality method prescribed in Section 5‑15‑61;

(2) the nonpartisan election and runoff election method prescribed in Section 5‑15‑62;

(3) the nonpartisan primary election and general election method prescribed in Section 5‑15‑63.

(B) If nonpartisan elections are not provided for pursuant to subsection (A), nomination of candidates for municipal offices may be by party primary, party convention or by petition in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the applicable provisions of the state election laws and the rules of municipal political party organizations not in conflict therewith.

(C) Before a municipality may adopt an ordinance changing the method of nominating candidates, the municipality must adopt an ordinance requiring an advisory referendum on the proposed change, and a majority of the qualified electors voting in the advisory referendum must approve the proposed change. The advisory referendum must be held at the time of the general election. The state election laws apply to the advisory referendum mutatis mutandis.”

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

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