**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 2‑19‑90 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF JUDGES IN JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT ELECTION OF JUDGES IN EACH CATEGORY OF COURT BE CONDUCTED IN A SEPARATE JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON A DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2‑19‑90 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 2‑19‑90. The General Assembly shall meet in joint session for the election of judges. The General Assembly shall schedule a separate joint session on different legislative days for the election of judges and justices to each of the following courts: the Supreme Court, court of appeals, circuit court, family court, Administrative Law Court, and master‑in‑equity. The date and time for ~~the~~ these joint ~~session~~ sessions shall be set by concurrent resolution upon the recommendation of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. The Chairman of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission shall announce the commission’s nominees for each judicial race, and no further nominating or seconding speeches shall be allowed by members of the General Assembly. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the vote of the members of the General Assembly voting in joint session.”

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

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