**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**S. 537**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Rice and Fanning

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Introduced in the Senate on February 20, 2019

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

Summary: Prohibitions against public time or funds used to influence election

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/20/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\sj\20190220.docx))

2/20/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\sj\20190220.docx))

4/2/2019 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Campsen (ch), Massey, McElveen, M.B.Matthews, Gambrell

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=537&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/20/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\537_20190220.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8‑13‑1346 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, PROPERTY, OR TIME TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS PROHIBITED FROM THE USE OF OFFICIAL FUNDS FOR UNSOLICITED MASS COMMUNICATION OR THE USE OF OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF ANY ELECTION IN WHICH THE MEMBER’S NAME OR ADVISORY REFERENDUM IS ON THE BALLOT; AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8‑13‑1346 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered new subsection to read:

“( ) A member of the General Assembly is prohibited from the use of official funds for unsolicited mass communication or the use of official letterhead within ninety days of any election in which the member’s name or advisory referendum is on the ballot. ‘Unsolicited mass communication’ is defined as any unsolicited communication, by use of mail or electronic mail, distributed to persons for the purposes of intentionally or unintentionally influencing the outcome of an election or ballot measure.”

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

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