**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 336**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Alexander, Massey and Rankin

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Introduced in the Senate on February 12, 2025

Last Amended on March 20, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Summary: Judicial Elections

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 2/12/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 3)

 2/12/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 3)

 2/27/2025 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Elliott (ch), Cash,
 Tedder, Devine, Fernandez, Kennedy, Walker

 3/12/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 3/20/2025 Senate Amended (Senate Journal‑page 11)

 3/20/2025 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 11)

 3/20/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-40 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 11)

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[02/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/336_20250212.docx)

[03/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/336_20250312.docx)

[03/20/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/336_20250320.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Amended

March 20, 2025

S. 336

Introduced by Senators Alexander, Massey and Rankin

S. Printed 3/20/25--S.

Read the first time February 12, 2025

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 2‑19‑90, RELATING TO APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION, SO AS TO SET THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF March FOR THE ELECTIONS OF JUDGES BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

 Amend Title To Conform

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

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

 Section 2‑19‑90. The General Assembly shall meet in joint session for the election of judges on the first Wednesday of March at noon in the House of Representatives. The date and time for the joint session 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. Section 2-19-80(E) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (E) A period of at least twenty-two days must elapse between the date of the commission's nominations to the General Assembly and The commission must formally release its report as to the qualifications of its nominees to the General Assembly not less than twenty-three days before the date the General Assembly conducts the election for these judgeships.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect on July 1, 2025.

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