

NO. 1

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
(Statewide Session)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 12:00 Noon, the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the acting PRESIDENT, Senator PEELER.

A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

From Hebrews we find these familiar words:

Hebrews 12:1 "... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us . . ."

Please join me as we bow and pray: Glorious Lord, throughout the State House of South Carolina -- and certainly in this Chamber as we gaze at portraits all around us -- we find ourselves indeed absolutely "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." And today as another legislative year begins to unfold, this Body finds itself needing to address organizational and planning matters of all sorts. To that end, Gracious God, we pray that by Your grace You will guide these Senators and their staff members to do all that is necessary for them to be ready to tackle all of the challenging work which looms ahead. Truly, in the year ahead may these leaders -- may the people of this State themselves -- be richly blessed. Also, O God, we continue to hold our colleague, John Hazzard in our prayers in the recent death of his sister, Jane. Ultimately, O God, may the true glory be Yours. All this we humbly pray in Your loving name, dear Lord. Amen.

The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 2, 2024

South Carolina Senate
Office of the Clerk
Mr. Jeffrey S. Gossett, Clerk

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Mr. Gossett:

The State Election Commission has certified to this office by mail the winners of the State Senate and State House of Representatives, federal, statewide, multicounty offices, countywide and less than countywide offices in the General Election held on November 5, 2024. Please find enclosed a copy of the election results as certified to this office by the State Election Commission.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,
Mark Hammond
Secretary of State

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION

November 18, 2024

Honorable Mark Hammond
Secretary of State
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The State Election Commission, in its capacity as the State Board of Canvassers, hereby certifies the winners of the federal offices, State Senate, State House of Representatives, solicitor, multicounty offices, countywide offices, and less than countywide offices in the General Election held on November 5, 2024, as reflected in the enclosed winner's report.

Sincerely,
Howard M. Knapp
Executive Director

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

SENATE MEMBER

2024 Election Results

District 1	The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
District 2	The Honorable Rex F. Rice
District 3	The Honorable Richard J. Cash
District 4	The Honorable Michael W. “Mike” Gambrell
District 5	The Honorable Thomas D. “Tom” Corbin
District 6	The Honorable Jason Elliott
District 7	The Honorable Karl B. Allen
District 8	The Honorable Ross Turner
District 9	The Honorable Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III
District 10	The Honorable Billy Garrett
District 11	The Honorable Josh Kimbrell
District 12	The Honorable Roger A. Nutt
District 13	The Honorable Shane R. Martin
District 14	The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
District 15	The Honorable David Wesley “Wes” Climer
District 16	The Honorable Michael Johnson
District 17	The Honorable Everett B. Stubbs
District 18	The Honorable Ronnie W. Cromer
District 19	The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine
District 20	The Honorable Ed Sutton
District 21	The Honorable Darrell Jackson
District 22	The Honorable Overture E. Walker
District 23	The Honorable Carlisle Kennedy
District 24	The Honorable Thomas R. “Tom” Young, Jr.
District 25	The Honorable A. Shane Massey
District 26	The Honorable Russell L. Ott
District 27	The Honorable Allen Blackmon
District 28	The Honorable Greg Hembree
District 29	The Honorable James Daniel Chaplin
District 30	The Honorable Kent M. Williams
District 31	The Honorable Mike Reichenbach
District 32	The Honorable Ronnie A. Sabb
District 33	The Honorable Luke A. Rankin
District 34	The Honorable Stephen L. Goldfinch
District 35	The Honorable Jeffrey R. Graham
District 36	The Honorable Jeff Zell
District 37	The Honorable Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms
District 38	The Honorable Sean M. Bennett

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District 39 The Honorable Tom Fernandez
District 40 The Honorable Brad Hutto
District 41 The Honorable Matthew W. “Matt” Leber
District 42 The Honorable Deon T. Tedder
District 43 The Honorable George E. “Chip” Campsen III
District 44 The Honorable Brian Adams
District 45 The Honorable Margie Bright Matthews
District 46 The Honorable Thomas C. “Tom” Davis

**Administration of Oath of Office
Senators Sworn In**

Senators presented themselves at the Bar and the Oath of Office was administered to them by the Clerk.

Senator MASSEY moved under Article III, Section 37 of the South Carolina Constitution that the Senate proceed to the election of the PRESIDENT of the Senate.

Senator HUTTO seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

Election of the PRESIDENT of the Senate

Senator PEELER announced that nominations for PRESIDENT of the Senate were in order.

Senator MASSEY placed the name of Senator ALEXANDER in nomination as PRESIDENT.

Senator HUTTO seconded the nomination.

Senator HUTTO moved that the nominations be closed and that Senator ALEXANDER be elected PRESIDENT of the Senate by acclamation.

Senator PEELER announced that Senator ALEXANDER had been elected PRESIDENT of the Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT PRESIDES

Senator JACKSON assumed the Chair.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

On motion of Senator MASSEY, with unanimous consent, the Privilege of the floor was extended to the family of the PRESIDENT.

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Administration of Oath of Office

Senator ALEXANDER presented himself at the Bar and the Oath of Office was administered by Senator PEELER.

PRESIDENT PRESIDES

At 12:17 P.M., the PRESIDENT assumed the Chair.

Motion Adopted

Senator MASSEY moved that the Senate adopt the following Agenda of Business:

- Election of Clerk, Reading Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain
- Administration of oath to the officers
- Remarks by the PRESIDENT and newly elected Senators
- Consideration of a Senate Rules Resolution
- Committee Selections
- Seat Selections

Senator HUTTO seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

Election of Senate Officers

The Senate proceeded to the election of Clerk of the Senate, the Reading Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain *en banc*.

Senator MASSEY placed the names of Mr. Jeffrey Stephen Gossett in nomination as Clerk of the Senate, Mr. John Othniel Wienges as Reading Clerk, Mr. Charles D. Williams, Jr. as Sergeant-at-Arms and Reverend Dr. James I. St. John as Chaplain.

Senator HUTTO moved that the nominations be closed, and that Mr. Jeffrey Stephen Gossett be elected as Clerk of the Senate, Mr. John Othniel Wienges be elected as Reading Clerk, Mr. Charles D. Williams, Jr. be elected as Sergeant-at-Arms and Reverend Dr. James I. St. John be elected as Chaplain by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Jeffrey Stephen Gossett was elected Clerk of the Senate, Mr. John Othniel Wienges was elected Reading Clerk, Mr. Charles D. Williams, Jr. was elected Sergeant-at-Arms and Reverend Dr. James I. St. John was elected as Chaplain by acclamation.

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ACTING PRESIDENT PRESIDES

Senator JACKSON assumed the Chair.

Administration of the Oath of Office

The Clerk, Reading Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain presented themselves at the Bar, and the Oath of Office was administered to them by the PRESIDENT.

Clerk's Appointments

The Clerk announced the following appointments:

Mr. Kenneth M. Moffitt	Assistant Clerk
Ms. Jessica Godwin	Counsel to the Clerk
Mr. John P. Hazzard V	Assistant Parliamentarian
Mrs. Michele Neal	Journal Clerk
Mrs. Cynthia C. Alston	Journal Clerk
Ms. Agnes H. Walker	General Desk Clerk
Mrs. Lesley Stone	Calendar Clerk
Mrs. Betty Graham	Chief Administrative Assistant to the Clerk of the Senate
Mrs. Ann John	Records Management Clerk
Mrs. Beth Lambers	Director of Senate Finance
Mrs. Jean Tisdale	Accounts Manager
Mrs. Anna Rushing	Payroll/Personnel Manager
Ms. Alicia Eatmon	Bill Clerk
Mrs. Melissa Roberts	Assistant Bill Clerk
Ms. Alexandra Zimmer	Page Supervisor

PRESIDENT PRESIDES

At 12:22 P.M., the PRESIDENT assumed the Chair.

PRESIDENT ALEXANDER addressed the Senate.

Remarks by PRESIDENT ALEXANDER

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I stand before you today with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and humility. To be chosen by you, my fellow Senators, to serve as the PRESIDENT of this distinguished Body is a profound honor -- one I do not take lightly. I would not be here today without the blessings from our Lord, the trust of the people of District 1, and the support from my loving family.

The Senate is more than a forum for individual or group interests. It is a place where diverse voices converge, debates are refined, and decisions

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are made that shape the future of South Carolina. With the deepest respect for this institution and for each of you, I humbly accept the responsibility to preside over our proceedings with integrity, impartiality and fairness, so that we may be a Senate that serves all South Carolinians.

The South Carolina Senate is steeped in history, home to some of the most principled and visionary leaders our State has ever known. The portraits that grace this Chamber remind us of the legacy we inherit and the weight of the work we are called to do. I solemnly pledge to uphold that legacy, ensuring that our collective efforts honor the distinguished history of this Body.

As your PRESIDENT, I will strive to be impartial and fair in conducting our business. Furthermore, I am committed to ensuring that our decisions are informed by thoughtful deliberation and mutual respect -- the hallmarks of this Chamber.

The work before us is significant. South Carolina is a State rich in history and potential -- yet not without its challenges. As we deliberate on policy and debate the best path forward for our communities, I will endeavor to foster a culture of collaboration, civility and shared purpose.

I will also continue to turn to the wisdom found in scripture. Proverbs 11:14 reminds us, "Where there is no guidance, a people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." We are those counselors, entrusted with guiding South Carolina through both opportunities and trials. With honest debate, careful deliberation, and with civility and respect, we will safeguard the future of our State.

Now, to those of you serving as members of the State Senate for the first time, I offer words of welcome. We have navigated through the political process of elections and elections are about differences. However, governing is about finding common ground. In this august Chamber, the forty-six of us communicate through words in a certain manner shaped by the traditions of the Senate.

As we rise to speak on any issues in this Chamber, I encourage all of us to take to heart the words of St. Peter in his letter to the Colossians, 4: 6, "Let your speech be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

I look forward to working alongside each of you to ensure that this Chamber remains a beacon of thoughtful action and meaningful deliberation. As we move forward to meet the expectations of the people of South Carolina, let us do so with dignity, honor and grace.

Thank you for placing your trust in me to serve as PRESIDENT of this esteemed Body. May God bless this Senate, and my God bless the great State of South Carolina. Thank you.

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MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator MASSEY, with unanimous consent, Senators BLACKMON, CHAPLIN, ELLIOTT, FERNANDEZ, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, LEBER, NUTT, OTT, STUBBS, SUTTON, WALKER and ZELL were introduced and granted leave to address the Senate with brief remarks.

Senator BLACKMON was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator Blackmon

Good afternoon, I am Allen Blackmon for those of you who have not met me. I am serving Senate District 27 which includes the great counties of Chesterfield, Kershaw and Lancaster. First, I would like to introduce my wife, Jane. She has put up with my shenanigans for almost forty-six years -- we have an anniversary coming up soon. We have a son who lives in Greenville and a daughter who lives in Heath Springs. We have a grandson and four granddaughters. Night before last, I had the pleasure of hearing Senator JACKSON speak -- well done. It made me reflect on what a great institution we have here listening to a man of his caliber speaking. I'm honored and humbled to be a part of this Body.

I look forward to maintaining the support, decorum, and the tradition of the Senate. I know PRESIDENT ALEXANDER will hold us to that regard. I know that good things cannot happen by myself so I hope we can build relationships of trust and honor so we can do good things together. I look forward to hopefully building a lifetime friendship with each and every one of you Senators and also with our staff members. I look forward to working together so we can do good things for our beautiful State.

As we move forward with legislative matters, I will be passionate about certain issues. But after the vote is taken, no matter the outcome, I hope we'll shake hands and remain friends. I was hired for this job with a constituency of 110,000 just like other Senators. Every vote I make will be made prayerfully, but with the constituents back home fully in mind. I'm serving to leave this place better for my children and grandchildren. At the end of every session, I hope we ask ourselves one question -- did we make South Carolina a better place to live, work, worship and raise a family? I hope that answer will be an absolute yes. Thank you for your time.

Senator CHAPLIN was recognized for remarks.

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Remarks by Senator CHAPLIN

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of the South Carolina Senate, my name is JD Chaplin. I am the newly elected Senator from District 29, representing portions of Chesterfield, Darlington, Lee, Marlboro and Sumter. It is an honor and privilege to stand before you today.

As we gather in this esteemed Chamber, I feel compelled to start by paying tribute to the institution of the Senate. This Body has been graced by strong figures throughout our history and one name that stands out is the late State Senator from Darlington, James Pierce “Spot” Monzingo. Spot attended Clemson University where he then transferred to the University of South Carolina and was elected to the State House when he was twenty years old. He was then elected to the Senate when he was 24, where he proceeded to serve until his death -- for 31 years. His dedication and service to our State serve as a reminder of the tremendous responsibility we all bear and the potential we possess to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our constituents.

As I step into this new role, I bring with me the legacy of my family, whose roots in South Carolina date all the way back to 1678. The Chaplins have farmed for generations, embodying the spirit of perseverance and community that define our great State. The values of hard work and determination that my family has instilled in me will guide me as I strive to serve my district and my State with honor and integrity.

Let me also take a moment to highlight the rich history of my district. We are the proud home to unique cultural landmarks, such as the legendary Lizard Man of Bishopville, the thrilling Darlington Southern 500 NASCAR race, and Marlboro County’s beloved Blenheim Ginger ale. These elements reflect not only the vibrant culture but the tenacity and the innovation that have shaped our identity as South Carolinians. Moreover, our district has a robust history in manufacturing, with leading companies like Nucor, Sunoco and Willamette paper making significant contributions to our economy. In fact, Sunoco is the most valuable company headquartered in South Carolina -- boasting a remarkable market cap of a little more than \$5 billion. This legacy of industrial strength reminds us of the economic potential we possess and the opportunities that lie ahead.

As I take my seat in this Chamber, I would like to outline my primary goal -- to improve the quality of life for the people in my district, who once thrived as an agricultural and industrial powerhouse in the State. I wholeheartedly believe that we can reclaim that status, and there is no

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reason our district cannot rise again, harnessing the combined strength of our history, our resources and our people.

In closing, I look forward to respectfully collaborating with each and every one of you, working collectively to create a brighter future for our districts and our State. Together we can honor those of the legacies that have come before us and champion the values that define South Carolina -- forging a new path for progress. Thank you.

Senator ELLIOTT was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator ELLIOTT

Thank you Mr. PRESIDENT and colleagues. Mr. PRESIDENT, please excuse me if I inadvertently call you Mr. Speaker. It's no sign of disrespect, but after eight years of being in the other Chamber, it might take a little longer than a day for the debriefing to take effect. And, while this is just the first day, I can report back to my former colleagues across the hall that y'all are lot smarter and nicer than I'd been led to believe. Thank you for that!

First, I give thanks to the Lord and Savior for his grace, mercy and love -- which without, I would not be here today. I am much more fortunate than I deserve.

I want to thank my family members -- fourteen of them are here -- and my campaign manager. Without my family's unconditional love, I couldn't serve. I'm honored also to have the trust of the voters of SC Senate District 6 and thank them for placing their trust in me. My son is here today. He took his first law school exam (contracts) yesterday -- just down the street. Thirty-one years ago, I took that same exam. Senator YOUNG, who I have known longer than any other Senator here, can probably empathize with me. I immediately left the exam, went back to where I lived and pulled out the student handbook because at that time, it wasn't on the internet. I was confident that I had failed, and I was looking for a way to figure out how to come back from academic probation. Fortunately, I had made much better than the "F" I imagined -- but I am certain it is not going to be as good a grade as my son's going to make -- when he finds out in a month or so.

As I weighed the importance of seniority in this Body, I considered changing my last name to "Aaron." But "E" in this instance got me to three out of thirteen (new members) and that is pretty good to start at number thirty-six out of forty-six -- not too bad. It's really nothing I can take credit for. It's really my parents, especially my mom. She had the foresight over fifty-four years ago to prepare for this day, and that is

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pretty amazing. For my ten other colleagues who are going to follow me, I'm sorry that your mothers weren't quite as insightful.

Now, one of the biggest differences -- and important to me -- I've observed so far between the House and Senate is the esteem with which this Body holds Clemson University. Mr. PRESIDENT, Mr. Chairman, Senator PEELER, the new Senator from Calhoun and I thank you very much.

Over the last eight years I've had the privilege of serving the residents of Greenville County in the South Carolina House. One thing I've learned is that a lot of people who reach out to me for help don't know for sure if I am responsible for helping to pick up their trash or sending their social security checks. I get that. They have lives that don't revolve around the details of federalism. They are working to take care of themselves, their children, their grandchildren, and most of them are just working to get by. Another thing I've learned is that very few people outside of this magnificent and spectacular building know or care about the differences between the House and Senate. They either see government working for them or not. I try to remember that as I work to improve the lives of our fellow South Carolinians. The relationships that my three former house colleagues and I have with our returning House members should only serve to strengthen the collaboration between these two chambers.

Also, I have to say that the most tireless worker and friend to South Carolina, its biggest advocate -- and I enjoy his friendship is Governor McMaster. With thirteen new Senators, which is twenty-eight percent of this Body -- this place will be different than it was just earlier this year. I'm confident that all thirteen new members will strive to honor the traditions of this institution that have served it and our State so well. I'm also confident that the thirty-two returning members will offer grace, understanding and guidance as the new members -- myself included -- are eager to try and make a difference.

I've heard multiple times over the past several weeks, and I'm sure you have too, some variation of this: "With a thirty-four member super majority, there is no excuse for not getting any legislative initiative done." I describe it as a great opportunity to get things done for South Carolina -- for us to use this short time to improve the lives of our citizens and the economic prosperity of our State. And if we don't, the voters who spoke loud and clear last month will make their voices heard again in four short years.

I've had the privilege of working for the past eight years with the Senators on the Greenville County Legislative Delegation and with

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others of you in this Body. I look forward to working with all of you and getting to know you all as we have the shared goal of making South Carolina a better place. Thank you very much.

Senator FERNANDEZ was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator FERNANDEZ

Mr. PRESIDENT, colleagues, and distinguished guests, today I stand as a newly sworn-in Senator and servant. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and humility, as it is an honor to serve the people of Senate District 39 within the great state of South Carolina. I want to express my gratitude and deepest thanks to the people of my district who have placed their trust in me and allowed me to work for them, not as their superior but as their employee. I vow to serve you diligently, listen to your concerns, and fight for the principles that matter most to you and us as a community.

To my wife Darlene, thank you for being my foundation. Your strength, patience, and unwavering support have been my anchor throughout this journey. You have been there to listen when I needed guidance, to encourage me when I felt discouraged, to remind me why this mission is so important, and to chastise me when needed. I could not do this without you by my side. Above all, I provide thanks to my Heavenly Father. It is by His grace that I am here, and I pray for His continued guidance as I embark on this path. I seek His wisdom to lead and serve with integrity and ask His blessing on the work that we achieve in this Chamber.

I step into this role with a firm belief in the principles that have shaped us into this great State and Nation. I now believe more than ever that the duty of a politician is to ensure that the people remain free from the grasp of an overreaching government and free to live their lives according to their own convictions. I love the State of South Carolina, I love my district, and I love the people who make it what it is -- resilient, hardworking, and deeply rooted in the values of faith, family, and freedom.

To my colleagues in this Chamber, I look forward to working with you to tackle the challenges ahead. I pledge to approach our debates with respect, decisions with care, and our duties with seriousness. Together, I hope we can make South Carolina an even better place for generations to come. Thank you all for this opportunity, and may God bless all of us and the work that we do.

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Senator GRAHAM was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator GRAHAM

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. It is a profound honor that I stand before you today as the newly elected Senator for District 35. I am deeply humbled by the trust and support that the people of my district have placed in me. I carry with me the weight of these voices, their struggles and their hopes for a better tomorrow.

First, I want to thank my family -- my wife Sara, my son Edwards and my daughter Bailey. Theirs is the love and the encouragement that we all need during our life's journey. Their support has been my foundation and my constant inspiration. Thank you.

To the voters of District 35, thank you for believing in the vision that I set forth, a vision rooted in opportunity, fairness and progress. Our district is a unique blend of people -- hard working families, small businesses and educators all striving for the same goal -- a South Carolina where everyone has a chance to thrive.

I am here today not just as a representative of my district, but as a partner with this Body, and I share that with you -- the responsibility that we bear in this Chamber together. We will have different perspectives and priorities, but I truly believe that with collaborative commitment to one another and to the people of this State we can pull together.

Over the coming months and years, my focus will remain on addressing the challenges facing our communities -- strengthening our schools, supporting economic development, improving infrastructure, and ensuring that every South Carolinian has access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. I pledge to listen. I pledge to learn. I pledge to lead with integrity.

Together, we can create meaningful opportunities that will uplift not only District 35, but our entire great State. Thank you for welcoming me to this esteemed Body. I look forward to working along side you as we build a stronger more prosperous South Carolina. Thank you.

Senator KENNEDY was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator KENNEDY

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate and guests, I stand here before you truly honored and humbled for the opportunity to represent South Carolina and District 23 which is fully encased in Lexington County. I am honored by the trust and support that

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the voters and citizens of the county have placed in me to serve as their Senator.

As I begin, I want to thank my parents and wonderful wife who are here today. I want to thank my Lord and Savior who has blessed me in my life and all our lives, I am certain. We have a great State, a great Nation and that is all thanks to our Lord.

I come from a small, rural town of the Batesburg-Leesville area in Lexington County. My first job was working in chicken houses. I grew up there, in the country. My roots were planted in Lexington County before the American Revolution.

I will start by saying this is my second time speaking to the Senate of South Carolina. My first experience was several years ago, speaking to the Finance Committee regarding budget issues on behalf of Clemson University, where I served as Student Body President. I advocated on behalf of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science. The Senate and the House took care of Clemson University which in turn took care of our agriculture industry; teaching our farmers and our foresters and keeping that part of our economy and livelihoods thriving in our State. I will never forget the kindness that the Senate members showed me while I was in this Chamber.

Next, I received my degree at Clemson University and completed the Series 7 and 66 exams in Wealth Management. I went to law school at the University of South Carolina and became a prosecutor. I now work with my father in Batesburg-Leesville. With the jobs I have held, I have strived to serve the people, represent their interests, do good things and give back to make my community better. I look forward to doing that very thing here in the Senate with all of you. I look forward to attacking the tough issues, having the tough conversations and fixing those things for our citizens.

My strategy of approaching situations and circumstances is to pray first and listen to what the Lord says. I then look to the Constitution and what it says to me. I know together we can make a lot of great things happen for our State and we can keep improving the lives of our citizens.

Thank you again for welcoming me. I look forward to working together in this august Chamber with all of you extremely accomplished, wonderful individuals. Thank you.

Senator LEBER was recognized for remarks.

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Remarks by Senator LEBER

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Wow! Wow! This place is something else. It really is. I'm the Senator from Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester. The Lowcountry is the greatest place on the planet. I love where I come from, and I am so honored to represent my constituents in this august Chamber -- with the rest of you here, my colleagues of the Senate.

I want to recognize my wife, Michele. She just won a seat on the Charleston County School Board so I want to congratulate her from the Senate floor. Just an awesome thing -- she's a trustee and it looks like I'm going to be on the Corrections and Penology Committee. I was talking to Chairman MARTIN about that, and he was informing me some inmates are also called "trustees" -- so you can do whatever you want with that -- good luck. My youngest daughter, Kenzie Grace, is here. She's the person on the planet that has the most power over me -- for sure. We have two other children, Lucas and Savannah, and they couldn't be here today. I have a big family that supports me. My mom and dad are watching on TV; I'm sure.

I want to talk a little bit about my grandfather today. I'm wearing his paratrooper pin from World War II. He was a first-generation immigrant from Sweden where the Vikings come from and that's why I can grow this magnificent beard. He left and went back to Europe to fight the Axis powers, and he wore this pen on the parade grounds in France after America won. So I think he would be very proud if he were with us still and would recognize that this is probably the second most important place this pen's ever been worn. He was a great man and for this reason, I became a paratrooper, my brother became a paratrooper and my dad's a Vietnam vet. We've served our Country and I feel like this is just an extension of that service -- being elected to this office. You know our founding fathers warned us about factions and even parties. They thought it would tear the fabric of who we are as Americans apart. If we constantly fought one another in this factional manner -- and I come from the House as well as Senator ELLIOTT and others and we experience that sort of breeding -- that sort of fracture amongst members because we did break off into factions -- different caucuses -- and we called each other Liberty or Freedom or Military, whatever it was -- and our founding fathers warned us about that.

In the Federalist Papers especially, and even President Washington in his farewell address said, "The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain that." I think there are a lot of wise

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people in this Chamber, in this august Body, who take that to heart and want to work together to do what's best for the people of South Carolina. I'm proud to be a part of that. I'm proud to be a part of this group that's committed to working together to accomplish the common good.

You know our PRESIDENT came and addressed the freshman at orientation, and he said, "You know the House floor, it's like the stock market floor, and the Senate is like a church." He's right. I'm looking around and I feel like I'm in a very special place, a Cathedral of sorts, but I don't think that the PRESIDENT meant that this was like a Pentecostal church or something -- you know. I don't think there's a drum set, I don't think we're going to be speaking tongues, and I hope we don't handle snakes -- and I don't want to try any poison -- but I appreciate that analogy that there are certain traditions and expectations of civility and respect for one another. I'm glad to be a part of this and commit to being a part of that spirit.

I wish to affirm commitment to values that have longed to find this historic Chamber respect, collaboration, and the enduring traditions that guide our work. What I know about the Senate is that it has always been a place where differing ideas converge, where debate sharpen solutions and where consensus is forged for the greater good. None of this is possible without a foundation of mutual respect and congeniality. These qualities are not just courtesies; they are essential tools in fulfilling our responsibility to the people of South Carolina. Our traditions remind us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. They call us to rise above partisanship to honor the process, and ensures fairness, and to engage one another with dignity even in the moments of disagreement. I spoke with my fellow Charleston Senator, Senator TEDDER, last year, and he said, "Man, you're going to like it over here. You're going to like how we debate" and he is so right.

May we strive to build bridges, strengthen our shared purpose, and preserve the integrity of this esteemed institution, the Senate of the great State of South Carolina. Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

Senator NUTT was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator NUTT

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Thank you for letting me speak this morning. My name is Roger Nutt. I have lived in Spartanburg County all my life. I have been married to my wife, Tracy for over 23 years. We have three children and four grandchildren. I am a child of God,

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and I know that Jesus Christ died for me so that I could live with him in heaven.

Now, I don't know what committee he is going to put me on, but I am already vying for a chairmanship, we'll see how that works out. I think there are a lot of people here trying to get chairmanships -- I'm sure. I started my political career back in 2008. I served on several boards and commissions and won a seat on Spartanburg County Council and served there for ten years. In 2020, I was elected to the State House and also served there for four years. Fun fact here from my first election in 2010 I never had an opponent, until this March. After March all of the sudden I had three opponents and ended up taking a spot in a runoff. For some reason suddenly my campaign was flushed with money, and I acquired just a miraculous number of new friends. So, thank you for that. Obviously, I ended up being elected to the Senate, and I was lucky enough to have another feather in my hat that we actually did put another Nutt in the Senate. So, you can thank me for that as well.

I promise to my constituents that I will continue listening to them and allow God to guide me in the way that I should go. And I want to thank District 12 for your faith in me and what we stand for. I appreciate your confidence in me and God bless this Body, this institution, and God bless the State of South Carolina. Thank you.

Senator OTT was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator OTT

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Ladies and gentlemen, what an honor it is to be standing before you. I want to first thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I truly hope that everything I say or do at this podium, now and as long as I am here, will certainly bring honor and glory to him.

Mr. PRESIDENT, I was told that I only get about three or four minutes. I can tell you that for the last 11 years, I have only dreamed of standing at a podium and not being restrained by a clock so I will do my best; but I make no promises. I am excited, ladies and gentlemen, to be here before you today.

My name is Russell Ott. I have had the honor of serving House District 93 in the House of Representatives for the last eleven years, and that was such an honor. I tell you that a part of me will always be a House member, and I say that certainly with pride, but I also cannot tell you how excited I am to be a part of this Body now. I understand the responsibility, Mr. PRESIDENT and ladies and gentlemen, that that

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brings with it. Honestly it is still overwhelming for a country boy from Calhoun County to be at this podium among such an esteemed Body. It has been forty years since there has been a Senator from Calhoun County in this room. And it has been 48 years since there has been a Senator from Senate District 26 not named Nikki Setzler. I do not take either of those distinctions lightly. While I do not expect to fill the shoes of either of those men, I do accept the responsibility of honoring the legacies of both of them.

My path to this place does not happen without a lot of amazing people -- a lot of amazing men and women. I see some of them in the room today. I think we would all acknowledge that we certainly do not do this on our own. It takes amazing people standing beside us, standing with us, to be able to accomplish winning any election. With that I was truly blessed to have amazing people. Most importantly, the voters of Senate District 26, which comprises parts of Calhoun, parts of Lexington and parts of Richland County. I look forward representing their voices and their interests amongst each of you.

I want to acknowledge my family. They are not with us today. My mother and my father are off representing the interest of farmers across the State in Myrtle Beach, but I am certainly not here without them. I am the son of Linda Ott who was public school teacher born and raised in the upstate, Greer, South Carolina. She met Harry Ott at Clemson University, and somehow, he convinced her to leave the upstate to go home with him, marry him and reside in Calhoun County. I tell you that because I am not sure that there were two more different people at the beginning of their lives. My mother comes from a very conservative family from the upstate. My father comes from a family of farmers from the lowcountry. They have created a beautiful life for themselves, for myself, and for my brother. They did that by working together. That is a lesson I have learned from them, and I look forward to using that here with every one of you -- a sense of working together.

Also, I want to tell you about my two sons, Lawson and Bryce. Lawson is a junior right now. Bryce is a sophomore. I told both of them that their time would be much better served staying in class today -- trying to make sure that they can go on and do whatever else they want to do in life. I think, first and foremost, we must set priorities, and the priority for them was to be in class today. I am sure they will be watching this later, and I want them to know that everything I do is for them, as I know it is for each one of you. We want to create a better life for our kids and for our families. We want to make sure that they have opportunities to stay here in this great State one day, if that is what they

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choose to do. I am unbelievably proud of them and look forward to the amazing things they are going to do in life.

While I am thinking about it, Mr. PRESIDENT, I want to say thank you to you, to the staff that is on the desk, to Senate Security, and to the staff in the Gressette building. Over the course of the last few weeks. I think I am speaking on behalf of all the freshman class, you all have gone above and beyond to make us feel welcomed and to make sure that we have had absolutely everything that we need. You are all first class, and I look forward to working with you on a daily basis.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am just a farmer at heart. I see some other farmers around this room, and I look forward to serving with them. I look forward to speaking on the farmer's behalf. I absolutely love springtime in South Carolina. As a farmer, each year we get to put seeds in the ground. We get to watch those seeds sprout, and then we have an opportunity -- we get to work hard. We get to watch that crop grow. A lot of that growth depends on what we put into it.

It is not lost on me the parallels between that and the job that we are tasked with doing in this room. I believe that we are only successful as a whole. I am only as successful as those of you that will be willing to work with me and vice versa. So, I want you to know that I certainly am coming with a sense of togetherness -- regardless of party, regardless of where we are from, regardless of our life experiences. I believe that we have an opportunity to lead this great State and make something beautiful, and we can do that together. That is what I am so excited about -- the opportunity at the end of the day to make this the greatest State that it can possibly be. We do that by working together, and I cannot wait to get started. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Senator STUBBS was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator STUBBS

Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. We're doing good on time is what Johnson said over there. I'm going to try not to mess that up. Mr. PRESIDENT, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of this hallowed Chamber it is my honor and privilege to come to you today and tell you a story -- a story of a simple man that humbly accepted the call of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ -- a path of service to our great State. This man, Mr. PRESIDENT, was born in beautiful Greenville, South Carolina, to a father that selfishly wore the badge of the Greenville County Sheriff's Department and to a mother that devoted fifty-five years of dedicated service to the Greenville Hospital System. But most

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importantly a son, that was raised in a family who put the Lord as a priority. After graduating as a Greenville Senior High Red Raider, this young man continued his studies at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, where in 2008 he earned a Business Degree. Fresh out of college in a world that had just been turned on its head with a financial crisis, that young man took a chance and a leap of faith and moved to an unknown land in Chester County, South Carolina. For three years that young man commuted an hour to and from Charlotte, North Carolina, to the Charlotte School of Law to get his law degree. Challenges presented themselves during that time. Right after that first semester of that young man's law school career, his father unexpectedly passed away. It was a dark time and a hard time in that young man's life, but the same struggles of losing his father also fueled the fire for that young man to try make his father proud.

After graduating and passing the bar, that young man was still in a dark place, but on August 25, 2012, with saying two sweet words before God, his friends and his family, he was lifted out of a place of darkness and into a light happy place. A few short years later, that young couple welcomed into their lives a young man, red headed, stubborn and hard willed, named Everette Stubbs, IV. Now he's got the same name that I do, the same name as my dad did who he never got to meet, and his granddaddy. But one thing is for sure, we know he's got our temperament as well. A few years later, our family was complete, and Mr. PRESIDENT, if you weren't sure, this story is about me. But a few years later we got to welcomed in the girl that completed our family, Ann Margaret Stubbs. She's got green eyes, her momma's smile and she's absolutely stolen my heart. Mr. PRESIDENT, over the last two years, I've explained to people cross Senate District 17, which encompasses Chester, Lancaster, Fairfield and York Counties that I can't guarantee them anything, but I can promise them one thing, my absolute best. And that's what I plan to provide for the citizens of District 17. I'm very humbled to be here today. This is a hallowed Chamber, full of tradition, full of love and full of good things that come from this State of South Carolina.

In closing Mr. PRESIDENT. I would be remised if I did not proclaim that our work here is to glorify the Lord and hopefully our work in the next four years will fulfill what He has in mind. Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

Senator SUTTON was recognized for remarks.

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Remarks by Senator SUTTON

It is an honor to stand before you today as the newly elected Senator from District 20. My name is Ed Sutton and I'm excited to work along each of you in service of the people of South Carolina.

A little bit about myself -- I'm a small business owner, a decorated combat veteran, proud husband to Amy and proud father to Trip and Hunter. My journey started about forty minutes that way -- a little town called Gilbert. When I left it twenty-two years ago it had one flashing light and to this day it still has one flashing light. My senior year of high school nineteen men highjacked commercial airliners and attacked this country. Like Senator GRAHAM and Senator GOLDFINCH, I felt a strong call for service. That moment was our generation's Pearl Harbor moment, and I knew then that my life would be one of service and that service would begin in uniform. That desire took me down to Charleston where I joined The Citadel for the corp of cadets and while I was there, I learned the values of honor, service and leadership and these are values I still carry close to me to this day. Following graduation, I competed and became a C-17 pilot in the United States Airforce. I also had the extremely lucky opportunity to do an exchange tour with the army's legendary 101st Airborne Division and complete airsoft school, and Senator CAMPSSEN, I look forward to spirited debates about which is better airsoft or airborne. After my active service ended a decade ago, I returned to Charleston to join the airforce reserves, and I was eager to invest in a community that became my home. I started my own development business, and I focused on neighborhoods that had been underserved. And, thru that work, I saw the power of partnerships and the importance of listening to people most affected by the decisions we make here in this Body. I ran for this seat because I believe that South Carolina is full of untapped potential. The lowcountry and our entire State deserve bold forward-thinking solutions that honor traditions, vibrations, innovations and opportunities. Whether there is improving infrastructure, supporting small businesses, or ensuring every child had the access to a quality education, I am committed to making sure our State remains the same so that families can thrive for generations to come.

As I join this distinguish Body I do so with a heart full of gratitude and more importantly determination. I know the challenges that are before us are significant, but I also know we can achieve great things when we work together in good faith. My door will be always open, and I look forward to collaborating with each and every one of you. Thank you all so much for welcoming me to the Senate.

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Senator WALKER was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator WALKER

It is with great honor and appreciation that I stand before you this day in this sacrosanct of a Chamber, as a member of what will be the 126th General Assembly in the history of our beloved State. As the Senator from Richland County, representing Senate District 22, which has over one hundred ten thousand residents, it's with deep gratitude, appreciation and humility that I serve as their voice in this Chamber, and might I add, with civility in decorum, I will serve as their voice in this Chamber.

I am the devoted husband of Sharon Dupree-Walker; we've had seventeen years of marital bliss. I am also the proud father of a vivacious and energetic fifteen-year-old daughter, Zara Walker, who attends Spring Valley High School.

I bring to this Chamber nineteen years of experience as a practicing attorney, but I also bring to this Chamber eleven years of experience in the public sector. I started my legal career as a public defender near Richland County, where it was my primary task to ensure that the rights and liberties of some of our society's most vulnerable individuals -- their rights were protected. As a prosecutor for the City of Columbia it was my obligation to ensure that we protected families, victims and communities. As an assisted city attorney for the City of Columbia it was my task to ensure that taxpayer dollars were protected -- spent wisely. As a judge for the City of Columbia for four years it was my obligation to administer justice without friends to reward or enemies to punish. And, as a member of Richland County Council for four years, I also served as the chair of county council for two years -- during that time I learned that there was no such thing as a Republican pothole, no such thing as a Democrat dirt road, and no such thing as a Progressive or Libertarian property tax Bill. At the end of the day, residents, the voters, wanted Democrats and Republicans to come together and identify common issues and common challenges facing them and wanted us to come up with common sense solutions to those problems.

What I will pledge to this Body, Mr. PRESIDENT, is that I will work with each one of you to ensure that we grow our economy here in South Carolina and that we promote policies in the way of public safety that protect businesses and protect families. I'll work with each of you to ensure that we protect individual liberties, and I will work with each of you to ensure that no family, no faith or community is left under progress, or prosperity of our beloved State.

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Senator ZELL was recognized for remarks.

Remarks by Senator ZELL

Mr. PRESIDENT, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, distinguished guests and family, thank you for being in attendance today. This is such an honor for me. I feel small standing before you.

Esteemed colleagues, my name is Jeff Zell, and I am truly humbled and honored to stand before you today as I introduce myself. I am the proud father of a remarkable thirteen year old daughter named Eva and the blessed husband of my amazing wife, Christina. I also have the privilege of being the twin brother of Patrick Zell, who is not only my best friend but also my confidant and mentor. Most importantly, I am a child of God, our Lord and Savior, to whom all glory and honor belong! Salvation is only made possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful people of Senate District 36 for allowing me to serve. I promise to always listen to their concerns and prioritize their needs and rights. While I cannot guarantee specific outcomes, I can assure them of an unwavering work ethic, and that is exactly what you can expect from me. The days of “going along to get along” governance are over; a new form of leadership has begun!

Growing up in poverty in Ohio, I joined the Air Force at twenty-two years old and proudly served for twenty years before retiring. Through my experiences, I traveled the world and understood the importance of making a meaningful difference in the communities where I lived. I realized that to make a difference, I needed to be different and that meant I needed to take on challenges that most people shy away from. This commitment is something I share with all of you.

Though much hard work has been accomplished by the dedicated men and women in this Chamber, significant needs persist in South Carolina, particularly in the Midlands and my district. We cannot allow our neighbors to continue suffering without taking action. We face some of the highest violent crime and murder rates in the State, along with an ongoing mental health crisis that results in broken homes, fractured communities and, far too often, tragic losses of life. This MUST stop. We must demand better and accept nothing less.

I promise you -- whether in this room or watching from your TV or computer screens -- that I will work alongside anyone willing to engage in good faith, regardless of political affiliation, social standing, race, class or any other factor. I am dedicated to collaborating with all who wish to help our neighbors and their future generations.

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I firmly believe that we are all called to do God's work for His people through our actions. If we can rise above partisan divides and personal biases -- prioritizing the well-being and rights of our citizens -- and if we allow God's righteous demands and commandments to guide us -- we can transform the lives of those we represent for generations to come.

I want to end with a scripture. Exodus 18:21 “Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” This passage of God’s word emphasizes the importance of wise leadership and delegation. It instructs selecting capable and trustworthy individuals who fear God and hate dishonest gain to serve as leaders over the people. These leaders should be appointed to oversee various groups, assisting in managing the community's concerns and disputes. This allows for more effective governance and consistent and fair administration of justice and fosters a sense of order and accountability within society.

I pray and urge every one of us to lead well, my friends. Lead with dignity. Lead with honor and lead with respect. We have the ability and the mandate to help change the lives and communities of those who selected us to serve. God bless you all, and God bless South Carolina. May His will be done!

On motion of Senator MASSEY, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senators ALEXANDER, BLACKMON, CHAPLIN, ELLIOTT, FERNANDEZ, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, LEBER, NUTT, OTT, STUBBS, SUTTON, WALKER and ZELL were ordered printed in the Journal.

Leave of Absence

On motion of Senator MASSEY, at 1:44 P.M., Senators HEMBREE, GAMBRELL and VERDIN were granted a leave of absence for today.

Call of the Senate

Senator MASSEY moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Adams	Alexander	Allen
Bennett	Blackmon	Campsen
Cash	Chaplin	Climer
Corbin	Cromer	Davis
Devine	Elliott	Fernandez

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Garrett	Goldfinch	Graham
Grooms	Hutto	Jackson
Johnson	Kennedy	Kimbrell
Leber	Martin	Massey
Matthews	Nutt	Ott
Peeler	Rankin	Reichenbach
Rice	Sabb	Stubbs
Sutton	Tedder	Turner
Walker	Williams	Young
Zell		

A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following was introduced:

S. 1 -- Senator Massey: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE III, SECTION 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895.

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The Senate Resolution was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF AND THE ADOPTION OF RULES

S. 1 -- Senator Massey: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE III, SECTION 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895.

Senator MASSEY spoke on the Resolution.

The question was the adoption of the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted.

Be it resolved by the Senate that the Rules of the Senate are as follows:

SENATE RULES

RULE 1.

A.

Time of Daily Meeting

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The Senate, on the first day of each annual session, shall convene at 12 o'clock noon. Thereafter, the Senate shall meet each legislative day at 12 o'clock noon every Tuesday, 1 o'clock p.m. every Wednesday, 11 o'clock a.m. every Thursday for statewide matters and on Friday for local matters and uncontested matters which have previously received unanimous consent to be taken up unless otherwise ordered by the Senate. A motion to change the time of daily meeting may be made at any time when a quorum of the Senate is present or not present and must be voted on after no more than five (5) minutes of debate, two and a half (2½) for and two and a half (2½) against. The Senate shall stand adjourned Saturday through Monday unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present in statewide session.

B.

At various times as he or she deems necessary during the session, the President, or his designee, is authorized to make a motion to provide for the convening of the Senate in statewide session for the exclusive purpose of the introduction and referral of bills, receipt of communications and committee reports and the reading and passage of local legislation to which all members of an affected delegation have given their consent for the bill to be taken up, and to adjourn immediately thereafter. Any such motion shall provide the specific dates during which the motion shall apply and shall provide that the Senate must convene at 11:00 a.m. and adjourn not later than 12:30 p.m. on each such day and such motion must be made at least two (2) days prior to the beginning of the period for which it applies.

C.

The President, when, in his opinion, it is impractical or dangerous to hold a regularly scheduled session(s) of the Senate, may declare the body adjourned to some other time or may convene the Senate under the provisions of Rule 1B. Such actions are to be taken only in times of great emergency including, but not limited to, natural disasters, severe weather, and acts of God.

RULE 2.

Quorum

A majority of the total number of Senators qualified shall constitute a quorum.

Quorum Call of the Senate

If at any time during the daily session of the Senate it is ascertained that there is not a quorum present, no business shall be in order except a call of the Senate, an order to send for absentees (as provided for in Rule

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3B), a motion to recede for a fixed period of time or to a time certain, or a motion to adjourn. Each of the foregoing motions shall be of equal standing and none shall have priority over the others.

RULE 3.

Attendance, Duties and Obligations of Senators

A.

Any member or officer of the Senate who shall absent himself or herself from the service of the Senate, without leave of the Senate first obtained, shall forfeit his or her subsistence while so absent. The Clerk shall maintain a record of those members present on each statewide legislative day.

B.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other Rule of the Senate, at any time during a session when the presence of absent members is required, the Senate, by majority vote of those present and voting shall authorize the Sergeant-at-Arms to send for the absent members. In case a less number than a quorum of the Senate shall convene, the members present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-Arms or any person or persons by them authorized for any or all absent members, as the majority of such members present shall agree. This Rule shall apply to the first convention of the Senate each year at the legal time of meeting and to each day of the session after the hour to which the Senate stood adjourned has arrived. When provisions of this Rule are invoked then the outer doors of the antechamber shall be secured and any member within the confines of the chamber shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum. A motion to invoke or repeal Rule 3B may be made at any time when a quorum of the Senate is present or not present and must be voted on after no more than five (5) minutes of debate, two and a half (2 ½) for and two and a half (2 ½) against.

RULE 4.

A.

Majority Party and Minority Party

Prior to the commencement of the session, the members of the Senate in each party shall select a leader of their respective party. The leader of each respective party shall serve as either the Majority Leader or Minority Leader of the Senate. A Senator selected as Majority Leader or Minority Leader may not serve as President.

For purposes of these Rules, the majority party shall be the party at the

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opening of the session who has at least fifty (50) percent of the vote in the Senate plus one. In the event that the membership of the Senate is equally divided, the party affiliation of the President will decide the majority party. The majority party shall be determined at the opening of the session and shall remain the majority party for the duration of these Rules.

Except for meetings to elect the Majority Leader or Minority Leader or to take any other formal action, meetings of party caucuses are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

B.

Seating

During the opening session after the election of Senators or, in the case of a special election, at a session designated by the President, the President shall pick his seat in the Chamber first. The Majority Leader and then the Minority Leader shall pick seats in the Chamber on opposite sides. The reading clerk shall then call the roll of the Senate by seniority and each member shall then select a seat in the Chamber. The front two rows on the side of the Chamber selected by the majority leader are reserved for the majority party members; the front two rows on the side of the Chamber selected by the minority leader are reserved for the minority party members.

RULE 5.

Journal of the Senate

The Journal of the Senate shall be prepared and printed daily by the Clerk. Any Senator shall have the right to demand the reading of that portion of the Journal of the previous day containing an error or omission and to move to correct any such errors or omissions after debate of no more than five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. The Clerk must annually compile and publish a permanent Journal of the proceedings of the Senate.

RULE 6.

Which Senator Entitled to Floor

A.

When a Senator desires to speak, he or she shall rise from his or her seat and address the President, and may not proceed until he or she is recognized. When two or more Senators rise from their seats to speak at the same time, the Senator who first addresses the President as determined by the President shall have the floor and the President shall so announce it.

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B.

When a Senator raises a question of order, as provided for in Rule 7, the President shall stop all other debate and allow the Senator raising the question to explain the point of order subject only to a superior question of order.

C.

Every Senator, when speaking, shall address the President, standing in his or her place and when finished shall take his or her seat. Senators, when addressing the Senate, may stand at their desk or may go to the podium in the center aisle.

Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of the Senate, no Senator may interrupt the Senator who has been granted the floor without his or her consent. To obtain consent, he or she shall first address the President. If a member wishes to present a question to the Senator who has been granted the floor, he or she shall address the President and gain recognition. Once recognized, the member shall ask the President, "Does the Senator yield for a question?" The President shall inquire of the member granted the floor "Does the Senator yield?" If the Senator who holds the floor agrees to yield, the President shall so instruct the Senator who wishes to present the question.

RULE 7.

A.

Question of Order

Appeal from President's Decision

If a Senator in speaking, or otherwise, violates the Rules of the Senate, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, by raising a point of order, call him to order; and when a member is called to order by the President or under a point of order, he or she shall sit down and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, unless the President takes the point of order under advisement. The President may call for the Sense of the Senate on any question of order. Every question of order must be decided by the President, without debate, and Senators shall have the right to appeal the decisions of the President to the full Senate. When the decision of the President is appealed, the next most senior Senator shall preside during the pendency of the appeal and the Senate's debate and action on the motion to appeal. The question before the Senate shall be "Shall the ruling of the President be overridden?" and after not more than thirty (30) minutes, fifteen (15) minutes for and fifteen (15) minutes against, of debate it shall be decided by a majority vote of the membership.

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B.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests

When a member wishes to introduce a visitor, guest or family member, he or she shall first gain recognition from the President and shall limit his or her introduction and associated remarks to not more than two minutes. If a Resolution is presented during the introduction, it may be read by title only.

If a visitor or guest in the Chamber or in the gallery engages in a demonstration of approval or disapproval or creates a disturbance which affects the decorum of the Senate, the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms shall take those measures necessary to enforce order.

C.

Decorum in the Senate

The presiding officer shall maintain proper decorum in the Senate at all times. Members of the Senate are prohibited from eliciting responses of any kind from visitors in the Senate gallery.

The use of cellular phones is prohibited in the Senate Chamber. Other silent electronic devices may be used only in a manner as not to be disruptive to the Senate. This rule shall be enforced in a manner prescribed by the Operations and Management Committee.

RULE 8.

May Speak Twice in One Debate

No Senator shall speak more than twice in any one debate, on the same day, without leave of the Senate.

Any Senator, who absents himself or herself for three (3) hours or more from the Senate Chamber after due notice that Rule 3(B) has been invoked, or is not present for two quorum roll calls which are called more than two hours apart, forfeits his or her right to speak for more than one hour on any matter pertaining to the Bill being debated on that legislative day, unless granted leave by the Senate to speak for a longer period, or unless such member obtains a leave of absence from the Senate either before or after invocation of the Rule.

RULE 9.

Endorsement of Papers

No Senator shall present any Bill, amendment or other paper, without having first affixed his or her name to such Bill, amendment or other paper. A member who is granted leave to place material on the desks of other members, and who is not the author of or who has not signed the material, shall affix his or her name to a copy of the material and forward

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that copy to the Clerk prior to distribution of the material. No notice shall be required of a member of his or her intention to introduce a Bill or Resolution. Any member may introduce Bills or Resolutions which shall be received by the Senate staff whether or not the Senate is in session. A member may co-sponsor any Bill or Resolution with the permission of the primary sponsor. After introduction, a member may, with permission of the primary sponsor, co-sponsor any Bill or Resolution that is in the possession of the Senate by notifying the Clerk. Bills and Resolutions so received shall be periodically referred by the President of the Senate to the appropriate committee or committees which may then consider them at such times as the committee meets.

Any matter acted upon favorably by any committee may be reported out by the committee when the Senate reconvenes and need not thereafter be sent to any committee but shall then be ready, upon compliance with other Rules of the Senate, for second reading consideration.

The Clerk of the Senate shall establish procedures to notify the Senate membership on a monthly basis of Bills and Resolutions introduced during periods when the Journal is not printed.

All Bills received prior to the first day of the convening or reconvening of the General Assembly shall receive first reading, *en banc*, on the first day of the session.

RULE 10.

Committee Reports, How Made

Reports must be separately made on each Bill or Resolution and shall be signed by the Chairman or such Senator as the Chairman may designate.

No Bill or Joint Resolution may be polled out of a Standing Committee until all of the committee members present are notified and polled and a majority of the entire membership of the committee votes in favor of polling the legislation out. The poll results must be certified by the Committee Chairman who must certify that each member of the committee was notified and given an opportunity to vote and a written copy of the results must be given to the Clerk to be published in the Journal.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 33 and unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, when the annual General Appropriation Bill or a Capital Reserve Fund Resolution or any reapportionment bill or any Resolution affecting the sine die adjournment date is received by the Senate to be placed on the calendar, it shall be placed in a position under the masthead of the calendar as the first order of business to be taken up

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each day immediately following the conclusion of the call of the Uncontested Local Calendar.

RULE 11.

Writing and Withdrawal of Motions

When a motion is made, with the exception of motions made under Rule 14, if requested by any member, it must be reduced to writing, delivered at the desk, and read before the same is voted up or down; provided, however, that the request to have a motion reduced to writing shall not cause the mover of such motion to lose the floor. Any motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time prior to being put before the body. Thereafter, it may be withdrawn only with the unanimous consent of the Senate. No motion may be made concerning a matter which has gone out of the possession of the Senate except a motion to recall, and if the same should prevail, the Clerk shall send an appropriate message requesting a return of the matter, and when returned shall be placed in the box.

RULE 12.

Motion to Reconsider

No motion for the reconsideration of any vote shall be in order unless the matter is in the possession of the Senate, nor shall any motion to reconsider be in order unless made within the next two statewide legislative days of the actual session of the Senate thereafter, and by a Senator voting with the prevailing side. Except for procedural motions, a motion to reconsider may be made immediately after the act or motion to which it applies has occurred, during the motion period, during the time between the call of orders of business after the introduction and reference of new Bills and Resolutions, or during the time the bill or resolution is being debated.

RULE 13.

Points of Personal Privilege and Expressions of Personal Interest

Any member may rise to a point of personal privilege provided that a point of personal privilege shall be defined as questions affecting the rights, reputation and conduct of members of the body in their representative capacity.

A point of personal privilege must relate to persons as members of the body or relate to charges against the character of a member which charges, if true, would affect the rights of membership.

A member rising to a point of personal privilege must confine his or

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her remarks to those matters which concern the member personally and has only the right to defend himself or herself and no other persons, and such remarks shall in all cases be limited to not more than one (1) hour.

All other remarks made by a member shall be regarded as an expression of personal interest. A member may only be recognized for an expression of personal interest prior to the call of the Uncontested Calendar or after the completion of the Special Orders ~~between the call of orders of business~~ and such remarks shall in all cases be limited to not more than five (5) minutes.

RULE 14.

Privileged Motions

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained, unless otherwise provided for in the Rules, but

1. To adjourn
2. To adjourn to a date and time certain
3. To recede for a fixed period of time or to a time certain
4. To appeal a decision of the Chair
5. To go into Executive Session
6. To take up order of the day
7. To continue
8. To lay on the table
9. To adjourn debate to a certain day or to adjourn debate
10. To carry over
11. To strike out the enacting clause
12. To commit or recommit
13. To reconsider
14. To amend

which several motions may only be made by the Senator having the floor and shall have precedence in the order in which they are above arranged, and the first ten (10) of which shall be determined without debate. A motion to lay an amendment on the table being agreed to shall not have the effect of disposing of the main question.

Provided, however, when a Bill or any other matter is under debate, a motion to carry over may be made by the Senator having the floor, with such Senator retaining the floor on that Bill or any other matter upon an affirmative vote of twenty-six (26) members of the Senate. Provided, that when a Bill or any other matter is under debate and a motion to carry over is made pursuant to a majority vote of the Rules Committee for a carry over motion, the Senator having the floor shall retain the floor on that Bill or other matter upon a majority vote of those members present and voting. The Rules Committee vote requirement can be fulfilled either

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at a duly called meeting of the Rules Committee or the Committee may be polled in accordance with Rule 10.

No motion to carry over, either by the Senator who has the floor or by the Rules Committee as provided herein, shall be in order for any Bill in the status of Interrupted Debate for less than one legislative day. The failure of a motion to carry over by an individual Senator or by the Rules Committee shall not cause the member who has the floor to lose the floor.

When a motion to adjourn debate is passed, the Bill to which it applies is subject to consideration on the next legislative day that the Senate reaches that order of business. When a motion to adjourn debate to a date certain is passed, the Bill to which it applies is not subject to consideration until the date so specified, if the Senate reaches that order of business. If the Senate does not reach that order of business, the Bill remains in adjourned debate status.

A motion to ratify acts may be made by the President, or his designee, ~~any Committee Chairman~~ at any time and must receive a majority vote of the membership of the Senate.

Whenever a member who has been recognized and properly holds the floor makes a motion relating to any business, matter or other question before the Senate, such motion shall require a majority vote of those present and voting unless otherwise provided. If a request is made to repeat or restate any such motion, it shall only be repeated or restated by the member originally making the motion.

No member may make any dilatory motion, including placing amendments on the desk, or take any other action or use any parliamentary tactic for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business.

RULE 15.

A.

Fixing a Time Certain to Vote

Except for any Reapportionment Bill, the debate on any Bill, Resolution, or other matter which has been under debate for two (2) hours on the current legislative day may be brought to a close by the lesser of twenty-six (26) Senators or three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting. ~~the question of third reading of a Bill or Resolution may be brought to a close by the lesser of twenty six (26) Senators or three fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting, if such Bill or Resolution has been under debate for two (2) hours on the current legislative day. The debate on any other matter pending before the Senate, except as otherwise provided in these Rules, may be brought to a close by a majority of the membership of the Senate after two (2) hours~~

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~~of debate on the current legislative day.~~

However, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14, during the final three (3) statewide legislative days prior to the date set for sine die adjournment, the time periods provided above may be waived by three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other rule, such motion may be made after the time period provided for herein has elapsed and may be made by any member and shall not be subject to amendment or debate. Such motion shall include a fixed time for the vote, a time when no further amendments may be placed on the desk, the limitations on amendments sponsored by each Senator, and/or the limitations on consideration and debate of each amendment and the main question. Any Senator may request a call of the Senate prior to the vote being ordered.

When the time arrives, the Senate shall proceed to a consideration (seriatim) of the amendments and the main question as provided by the motion adopted under the provisions of the rule.

When a motion is adopted under the provisions of this rule, no further amendments may be received unless provided by the motion, except that the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader may each offer one additional amendment and the Clerk may authorize an amendment necessary to correct some technical error or omission or to conform the language of an amendment to a previous action of the Senate.

Any question to which the Senate has agreed to fix a date or time certain shall become the unfinished business of the Senate and shall be considered on each subsequent legislative day immediately after the call of the uncontested local calendar.

B.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other Rule of the Senate, when any Reapportionment Bill has been under debate for two statewide legislative days, the President shall immediately recognize any Senator for the purpose of a motion to bring the debate to a close. Upon being made, the President shall at once state the motion and submit to the Senate by a yea and no vote the question:

“Is it the Sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?”

And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by the lesser of twenty-six (26) Senators or three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting, then said measure pending before the Senate, or unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business of the Senate to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of.

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Thereafter, no Senator shall be entitled to speak in all, more than one hour on the measure, pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, the amendments thereto, and the motions affecting the same, and it shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to keep the time of each Senator who speaks. After no more than forty-six hours of consideration of the measure, motion, or other matter on which cloture has been invoked, the Senate shall proceed, without further debate on any question, to vote on the final disposition thereof to the exclusion of all other matters.

C.

Except for any reapportionment Bill and notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14, the President or his or her designee shall have the right to make a motion to establish a schedule for a future date and time for the vote on any Bill or Resolution, which is in the status of Interrupted Debate, Adjourned Debate or Special Order. The motion shall also establish the time when no further amendments may be placed on the desk and the limitations on consideration and debate of amendments and the main questions. Any such motion shall not be subject to amendment or debate and must be adopted by the lesser of twenty-six (26) Senators or three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting and if adopted, then the Bill or Resolution shall be the business of the Senate on the date and time set, to the exclusion of all other matters.

RULE 16.

Vote by Ayes and Nays Senators Present Must Vote

Except as otherwise provided, the decision of the Senate on any question other than unanimous consent shall be taken by all members voting 'viva voce' or electronically when a roll call is required, if an electronic voting system is available. Votes on the following matters shall be taken by roll call and the names of the Senators voting shall be recorded in the Journal:

(1) Second reading of Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Carolina Constitution and third reading of such Joint Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading;

(2) The question on any act returned from the Governor with his or her objections;

(3) Second reading of Bills and Resolutions having the force and effect of law and third reading of such Bills and Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading. During the call of the Uncontested Calendar, after the first recorded vote, the name of each

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Senator present will be recorded in like manner, unless there is a request by five (5) Senators to call the roll;

(4) Adoption of reports of conference committees and free conference committees and the granting of free conference powers;

(5) The question on concurrence or the adoption of a substantive amendment proposed to Bills or Resolutions returned from the House of Representatives; and

(6) Any vote on the main question of an amendment for which there is a request for a roll call by three (3) Senators and the vote on any other motion for which there is a request for a roll call by five (5) Senators.

Prior to third reading of the annual general appropriations bill, each section of Part IA with the corresponding provisos must be considered individually and receive a roll call vote.

Upon a call of the Senate and unless a division is ordered, the Senators present shall vote alphabetically, unless voting electronically, when a roll call is required and every Senator present must give his or her vote as aye, no, or abstain unless excused by the Senate.

No Senator who is absent when the vote is taken and the result announced by the President shall be allowed to vote without leave of the Senate. A Senator who is absent from a vote may not be recorded as voting on that matter.

RULE 17.

A.

President of the Senate

At a session designated in accordance with Article III, Section 37 of the South Carolina Constitution, the Senate shall elect from among the members thereof a President to preside over the Senate and to perform other duties as provided by law and these Rules. The President shall serve for the quadrennium concurring with the term of the Senators.

In accordance with Article III, Section 18 of the South Carolina Constitution, the President must ratify all acts that are appropriately presented.

The President may name a Senator to act as President in order to preside in a temporary capacity for a period not to exceed beyond adjournment of that legislative day and who, if the President is unable, may ratify acts on behalf of the Senate.

The President may authorize or retain counsel to initiate, defend, intervene in, or otherwise participate in any suit on behalf of the Senate, a Senate committee, a Senator, or a Senate officer or employee.

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In accordance with Article III, Section 12 of the South Carolina Constitution, any reference to the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate in the Code of Laws shall be considered to mean the President of the Senate.

B.

Parliamentarian of the Senate

The Clerk shall serve as Parliamentarian of the Senate to provide expert, nonpartisan advice and assistance to the President and other Senators on questions relating to the meaning and application of the Senate's rules, precedents, and practices. The Clerk may appoint an Assistant Parliamentarian as required upon approval of the Operations and Management Committee.

RULE 18.

A Question May Be Divided

If a question in debate contains several points, any Senator may move to have the same divided and shall state how the division is to be made. Such motion shall be decided by a majority of the Senators present and voting after not more than five (5) minutes of debate. On a motion to strike out and insert it shall not be in order to move for a division of the question; but a rejection of a motion to strike out and insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to strike out and insert a different proposition, nor prevent a subsequent motion simply to strike out; nor shall the rejection of a motion to simply strike out prevent a subsequent motion to strike out and insert.

RULE 19.

A.

Standing Committees of the Senate

The Standing Committees of the Senate shall be as follows and shall have jurisdiction over legislation, appointments and other matters which fall within the title or titles of the Code of Laws as are herein below enumerated for each of the Committees:

Agriculture and Natural Resources - Titles 4 (county fairs), 39 (agricultural and food products), 44 (environmental services), 46, 47, 48 (land resources, soil and water conservation, mining, oil and gas, and wetlands), and 49

Banking and Insurance - Titles 21 (trust companies), 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38

Corrections and Penology - Titles 2 (community corrections), 24, and 63 (DJJ & Juv. Parole Bd.)

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Education - Titles 2 (higher education), 51, 59, and 60 (school governance and structure at all levels)

Ethics

Family and Veterans' Services - Titles 1 (state emblems and observances), 5 (cemeteries), 25, 26, 27 (cemeteries), 39 (blind persons), 43, 45, 52, 53, and 63 (children's services, childcare)

Finance - Titles 1 (Administration, SFAA), 2 (bonding authority, taxation, finances), 3, 4 through 6 (bonding authority, taxation, finances), 8 (employment standards, retirement, deferred compensation), 9, 10, 11, and 12, Constitution (bonding authority, taxation, finances)

Fish, Game and Forestry - Titles 48 (forestry and fire protection), 49, 50, and 51

Judiciary - Constitution, Titles 1, 2, 4, 5 through 8, 14 through 23, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33 (electric cooperatives), 42, 44 (drug related offenses), 56 (criminal offenses), 58, 61, 62 and 63 (family court, legal issues)

Labor, Commerce and Industry - Titles 1, (occupational licensing, building codes), 4 through 6 (building, construction, planning, fire codes), 13, 23 (firefighting), 31, 33, 39 (business matters, chemicals, industrial products), 40 and 41

Legislative Oversight

Medical Affairs - Titles 39 (drug products), 40 (health care professionals), 43, 44, and 48 (pollution control, waste management, water and sewer)

Rules - Senate Rules, Joint Rules

Transportation - Titles 5 (streets, sidewalks, parking), 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58 (Regional Transportation Authorities and railroads)

Matters shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee with jurisdiction over the primary subject matter addressed by the Bill or Resolution. If there is any objection to the referral of any bill or resolution to any Standing Committee, the Rules Committee shall hear the same, resolve the issue and report to the Senate within one (1) legislative day its decision which decision may be overruled by a vote of twenty-nine (29) Senators.

The several committees shall have such powers and duties as provided for in these rules. It shall not be in order for any committee to consider any proposed committee amendment (other than a technical, clerical, or conforming amendment) which contains any significant matter not within the jurisdiction of the committee proposing such amendment.

B.

Committee Composition

The membership of the above listed committees shall be as follows:

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The Committees on Judiciary and Finance shall each have twenty-three (23) members. All other standing Committees, except the Committee on Ethics and the Committee on Legislative Oversight, shall have seventeen (17) members.

The Committee on Ethics shall be composed of ten (10) members. Of the ten (10) members selecting a seat, five (5) shall be members of the majority party and five (5) shall be members of the minority party. The Committee on Legislative Oversight shall be composed of thirteen (13) members. Of the thirteen (13) members selecting a seat, in addition to the President who must select a seat, six (6) shall be members of the majority party, and six (6) shall be members of the minority party.

The total membership of each Standing Committee shall be composed of members of the two major political party caucuses in proportion to the number of Senators of each of such political party caucuses as nearly as possible and ensuring that the majority party as defined in these Rules contains a majority of the membership within each Standing Committee. For purposes of determining committee composition, percentages shall be rounded as follows: percentages of .49 or below shall be rounded down and percentages of .50 and above shall be rounded up.

Membership on the Judiciary Committee excludes membership on the Finance Committee and vice versa.

Committee seniority shall be determined by tenure within the committee rather than tenure within the Senate. When members with seniority transfer to a new committee, their seniority will be counted ahead of newly-elected Senators.

Where two or more Standing Committees are combined, initial membership on such committee shall be based on tenure within the Senate.

C.

Special Committees

In addition to the above listed Standing Committees, there shall be two (2) Special Committees to be known as the Committee on Interstate Cooperation, which shall be composed of five (5) members, and the Operations and Management Committee, which shall be composed of nine (9) members. The Chairman of the Special Committees shall be the President of the Senate or in his or her absence the next most senior Senator of the majority party serving thereon.

D.

Committee Selections

Members of the Senate shall make their committee selections at the commencement of the session following the election of Senators or in

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the case of a special election, at such session designated for that purpose by the President. In the case of a special election, the President must call a session for the purpose of committee selections within three statewide days after a Senator elected in a special election has taken the oath of office.

Members of the Senate may not select more than five (5) Standing Committees. The Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and the Committee on Legislative Oversight are not included in this limitation.

For the members to make their Standing Committee selections, the Clerk of the Senate (or if the Clerk has not been elected, the Clerk of the Senate during the preceding General Assembly or an assistant clerk) shall prepare a roll of the Senate listing the members in the order of length of continuous service, beginning with the longest continuous service. Where two or more members have equal continuous service they shall be listed in alphabetical order. The Clerk of the Senate shall also prepare a list of each Standing Committee and the number of seats available to members of each party. The Clerk of the Senate shall then call the roll twice in order of continuous service. Each member, upon his or her name being called during the first call of the roll, shall select four (4) unfilled Standing Committees on which he or she wishes to serve (and shall also select at this same time a seat on any or all of the Ethics, Legislative Oversight, and Interstate Cooperation Committees so long as a vacancy exists). Each member must select either the Finance or Judiciary Committee during the first call of the roll.

When the prescribed number of seats provided for a particular party within a Standing Committee has been filled, the President shall announce that the seats available for either the Majority or Minority party are filled. When the roll is called for the second time, it shall be called in reverse order of continuous service and each member upon his or her name being called, may select one additional unfilled Standing Committee on which he or she wishes to serve.

In the event any member is unable to be present for selection of Standing Committees, that member may authorize in writing any member of the Senate to make selections in his or her behalf. This procedure shall be followed on the first day of the session following the election of Senators and at any other session where a newly elected member(s) is seated and the President has made the designation within the timeframe hereinabove provided. Any Senator who served on a Standing Committee in the session immediately past shall have the right to select such committee, regardless of the Senator's seniority in the

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Senate, unless the Senator shall elect to be removed from such committee by the choices made by the member during the first round of selection of committees or unless the number of seats available to his respective party have already been filled.

Except as otherwise provided herein, in the selection by members of a seat on a Senate Standing Committee, the seniority system from the previous session shall be retained so as to become a part of these rules.

E.

Chairmen of the Standing Committees

In the selection of the Chairman of the Standing Committees, the senior member of the Committee from the majority party, in terms of seniority within the Committee, shall be the Chairman of the Standing Committee. However, the President shall be the Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Oversight and must not be the Chairman of any other Standing Committee. The Chairman of the Standing Committee shall serve for the quadrennium concurring with the term of the Senators adopting these Rules. If a vacancy occurs in the Chairmanship of a Standing Committee, then the next most senior member of the majority party shall become Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the original term. However, a Senator shall serve as Chairman of only one of the Standing Committees, but may chair a Standing Committee and a Special Committee concurrently.

Should any Senator, during his term of office, cease to be a member of the political party of which he was a member at the time of his election, he shall not be deemed, thereby, to have forfeited all Committee memberships to which he may have been elected and shall not waive all seniority within each of the committees of which he or she was member if a majority of the caucus to which the member switches consents to that Senator retaining his seniority within the Committees to which he was a member at the time of his switch. No Senator elected as a Chairman of a Standing Committee at the opening of a session shall lose that Chairmanship even if a Senator switches parties and because of that switch becomes the senior member of the majority party on that Committee.

A Resolution introduced by the President and the Majority Leader to remove the Chairman of a Standing Committee shall be referred to the Rules Committee; and when such Resolution is received by the Senate to be placed on the calendar, it shall be placed in the masthead position and after not more than four hours of debate, two (2) hours for and two (2) hours against, it shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting.

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Each Committee Chairman shall have necessary staff to oversee the operation of the committee and its staff appointed by the Committee Chairman and such Committee counsel, staff assistants, and pages as the Chair of the Committee may deem necessary. The number of positions and salaries of personnel selected pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the approval of the Operations and Management Committee.

The Chair of any Committee may appoint subcommittees to consider a particular bill or resolution or to consider matters relative to a portion of work of the Committee. Such subcommittees shall make recommendations to the Committee. The Chair of the full Committee shall name the chairman of the subcommittee who need not be the senior member appointed to the subcommittee. The total membership of a subcommittee shall be composed of members of the two major political parties if practicable. The Chair of the full Committee shall be an ex officio member of all subcommittees and entitled to vote, but shall not be counted as a member for purposes of a quorum.

F.

Operations and Management Committee

The Operations and Management Committee shall be composed of the President, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, and four (4) members selected by the President, of whom two (2) must be members of the minority party. If the Majority Leader also is the Chairman of the Finance Committee or the Judiciary Committee, then the next most senior member of the majority party on the committee shall serve.

The Operations and Management Committee, through the Clerk of the Senate and subject to the Committee's approval, shall oversee the day-to-day operation of the Senate including the allocation of office space between members. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall appoint such number of employees as Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, subject to the approval of the Operations and Management Committee, as are necessary for the proper transaction of the business of the Senate.

Each Senator, who is not a Committee Chairman, shall hire such number of pages and other employees as is necessary for the proper transaction of their legislative business. The Operations and Management Committee shall determine the number and salary ranges for these positions. All staffing decisions, including the hiring and firing of all staff, unless otherwise provided herein, shall be the sole responsibility of the affected Senator who must ensure that his or her employees follow the policies and procedures of the Operations and

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Management Committee, which shall be enforced by the Operations and Management Committee. However, if an employee works for more than one Senator, then the decision to hire and fire must be made by both of the affected Senators. If an agreement cannot be reached regarding the hiring and firing of an employee who works for more than one Senator, then the Operations and Management Committee shall arbitrate the dispute and render a decision which decision shall be final.

The Operations and Management Committee shall also oversee the Office of Senate Research which shall provide assistance as requested by Senate members and committees of the Senate. The Operations and Management Committee shall appoint a majority and minority research director and such other research counsel and staff assistants as is necessary for the proper transaction of its business.

G.

Committees of Conference and Free Conference

Committees of conference and free conference between the two Houses shall be comprised of three members. The President shall select two members, and the chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over the Bill which is the subject of the request for appointment of conference committee shall select one member. ~~In all cases,~~ The President shall designate a member to convene the initial meeting of the committee until the chairman of the committee of conference or free conference ~~is shall~~ be chosen by a majority of the appointed conferees.

H.

Committee Meetings

The following schedule shall be the regular meeting times for Standing Committees when the General Assembly is in session. Any additional or special meeting may be called only by individual Committee Chairmen subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Every Tuesday

3:00 p.m. - Finance and Judiciary

1st and 3rd Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - Fish, Game and Forestry

11:00 a.m. - Transportation

2nd and 4th Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - Family and Veterans' Services

10:00 a.m. - Education

11:00 a.m. - Banking and Insurance, Legislative Oversight

1st and 3rd Thursday

9:00 a.m. - Corrections and Penology, Legislative Oversight

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10:00 a.m. - Medical Affairs

2nd and 4th Thursday

9:00 a.m. - Labor, Commerce and Industry

10:00 a.m. - Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Rules Committee, Ethics Committee, and Interstate Cooperation Committee, ~~and Legislative Oversight Committee~~ shall meet at the call of the Chair. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit the Chairman of a Standing Committee from canceling a committee meeting. No committee, except the Rules Committee, shall hold a meeting while the Senate is in session without first being granted leave by the Senate.

The above listed dates refer to calendar weeks as opposed to session weeks. The date, time and place of any called meetings shall be reported to the Clerk of the Senate who shall post such information in the lobby of the Gressette Senate Office Building and the State House. Notice of regular scheduled meetings, as well as called meetings, shall be posted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Each Standing Committee is responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings of the full committee. The vote total on any matter before the committee shall be recorded in the minutes and a roll call vote must be recorded upon request of five Senators.

RULE 20.

Priority of Business Not Debatable

All questions relating to the priority of business to be acted upon shall be settled without debate.

RULE 21.

Bills May Be Recommitted

After commitment and report of a Bill to the Senate, or at any time before its passage it may be recommitted by a motion to recommit which can only be made when the matter is under debate or by unanimous consent or when the Senate is in the Motion Period and such question shall be decided after not more than ten (10) minutes of debate. At any time, the President or his designee may move to recommit a Bill that has been on the calendar for a minimum of nine (9) legislative days.

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RULE 22.

**All Bills Referred to Committees, and to Provide
for Recalling Bills from Committees**

All Bills or Joint Resolutions when first read shall be referred to the appropriate committees. After the expiration of five legislative days from the date of reference, any Bill, or Joint or Concurrent Resolution, except the General Appropriation Bill may be recalled from any committee by a majority vote of the Senators present and voting; before the expiration of five days from the date of reference, any Bill, or Joint or Concurrent Resolution may be recalled from committee by the vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Senators present and voting.

All Concurrent Resolutions which invite persons to address the General Assembly in joint session shall be submitted to the President and shall only be voted on by the Senate after they have been approved by a majority of the members of the Operations & Management Committee.

The Clerk is authorized to endorse Resolutions expressing congratulatory messages or sympathy without a reading.

RULE 23.

Printing

All Bills and Resolutions when placed on the Calendar shall be printed and made available to the Senators.

RULE 24.

A.

Clauses in Bill Must Be Germane

No clause shall be inserted in a Bill or Resolution unless the same is germane to the Bill or Resolution. In order to be germane, an amendment must be a natural and logical change or expansion directly related to the specific subject of the Bill or Resolution, as defined in the Bill or Resolution, and must not raise any new or independent matter different from the specific subject of the Bill or Resolution. Any perfecting amendment must be germane to both the amendment to be perfected and the underlying Bill or Resolution and must not offer a new proposition or substantially alter the main amendment.

Matter which is germane to the subject of the General Appropriation Bill and any Supplemental Appropriation Bill shall be defined as those things which reasonably, specifically, and inherently directly relate to the raising or spending of revenue for or in the fiscal year for which the bill applies and do not temporarily or permanently add, amend, or repeal a portion of the general permanent laws of South Carolina. Nothing in

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this paragraph prohibits the temporary suspension of any permanent law.
The provisions of this rule must be strictly construed.

B.

**Vote Requirement for General Permanent Laws Included in
Reports of Conference Committees on Appropriation Bills**

Any part, section, or division of a general or supplemental appropriation bill which reasonably, specifically, and inherently directly relate to the raising and spending of revenue for or in the fiscal year which the bill applies or any future years, and which amends, adds, or repeals a portion of the general permanent laws of South Carolina that is not otherwise prohibited by the South Carolina Code of Laws may only be included in any conference report or concurred in as a House amendment by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting.

RULE 25.

Bill by Committee

No Bill or Resolution shall be introduced in the name of a Committee except with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members thereof at a duly called meeting of the Committee; and the Chairman of the Committee shall certify thereon that this rule has been complied with. However, Joint Resolutions to approve regulations shall require a majority of the members present and voting.

RULE 26.

A.

**Second Reading of Bills, Recommittal
and Amendments on Third Reading**

After a bill has been called for second reading, the President shall recognize the Bill's primary sponsor and/or the committee or subcommittee chairman with jurisdiction over the bill for brief explanatory comments on the bill. These explanatory comments shall not be counted for the purposes of the time limits specified in Rule 15A. Upon conclusion of the explanatory comments, the Senate immediately shall begin consideration of any amendments on the desk.

The final question upon the second reading of every Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment (or motion originating in the Senate), and requiring three readings previous to being passed, shall be, "Shall it pass and be ordered to a third reading?"

B.

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Amendments on Third Reading

No amendment shall be received on third reading of a Bill or Resolution, unless three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting give leave for the amendment to be received. The primary sponsor of an amendment offered on third reading may be recognized for up to three (3) minutes to explain the amendment prior to the vote required under this provision being taken. Any amendment offered pursuant to this provision must be in conformance with Rule 24.

C.

Amendments on Third Reading Debatable

Whenever an amendment is received, pursuant to Rule 26B, on a third reading of any Bill, Resolution, or amendment, the same shall be debatable.

D.

Motion to Commit Always in Order

It shall at all times be in order before the final passage of any such Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment, or motion, to move its commitment. Any such motion shall be decided after no more than ten (10) minutes debate, five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. Should such commitment take place and amendment be reported by the Committee, the said Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment, or motion shall be again considered and read a second time.

E.

Fiscal Estimate Required Prior to Second Reading

Any Bill or Resolution affecting the expenditure of money by the State shall, prior to receiving second reading, have attached to it in writing such comment of the State Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office as may appear appropriate regarding its effect on the finances of the State.

Any Bill or Resolution affecting the expenditure of money by any county, municipality, school district, or special purpose district within the State shall, prior to receiving second reading, have attached to it in writing a statement by the Committee Chairman that the passage of such Bill or Resolution may affect the revenue of counties, municipalities, school districts, or special purpose districts.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this rule does not limit debate on such a Bill or Resolution prior to the question of second reading.

The provisions of this section shall not apply where the exact amount of money to be spent or expended is clearly set out in the Bill or Resolution.

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F.

Earmarks Report Required

The General Appropriations Bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state's reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue-raising measure as described in Section 11-11-440 shall, prior to receiving a second reading, have attached to it a statement from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance identifying each funding request included in the bill or resolution made by a Senator for an appropriation for a specific program or project not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year. The statement shall include the requesting Senator's name, an explanation of the project or program, and the amount appropriated.

The Conference Report for the General Appropriations Bill, any supplemental appropriations bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state's reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue-raising measure as described in Section 11-11-440 shall, prior to consideration by the Senate, have attached to it a statement from the Chairman of the Committee on Finance identifying each funding request contained in the conference report for an appropriation for a specific program or project not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year. The statement shall identify whether the funding request originated in the Senate or in the House of Representatives and, to the extent practicable, an explanation of the project or program and the amount appropriated.

RULE 27.

Presentation of Papers

Senators, when presenting petitions, memorials or reports, or introducing Bills or Resolutions, may make a brief statement, not exceeding three (3) minutes, on the subject matter of such report, Bill or Resolution, or send it to the President, when it shall be read by the Reading Clerk, unless otherwise ordered.

RULE 28.

Message to the House

All messages to the House of Representatives shall be sent by the Clerk, as required by the actions of the Senate.

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RULE 29.

The Clerk Charged with Printing

The Clerk shall be charged with the duty of having executed, in a proper and accurate manner, the printing ordered by the Senate or provided in the Rules; provided, however, that notwithstanding any other rule to the contrary, any Resolution which expresses sympathy, congratulations or commendation shall be printed in the Senate Journal by title only unless a member requests that the full text of the Resolution be printed in the Journal.

RULE 30.

All Papers to Be Delivered to Clerk at Close of Session

At the close of every bi-annual session the members of the Senate shall be required to hand in to the Clerk all petitions not reported on, and all papers in any way appertaining to the legislative business of the Senate, that the same may be regularly filed in his or her office.

RULE 31.

Executive Sessions

When considering confidential or executive business the Senate shall be cleared of all persons except the President, the Senators, the Clerk of the Senate, the Reading Clerk, the Assistant Clerk designated by the Clerk of the Senate, the Assistant Parliamentarian designated by the Clerk of the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, and such Deputy Sergeants-at-Arms required to ensure the security of the Executive Session.

All appointments made by the Governor and delivered to the Senate shall be referred to such committee of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19 which are applicable to the reference of bills. Such appointment shall be considered at the next meeting of such committee or such other time as the committee may determine. No report may be made on an appointment unless and until the committee has held a screening hearing and given the appointee an opportunity to appear before the committee. A screening hearing or any portion of a screening hearing, may be held in Executive Session only if allowed pursuant to applicable provisions of law and upon the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the committee. Any information or material provided to or developed by the committee in an Executive Session and any communications between a Committee Chairman and the appointing authority must be held confidential and only reported to the full Senate in Executive Session. If a committee fails to make a report on an

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appointment to the full Senate within two (2) weeks after a screening hearing, then the Senate may recall the appointment in Executive Session. Executive Sessions must be held on committee reports on appointments pursuant to applicable provisions of law, unless the Senate agrees to take up any such report in open session.

Before going into Executive Session, the Senate shall vote in open session on the question of whether to go into Executive Session and the reason therefore. When a motion to go into Executive Session is agreed to, the President shall announce publicly the purpose or purposes of the Executive Session as specified by the member making the motion. No final action may be taken by the Senate in the Executive Session on appointments. For the purpose of this Rule, "final action" means a decision by the Senate which constitutes a dispositive act regarding the consideration of an appointment. No vote may be taken on a final action in Executive Session, and the confirmation of appointments must be voted on in open session.

When the Senate is in Executive Session, any member may make a motion to bring the debate to a close in the Executive Session or to rise from the Executive Session and such motions must be decided without debate by a majority of the Senators present and voting. When the Senate rises from an Executive Session and the report of an Executive Session is received by the Senate, the final question on every appointment shall be: "Will the Senate advise and consent to this appointment?" Confirmation of statewide appointments shall be by roll call vote unless otherwise agreed to by unanimous consent.

A Senator who will abstain from the confirmation vote on any appointment also must abstain from the debate and any procedural vote regarding that appointment, including during the committee screening hearing.

Messages containing appointments may be published in the Journal when received as other messages, and the fact that an appointment has been made or that it has been confirmed or rejected shall not be regarded as a secret. When considering appointments in Executive Session, all information communicated, or remarks made by a Senator concerning the character or qualifications of the person appointed and any action or failure to act on any appointment(s) required to be kept confidential by applicable provisions of law shall be kept secret.

Other messages from the Governor pertaining to confidential matters shall be subject to such secrecy or publication as the Senate, in each instance, may order.

Any Member or Officer of the Senate who violates the secrecy

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provisions of this rule shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 44 of the Senate and Article 5 of Chapter 13 of Title 8 of the Code of Laws.

RULE 32.

A.

Order of Business

1. Called to Order by the President
2. Prayer by the Chaplain
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Receipt of Communications
5. Introduction and reference of new Bills and Resolutions
6. Call of the Uncontested Local Third Reading Calendar
7. Call of the Uncontested Local Second Reading Calendar
8. Call of the Uncontested Statewide Third Reading Calendar
9. Call of the Uncontested Statewide Second Reading Calendar
10. Motion Period
11. Acts returned by the Governor
12. Reports of Committees of Conference and Free Conference
13. Bills and Resolutions returned from the House of Representatives
14. Interrupted Debate
15. Adjourned Debate
16. Special Order
17. Call of the Contested Statewide Third Reading Calendar
18. Call of the Contested Statewide Second Reading Calendar
19. Call of the Contested Local Calendar

The order of business above provided for may be varied by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting and any order or business already completed may be reverted to in any legislative day by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting. A motion to vary the order of the day shall be in order, prior to, or at the completion of, any orders enumerated above or during the motion period and any such motion shall be decided without debate.

For the order of business designated as Interrupted Debate there shall not be more than one (1) Bill in this status at any one time provided however, that this limitation shall not apply to the General Appropriation Bill. For the order of business designated as Adjourned Debate there shall not be more than two (2) Bills in this status at any one time. For the order of business designated as Special Order there shall not be more than three (3) Bills on second reading and three (3) Bills on third reading in this status at any one time. Provided that of the Special Order slots,

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one (1) shall be reserved exclusively for Bills which are the subject of motions authorized by the Rules Committee and made by the Chairman of the Rules Committee or his or her designee, and provided only one bill may be in this status on any reading at any one time. The Bill occupying the slot reserved for the Rules Committee shall have a unique notation to call such status to the Senate's attention.

When a Bill or Resolution is returned from the House of Representatives or an Act or Joint Resolution is returned by the Governor with his or her objections, the message shall be read and the matter placed on the Calendar for consideration the next legislative day. However, in the final two (2) weeks before the date set for sine die adjournment, this requirement may be waived upon a motion adopted at the time the message is read in which case the matter will be considered when the Senate reaches that order of business. Such motion shall be decided without debate.

B.

Contested Calendar

On any legislative day, a Senator may move no more than five Bills or Resolutions from the Uncontested Statewide Calendar to the Contested Statewide Calendar and each such Bill or Resolution shall have a notation on the Senate's calendar stating the name of the Senator who contests the Bill or Resolution.

During the motion period, a motion may be made by the Chairman of the Rules Committee to call any Bill or Resolution, which has been on the calendar for a minimum of six (6) statewide legislative days, from the Contested Calendar. Except for explanatory remarks, such motions shall be determined without debate and by a majority of the Senators present and voting. If agreed to, the Bill or Resolution shall be considered in the ordinary course of business after Special Orders.

However, in the final two (2) weeks before sine die adjournment, a Bill or Resolution which is on the calendar, may be called from the Contested Calendar by the Rules Committee upon majority vote of the committee and shall be considered in the ordinary course of business after Special Orders.

C.

Bills and Resolutions Returned from the House of Representatives

If a Bill or Resolution is returned from the House of Representatives with amendments that add subject matter that is not germane to the Bill as passed by the Senate pursuant to Rule 24 or that is substantially similar to a bill on the Senate Calendar or in a standing committee of the Senate or a subcommittee thereof, the President may, upon recommendation of

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the Chairman of the Standing Committee with jurisdiction over the bill, refer the matter to the Standing Committee with jurisdiction over the bill. After which, the Bill or Resolution may be reported to the full Senate to be considered when the Senate next reaches that order of business. All bills returned from the House of Representatives shall be subject to debate as provided for bills on third reading in Rule 15A. The referral required under this provision may be waived by three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting upon motion of any Senator at the time of referral and the debate on any such motion is limited to no more than twenty (20) minutes, ten (10) minutes for and ten (10) minutes against.

D.

Reports of Committees of Conference and Free Conference

Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 32A, during the final three (3) statewide legislative days prior to the date set for Sine Die adjournment, reports of committees of conference and free conference and Sine Die Resolutions shall be in order at any time except when a question of order has been raised, when the Senate is voting on any matter, while ascertaining a quorum, or when a Senator who has been recognized prior thereto makes a motion to adjourn.

RULE 33.

Motion Period and Special Orders

A.

During the motion period, any motion pertaining to the business of the Senate may be made. When a motion is made to set a Bill for Special Order, time shall be given to one proponent and one opponent to speak on the motion. Such remarks shall be limited in the discretion of the presiding officer provided, that no Bill may be taken up during the motion period for the purpose of debating the merits of the Bill or for the purpose of giving the Bill a reading. Procedural motions shall be decided without debate; provided, that procedural motions which present a main question, such as a motion to recall, are subject to not more than ten minutes of debate, five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. The motion period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes unless extended by a majority of Senators present and voting.

At any time, the President, after consultation with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader, may make any motion pertaining to the business of the Senate and such motion shall be adopted upon approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate.

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B.

During the motion period, all motions to set a Bill or Resolution for Special Order on a subsequent legislative day shall be in order irrespective of whether the Bill or Resolution was given a reading on the legislative day the motion is made. Said motions shall be considered in the priority established by the recognition of the Senators making said motions. Each such motion shall relate to a separate Bill or Resolution. Except for explanatory remarks authorized in subsection A, such motions shall be determined without debate and by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting. Provided, that, when authorized in writing by a majority of the members of the Rules Committee and delivered to the desk, a motion to set a bill for Special Order, shall require a vote of a majority of the members present and voting. At no time may the Special Order calendar have more than one Bill which is set for Special Order by a motion authorized by the Rules Committee. During the motion period, no Bill or Resolution can be made a Special Order ahead of Bills or Resolutions which have already been placed in the status of Adjourned Debate.

If a Bill is set for Special Order on a date and/or time certain, such Bill is not subject to consideration at the specified date and/or time unless the Senate reaches that order of business or unless by unanimous consent the Senate has agreed that consideration of the Bill will be to the exclusion of all other matters pending before the Senate at such time.

If a Bill or Resolution is set for Special Order for second reading and subsequently receives such reading, the Bill or Resolution shall remain on Special Order unless otherwise agreed to by three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting. If debate is interrupted on a Bill or Resolution on Special Order, the Bill or Resolution shall be considered after the call of the uncontested local calendar.

RULE 34.

Calendar of Continued Bills

When a Bill or other matter is under debate, a Senator may move to continue it as provided for in Rule 14, to the 2nd, or any special session of the same General Assembly, and if the Senate agrees thereto, the matter shall be continued only to the next regular session unless otherwise specified in the motion. However, if a Bill or other matter has been under extended debate on three (3) consecutive legislative days or has been under debate for five (5) hours on any one legislative day, then any Senator may move to continue the matter to the 2nd, or any special session of the same General Assembly.

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The Clerk of the Senate shall make up a Calendar of all matters so continued, placing the same thereon in the order in which they have been continued. At the ensuing session the continued matters shall be taken up and considered in the same stage in which they were when so continued. Matters ordered to be placed in the General Orders at the said ensuing session shall be placed there in turn and have priority according to the last order for consideration made upon them, and the Calendar shall be proceeded in as hereinbefore provided.

RULE 35.

**Admission to the Floor of Senate
Granting the Privilege of the Floor**

A.

No person shall be admitted to the floor of the Senate to that area behind the rail while the Senate is in session or in recess during a session, except as follows: immediate family members of a Senator; Members of the House of Representatives and their Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms; former members of the Senate and House of Representatives unless such former member is a lobbyist registered pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 2 of the Code of Laws, a candidate or acting on behalf of a candidate for an office elected by the General Assembly or confirmed or elected by either the House or Senate, or a member of the governing body or employee of any state agency or department; the Governor and one member of his or her staff; Constitutional Officers; Justices of the Supreme Court; President and Vice-President of the United States; Members of Congress; Governors of States and Territories; and such Senate staff, Senators' staff, and no more than one member of the staff of each Senate Caucus, as the President of the Senate or any Member or Officer of the Senate may see fit to invite to a seat behind the rail. Members of the House of Representatives and former Members of the General Assembly, not subject to the foregoing limitations, shall be allowed on the floor of the Senate inside the rail. Members of a Senator's immediate family shall be allowed inside the rail only for the purposes of introductions.

Not less than two hours prior to the daily convening of the Senate and while the Senate is in session or in recess during a session no person, except those hereinabove enumerated, shall be allowed beyond the outer doors of the Senate antechamber. Persons not hereinabove enumerated may be admitted only to the antechamber when accompanying a Senator, but any such person is required to leave immediately upon conclusion of their business.

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The Senate Cloakroom is reserved for the exclusive use of the Members of the Senate and their guests.

B.

Any member who wishes to have the privilege of the area of the floor behind the rail granted to a guest shall make such request, in writing, to the President not less than two weeks prior to the date for which the request is made. The President is authorized to grant access to the area behind the rail for a limited period of time and with such conditions and limitations as he deems appropriate. If the number of guests involved exceeds more than half of the maximum seating capacity in the area behind the rail, then the President shall direct that these guests be seated in the balcony. No exceptions to this Rule may be made.

Guests who are granted the privilege of the chamber behind the rail may not approach the podium unless the written request so specifies and the President approves the request. A motion to grant the privilege of the floor within the rail may only be made by the President or his designee.

Any request to grant the privilege of the floor to address the body from the podium must be made in writing to the President two weeks prior to the date for which the request is made. Upon his approval, a Senate Resolution to that effect must be adopted by majority vote of the entire membership.

C.

The use of the Senate Chamber is restricted to statewide sessions of the Senate or such other meetings of the Senate or its committees as the Senate may, by Resolution, authorize. The use of the Senate Chamber for meetings by outside groups or individuals is limited to normal business hours on Monday through Friday and is prohibited unless authorized by a vote of the Senate. Incidental use or visitation by individuals or group tours may be authorized by the Clerk of the Senate.

RULE 36.

Places Assigned to Reporters

Reporters of public journals, upon application to the Clerk of the Senate, shall be assigned such places for the execution of their duties as shall not interfere with the convenience of the Senate. Any reporter for whom such application is made shall, in addition to the assigned places, be allowed free access to the Senate Antechamber during the time the Senate convenes and adjourns each legislative day. Reporters of the public journals shall be allowed in the area behind the rail in specific locations as designated by the Clerk of the Senate with the approval of the Operations and Management Committee and are strictly prohibited

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from conducting interviews whether or not initiated by a member of the media or a member of the Senate. Still photographers, upon application to the Clerk of the Senate, shall be granted access to the floor, behind the rail, for the exclusive purpose of taking photographs and upon completion of their assignment shall retire from the floor.

RULE 37.

**Bills Shall Receive Three Readings--Resolutions
and Committee Reports to Lie on Table One Day**

Every Bill shall receive three different readings, on three different days prior to its being passed, and the President shall give notice of each, whether it be the first, second, or third reading. All Resolutions to which the approval and signature of the Governor may be requisite, or which may grant money out of the contingent or any other fund, shall be treated in all respects, as to introduction and form of proceedings on them in the Senate, as Bills. All other Resolutions and Reports of standing, special, conference and free conference Committees shall lie on the table one statewide legislative day for consideration provided, however, that during the six (6) statewide legislative days preceding the date set for sine die adjournment the one day requirement as to a specific Resolution or report of a committee may be suspended by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting. The provisions of this Rule do not apply to amendments to sine die Resolutions that have been previously approved by the Senate.

First and Third Readings by Title

The first and third readings of each Bill shall be by its title only; provided, that on each second reading the Bill shall be read in full on the motion of any Senator which shall be decided without debate.

RULE 38.

Precedence of Motion to Refer

A motion to refer to a Standing Committee shall take precedence over a motion to refer to a Special Committee.

RULE 39.

**Printed Bills to Be on Desk One Day Before
Second Reading**

No Bill or Joint Resolution shall receive a second reading unless printed and made available to the members at least one day previous to such reading.

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RULE 40.

Title to Bills to Amend or Repeal Acts

Every Bill or Joint Resolution which shall propose the amendment or repeal of any Section, Chapter or Title of the General Statutes, or of any Act of Assembly or Joint Resolution, shall in its title express the subject matter of such Section, Chapter, Title, Act or Joint Resolution so sought to be amended or repealed. Every Bill or Joint Resolution proposing to amend any Section or Sections of any Chapter of the General Statutes, or of any Act or Joint Resolution, shall give the full text of the said Section or Sections, as it or they would read with such amendment or amendments inserted therein. No Act or Joint Resolution may include a provision designating that the Act or Joint Resolution may be referred to, cited as, or the like by reference to a person's or animal's given name or nickname.

RULE 41.

Broadcasts by Television and Radio

Broadcast media shall be allowed in the area behind the rail in specific locations as designated by the Clerk of the Senate with the approval of the Operations and Management Committee and are strictly prohibited from conducting interviews whether or not initiated by a member of the media or a member of the Senate.

The Operations and Management Committee shall have full authority to regulate, supervise and fix times of broadcasts of the proceedings of the Senate by radio or television.

RULE 42.

Jefferson's Manual to Govern Other Cases

In all cases not embraced by the foregoing Rules, the Senate shall be governed by such rules as are laid down in the 1801 version of Jefferson's Manual of Parliamentary Practice.

RULE 43.

Suspending and Amending Rules

Any rule of the Senate or severable portion of a rule of the Senate may be suspended by unanimous consent of the Senate. Without unanimous consent one day's previous notice shall be given of a motion to suspend any of the rules or severable portion thereof. A motion to suspend shall require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate.

Any permanent amendment, rescission, or repeal of any of the Senate rules shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the

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Senate. However, from the convening of each two-year session through the second Thursday of such session, any permanent amendment, rescission, or repeal of any of the Senate rules may be made by adoption, by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the membership, of a Senate Resolution that has been referred to and has received a favorable report from the Rules Committee.

The Clerk of the Senate shall have these rules recorded in a permanent book which shall be kept at all times in the Senate Chamber. All permanent changes in the rules after they have been adopted shall be recorded in a Permanent Rule Book and certified by the Clerk of the Senate. These rules shall remain in full force and effect until the conclusion of the terms for Senators or until the Rules are amended, suspended, or repealed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate prior thereto.

**Rule 44.
Ethics Committee Duties**

A.

In the Senate there shall be a Committee on Ethics, consisting of ten (10) members. The ethics committee has the following powers and duties:

(1) ascertain whether a person has failed to comply fully and accurately with the disclosure requirements of Chapter 13, Title 8, which may include, but is not limited to, an audit of filed reports and applicable campaign bank statements, and to promptly notify the person to file the necessary notices and reports to satisfy these requirements;

(2) receive complaints filed by individuals and, upon a majority vote of the total membership of the committee, file complaints when alleged violations are identified;

(3) upon the filing of a complaint alleging a violation by a Senate member or staff, or a member or staff of a legislative caucus committee, or a Senate candidate, for a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2, other than a violation of a rule of the appropriate house, the ethics committee shall refer the complaint to the State Ethics Commission for an investigation pursuant to Section 8-13-540;

(4) receive, investigate, and hear a complaint which alleges a possible violation of a breach of a privilege or a rule governing a Senate member or staff or legislative caucus committee, or Senate candidate, and enforce the appropriate provisions of the Senate's No Harassment Policy as approved by the Operations & Management Committee;

(5) a complaint may not be accepted by the ethics committee

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concerning a Senate member or candidate during the fifty-day period before an election in which the member or candidate is a candidate. During this fifty-day period, any person may petition the court of common pleas alleging the violations complained of and praying for appropriate relief by way of mandamus or injunction, or both. Within ten days, a rule to show cause hearing must be held, and the court must either dismiss the petition or direct that a mandamus order or an injunction, or both, be issued. A violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 by a candidate during this fifty-day period must be considered to be an irreparable injury for which no adequate remedy at law exists. The institution of an action for injunctive relief does not relieve any party to the proceeding from any penalty prescribed for violations of Chapter 13, Title 8. The court must award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the nonpetitioning party if a petition for mandamus or injunctive relief is dismissed based upon a finding that the:

(a) petition is being presented for an improper purpose such as harassment or to cause delay;

(b) claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are not warranted by existing law or are based upon a frivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law; and

(c) allegations and other factual contentions do not have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, are not likely to have evidentiary support after reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

Action on a complaint filed against a Senate member or candidate which was received more than fifty days before the election but which cannot be disposed of or dismissed by the ethics committee at least thirty days before the election must be postponed until after the election;

(6) obtain information, investigate technical violation complaints, and hear complaints as provided in Section 8-13-540 with respect to any complaint filed pursuant to Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2 and to that end may compel by subpoena issued by a majority vote of the committee the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of pertinent books and papers;

(7) administer or recommend sanctions appropriate to a particular Senate member or staff, or candidate for Senate, pursuant to Section 8-13-540, including the recovery of the value of anything transferred or received in breach of the ethical standards, or dismiss the charges; and

(8) act as an advisory body to the Senate and to individual Senate members or candidates on questions pertaining to the disclosure and

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filing requirements of Senate members or candidates, and may issue, upon request from a Senate member or staff, or legislative caucus committee, or Senate candidate, and publish advisory opinions on the requirements of Chapter 13, Title 8 and Chapter 17, Title 2.

(9) levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is found in violation, or who admits to a violation, pursuant to Title 2 or Title 8. The fee must be used to reimburse the ethics committee for costs associated with the investigation and hearing of a violation as provided in Section 8-13-130. These fees and costs are in addition to any fines as otherwise provided by law.

(10) To recommend any rule or statutory change relating to ethics as the committee deems appropriate.

B.

All papers, documents, complaints, charges, requests for advisory opinions, and any other material filed with or received by the committee shall be strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause, or a waiver of confidentiality by the respondent. No persons involved with a complaint, including complainant, respondent, counsel, counsel's secretaries, committee members and staff, and investigators shall mention the existence of any such proceeding nor disclose any information pertaining thereto, unless otherwise permitted by the Rules. Disclosure of confidential information must be punished in a manner provided by the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act. If the Senate Ethics Committee finds that a person has violated the provisions of this item, it must report its findings to the Attorney General.

C.

Formal Advisory Opinions

(1) The ethics committee may issue a formal advisory opinion based on real or hypothetical sets of circumstances. In considering and formulating an advisory opinion the ethics committee shall consider its previous opinions, the relevant opinions of the House Ethics Committee, as well as relevant opinions issued by the commission in an attempt to create uniformity among the bodies. A formal advisory opinion issued by the ethics committee is binding on the committee, until amended or revoked, in any subsequent charges concerning the person who requested the formal opinion and any other person who acted in reliance upon it in good faith, unless material facts were omitted or misstated by the person in the request for the opinion. A formal advisory opinion must be in writing and is considered rendered when approved by a majority of the ethics committee members subscribing to the advisory opinion.

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Advisory opinions must be made available to the public unless the committee, by majority vote of the total membership of the committee, requires an opinion to remain confidential. However, the identities of the parties involved must be withheld upon request.

(2) The ethics committee only may issue formal advisory opinions for Senate members, staff and legislative caucus committees for which it has proper jurisdiction to make findings of fact and impose penalties pursuant to Chapter 13, Title 8.

(3) The ethics committee must consider whether a person relied in good faith upon a formal advisory opinion or written informal staff opinion when considering a finding of misconduct.

Rule 44.1.

Ethics Committee Procedures

A.

Complaint

(A)(1) A complaint alleging a member of the Senate, legislative caucus committees, candidates for the Senate, or staff of the Senate or legislative caucus committee has committed a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2 must be a verified complaint in writing and state the name of the person alleged to have committed the violation and the particulars of the violation.

(2) When a complaint is filed with or by the ethics committee alleging a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2, a copy must be sent to the person alleged to have committed the violation and to the State Ethics Commission, hereinafter referred to as ‘the commission’ within thirty days from the date the complaint was filed, for an investigation. However, if the complaint only alleges a violation of a rule of the Senate, the ethics committee must forward a copy of the complaint to the person alleged to have committed the violation, and the ethics committee shall investigate and make a determination for a complaint.

(3) Upon completing its investigation, the commission must provide a report to the ethics committee with a recommendation as to whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or of Chapter 17, Title 2 has occurred. A recommendation of probable cause requires an affirmative vote by six or more members of the commission. The report must include a copy of all relevant reports, evidence, and testimony considered by the commission.

(B)(1) All investigations, inquiries, hearings and accompanying documents are confidential and only may be released pursuant to Section

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8-13-540.

(2)(a) Upon a recommendation of probable cause by the commission for a violation, other than a technical violation pursuant to Section 8-13-1170 or 8-13-1372, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response by the respondent, and the commission's recommendation of probable cause.

(b) If the ethics committee requests further investigation after receipt of the commission's report, documents only may be released if the commission's second report to the committee recommends a finding of probable cause.

(C)(1) Upon receipt of the commission's report, the ethics committee may concur or nonconcur with the commission's recommendation, or within forty-five days from the committee's receipt of the report, request the commission to continue the investigation in order to review information previously received or consider additional matters not considered by the commission.

(2) If, after reviewing the commission's recommendation and relevant evidence, the ethics committee determines that there is not competent and substantial evidence a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or of Chapter 17, Title 2 has occurred, the committee shall dismiss the complaint and send a written decision to the respondent and the complainant. The notice of dismissal must be made public if the commission made a recommendation that probable cause existed.

(3) If, after reviewing the commission's recommendation and relevant evidence, the ethics committee determines that the respondent has committed only a technical violation pursuant to Section 8-13-1170 or 8-13-1372, the provisions of the appropriate section apply.

(4) If, after reviewing the commission's recommendation and relevant evidence, the ethics committee determines that there is competent and substantial evidence that a violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or of Chapter 17, Title 2 has occurred, except for a technical violation of Section 8-13-1170 or 8-13-1372, the committee shall, as appropriate:

- (a) render an advisory opinion to the respondent and require the respondent's compliance within a reasonable time; or
- (b) convene a formal public hearing on the matter.

The ethics committee may obtain its own information, or request additional investigation by the State Ethics Commission, if it needs additional information to make a determination as to whether or not competent and substantial evidence of a violation exists. An advisory opinion to the respondent pursuant to subitem (a) must be made public.

(5) If the ethics committee convenes a formal public hearing:

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(a) the investigator or attorney handling the investigation for the State Ethics Commission shall present the evidence related to the complaint to the ethics committee;

(b) it is the duty of the investigator or attorney to further investigate the subject of the complaint and any related matters under the jurisdiction and at the direction of the ethics committee, to request assistance from appropriate state agencies as needed, to request authorization from the committee for funds for the hiring of auditors, investigators, or other assistance as necessary, to prepare subpoenas, and to present evidence to the committee at any public hearing. The ethics committee shall maintain the authority to approve subpoenas, authorize expenditures, dismiss complaints, schedule hearings, grant continuances, and as otherwise provided for by the Senate Rules;

(c) the respondent must be allowed to examine and make copies of all evidence in the ethics committee's possession relating to the charges. At the hearing the respondent must be afforded appropriate due process protections, including the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses;

(d) all hearings must be open to the public.

(6)(a) After the formal public hearing, the ethics committee shall determine its findings of fact and issue its final order.

(b) If the ethics committee, based on competent and substantial evidence, finds the respondent has not violated Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2, the committee shall dismiss the complaint and send a written decision to the respondent and the complainant.

(c) If the ethics committee, based on competent and substantial evidence, finds the respondent has violated Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2, the committee shall:

(i) administer a public reprimand;

(ii) determine that a technical violation as provided for in Section 8-13-1170 or 8-13-1372 has occurred;

(iii) require the respondent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand dollars for each nontechnical violation that is unrelated to the late filing of a required statement or report or failure to file a required statement or report;

(iv) require the forfeiture of gifts, receipts, or profits, or the value of each, obtained in violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2;

(v) recommend expulsion of the member;

(vi) provide a copy of the complaint and accompanying

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materials to the Attorney General if the committee finds that there is probable cause to believe the respondent wilfully violated a section of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2 that imposes a criminal penalty; or

(vii) require a combination of subitems (i) through (vi) as necessary and appropriate.

(d) The ethics committee shall report its findings in writing to the President of the Senate. The report must be accompanied by an order of punishment or dismissal and supported and signed by a majority of the ethics committee members.

(e) Upon the issuance of the final order, the following documents become public record: exhibits introduced at the hearing, the committee's findings, and the final order. Exhibits introduced must be redacted prior to release to exclude personal information where the public disclosure would constitute an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy. In addition, any documents in the commission's report that substantiate the commission's recommendation of probable cause that would constitute a public document and are not exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or other state or federal law also shall become public record. These documents must be redacted, as appropriate, in compliance with state or federal law.

(D) If, after conducting a formal public hearing, the ethics committee finds the respondent has violated Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2, the respondent has ten days from the date of receiving the committee's order of punishment to appeal the action to the full Senate.

(E) No ethics committee member may take part in consideration of any matter in which they are the respondent, complainant, witness, or otherwise involved. Should an ethics committee member be unable to take part in consideration of any matter due to a recusal, a disability, or any other reason, the most senior member of the same party as the member who is unable to participate will temporarily fill his seat on the ethics committee.

(F) The ethics committee shall establish procedures which afford respondents appropriate due process protections, including the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses.

(G) It is unlawful for anyone who is the subject of a pending investigation or open complaint, to contact or attempt to contact, either directly or indirectly, a member of the commission or the ethics committee to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of a pending

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investigation or open complaint.

Action may not be taken on a complaint filed more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred unless the person alleged to have committed the violation, by fraud or other device, prevents discovery of the violation.

B.

Subsequent Actions by the Senate

Upon receipt of a recommendation of expulsion or an appeal from an order of the Ethics Committee, the President shall call the Senate into open session at a time to be determined at his discretion to consider the action of the Ethics Committee. The Senate shall either sustain or overrule the Ethics Committee's action or order other action consistent with these Rules as otherwise permitted by statute. Upon consideration of an ethics committee report by the Senate, whether in executive or open session, the results of the consideration are a matter of public record.

No member may vote on the question of his or her expulsion from the Senate.

Failure to fully comply with a final ethics order is a separate violation that may be considered by the ethics Committee.

C.

Penalty for Failure to File Statements or Reports as Required

If the Senate Ethics Committee finds the respondent has failed to file or was late in filing a required statement of economic interest or campaign disclosure report, the Senate Ethics Committee must order the respondent to pay a fine according to the provisions in Section 8-13-1510.

D.

Technical Violations

The Senate Ethics Committee may, in its discretion, determine that errors or omissions on statements of economic interests and campaign disclosure reports are inadvertent and unintentional and not an effort to violate a requirement of Chapter 13, Title 8 and may be handled as technical violations not subject to the provisions of Chapter 13, Title 8 pertaining to ethical violations. The Senate Ethics Committee may assess a penalty for technical violations not exceeding fifty dollars.

E.

Receipt of Documents

In conjunction with the proceedings specified in Rule 44.2, the President, and the Senate Ethics Committee on behalf of the entire Senate, may receive:

- (1) certified copies of any indictment or information for a felony

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or offense against the election laws filed or returned against any member of the Senate;

(2) certified copies of any plea of guilty or nolo contendere to the felony entered by any member of the Senate;

(3) certified copies of any conviction of a member for the felony;
and

(4) certified copies of any opinion, order, or judgment of any court, state or federal, trial or appellate, relating to any of the aforementioned matters.

Rule 44.2.

Rules Governing Actions Taken Against a Member

(a) If an indictment, information on a felony, or a warrant for the offenses provided in Sections 7-13-1920, 7-25-20, 7-25-50, 7-25-60, 7-25-110, 7-25-120 and 7-25-150 of the Code of Laws, is filed, returned, or issued against a member of the Senate, the member indicted, charged or informed against may request the President to excuse the member, without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate and the President shall comply with the request.

If the indictment, charge or information is either nol prossed or dismissed, or if the member is found not guilty of the offense or offenses charged or of lesser included offenses, the member may immediately return to active Senate duties and shall be paid all back pay and be restored to all other benefits and privileges retroactive to the date the member was excused.

(b) A member who enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense listed in subsection (a) must be suspended by the President immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate through the remainder of that member's term. In addition, the Senate Ethics Committee shall recommend expulsion of such member to the Senate and the Senate shall vote on the expulsion of such member in accordance with Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution of this State.

(c) A member convicted of any offense listed in subsection (a) must be suspended by the President immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate pending final appellate action or the end of that member's term, whichever occurs first. If no appeal is taken by the member convicted, or if his or her appeal is denied, or if the final appellate decision is to sustain the conviction and the member's resignation is not forthcoming, the Senate Ethics Committee shall recommend expulsion of such member to the Senate,

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and the Senate shall vote on the member's expulsion in accordance with Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution of this State.

If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and there is a retrial or rehearing, the member is subject to the provisions of subsection (a). If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and no charges for any offense listed in subsection (a) remain against the member, the member is entitled to restitution of back pay and restoration of all other benefits and privileges of membership of the Senate retroactive to the date of suspension.

(d) The action provided for in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this rule is in addition to other action authorized pursuant to Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution or other Senate rule. Pursuant to the Constitution and except as provided herein, a member may not be disciplined, suspended, or expelled without a vote of the Senate.

If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and there is a retrial or rehearing, the member is subject to the provisions of subsection (a). If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and no charges for any offense listed in subsection (a) remain against the member, the member is entitled to restitution of back pay and restoration of all other benefits and privileges of membership of the Senate retroactive to the date of suspension.

(e) The action provided for in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this rule is in addition to other action authorized pursuant to Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution or other Senate rule. Pursuant to the Constitution and except as provided herein, a member may not be disciplined, suspended, or expelled without a vote of the Senate.

RULE 45.

**Selection of Senate Members for Committee to
Consider Qualifications of Candidates for
Offices Filled by Election by the
General Assembly**

Whenever an election in Joint Assembly is to be held by the General Assembly to fill offices which require election by the General Assembly, the President of the Senate shall notify the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Senate which would be most concerned with the office or offices to be filled by the election, which Chairman shall thereupon appoint four Senators from his or her committee to serve on the Joint Senate-House Committee to consider qualifications of candidates to be elected. The total membership of such a Committee shall be composed of members of the two major political parties in proportion to the number

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of Senators of each of such political parties as nearly as practicable. All appointments to such joint committees shall be recorded in the Senate Journal.

RULE 46.

Recorded Floor Proceedings

The Clerk may record the following proceedings on the floor of the Senate:

- (1) Congratulatory remarks;
- (2) Speeches;
- (3) Points of Order and Rulings of the Chair regarding such points and such other proceedings as the Clerk determines necessary.

RULE 47.

~~Final Date House Legislation May Be Considered~~

[Reserved]

~~Bills received after April 10 shall be received, read and referred to the appropriate committee but are not eligible to be taken up until the next regular session unless upon the report of such a bill by a committee it receives a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present and voting to be placed on the calendar. Any bill failing to receive the required vote shall be returned to the committee. The committee report on any such bill received after the April 10 deadline shall clearly indicate that the bill had been received after April 10 and is subject to this rule.~~

~~A Point of Order to enforce the provisions of this rule shall be valid until the Bill which is the subject of the Point of Order is printed and has been laid on the desks of the members in compliance with Rule 39.~~

RULE 48.

Invitations

All invitations which are extended to the entire membership of the Senate or any committee of the Senate must be sent to the President for consideration. The Senate may not accept any invitations to attend functions (social or otherwise) which are to be held at a club or organization which does not admit as members persons of all races, religions, colors, sexes, or national origins. The President or any committee of the Senate has the duty of determining whether or not the function is to be held at a club or organization which does not admit as members persons of all races, religions, colors, sexes, or national origins. Individual Senators may attend functions at any club without being censored or prejudiced in any manner.

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The President must ensure that persons or organizations who extend invitations to the Senate have fully complied with the provisions of Act 248 of 1991 (The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991, as amended) and must make copies of any such procedure available upon request.

RULE 49.

Condemnatory Resolution

No Resolution of a condemnatory nature shall be considered by the Senate unless it has been sent to the appropriate committee at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to such consideration.

RULE 50.

Vote Requirements

The question of granting of free conference powers and the question of adoption of a free conference report shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate.

On the question of an act returned from the Governor with his or her objections, the presiding officer shall submit the following question to the Senate:

“Shall the act become law, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?”

And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting, then the Governor’s veto is overridden.

RULE 51.

Local Matters

A.

The Clerk of the Senate shall prepare a list for each county of the State the percentage of the population of that county that a Senator represents. For general bills with local application, a Senator’s vote shall be weighted based upon the percentage of the population of the county that the Senator represents. The provisions of Rule 16 do not apply to local matters.

B.

No general bill with local application shall be introduced unless personally signed by a Senator representing the county. No general bill with local application may be moved from the local uncontested calendar to the local contested calendar unless approved by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators who represent the county as determined by their

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weighted voting percentages.

C.

When a general bill of local application is on the uncontested calendar, no further debate shall be allowed on the bill after no more than thirty (30) minutes of debate, fifteen (15) minutes for and fifteen (15) minutes against.

D.

For purposes of this Rule, when a general bill of local application affects consolidation of school districts or municipalities within a county, then that bill cannot be moved from the local uncontested calendar to the local contested calendar unless approved by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the Senators of at least one of the affected school districts or municipalities. Upon motion, the Clerk of the Senate shall prepare a list for each affected school district or municipality of the percentage of the population of that school district or municipality that a Senator represents.

E.

Unless all of the affected Senators of a county have agreed to an alternative method, candidates for gubernatorial appointment to local offices shall be considered for confirmation as described below:

Once received by the Senate, local appointments shall be referred to the appropriate county senatorial delegation. The delegation then may report the appointment to the Senate for consideration (1) if the Senators whose combined weighted vote is sixty-five percent or more favor such report or (2) if seventy-five percent of the members of the delegation favor such report.

RULE 52.

Personal Attacks on Senators Not Permitted; Executive Session

A.

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

B.

If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, in the opinion of the President transgresses this Rule the President shall, either on his own motion or at the request of any other Senator, call him to order; and when a Senator shall be called to order he shall immediately take his seat, and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, which if granted, shall be upon motion that he be allowed to proceed in order, which motion shall be determined without debate.

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C.

Any Senator directed by the President to take his seat, and any Senator requesting the President to require a Senator to take his seat, may appeal from the ruling of the Chair, which appeal shall be open to debate but only after the Senate has proceeded to Executive Session.

RULE 53.

Seventy-Two Hour Budget Review

Except for explanatory remarks by the chairman and subcommittee chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate may not consider the General Appropriation Bill, any Supplemental Appropriation Bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state's reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue raising measure as described in Section 11-11-440 until the Bill or Joint Resolution and any Committee Report on the Bill or Joint Resolution have been made publicly available in a conspicuous location on the General Assembly's website for seventy-two (72) hours.

The time periods provided above may be waived by agreement of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting.

RULE 54

Prohibition on Noncandidate Committees

~~Notwithstanding Section 8-13-1340, a member of the Senate shall not, directly or indirectly, establish, finance, maintain, or control a noncandidate committee as defined in Section 8-13-1300. A noncandidate committee does not include a candidate committee or a legislative caucus committee.~~

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Pursuant to Rule 19E, the following members are designated as Standing Committee Chairmen:

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Senator David Wesley "Wes" Climer

BANKING AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Senator Ronnie W. Cromer

CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY COMMITTEE

Senator Shane R. Martin

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senator Greg Hembree

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Senator Sean M. Bennett

FAMILY AND VETERANS' SERVICES COMMITTEE

Senator Tom Young, Jr.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.

FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III

Senator INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Senator Thomas C. Alexander

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Senator Luke A. Rankin

LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

Senator Tom Davis

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Senator Thomas C. Alexander

MEDICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin III

RULES COMMITTEE

Senator A. Shane Massey

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Lawrence K. "Larry" Grooms

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Climmer, David Wesley "Wes", Chairman

Verdin, Daniel B. "Danny", III

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Williams, Kent M.
Goldfinch, Stephen L., Jr.
Johnson, Michael
Kimbrell, Joshua B. "Josh"
Corbin, Thomas D. "Tom"
Gambrell, Michael W. "Mike"
Young, Thomas R. "Tom", Jr.
Chaplin, James Daniel
Elliott, Jason
Graham, Jeffrey
Nutt, Roger
Ott, Russell L.
Stubbs, Everett
Sutton, Ed
Zell, Jeff

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Cromer, Ronnie W., Chairman
Jackson, Darrell
Rankin, Luke A.
Alexander, Thomas C.
Davis, Thomas C. "Tom"
Bennett, Sean M.
Williams, Kent M.
Hutto, Brad
Turner, Ross
Gambrell, Michael W. "Mike"
Garrett, Billy
Allen, Karl B.
Reichenbach, Mike
Blackmon, Allen
Kennedy, Carlisle
Leber, Matthew W. "Matt"
Stubbs, Everett

CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY

Martin, Shane R., Chairman
Allen, Karl B.
Turner, Ross
Rice, Rex F.
Hembree, Greg

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Adams, Brian
Devine, Tameika Isaac
Campsen, George E. "Chip", III
Massey, A. Shane
Davis, Thomas C. "Tom"
Bennett, Sean M.
Fernandez, Tom
Leber, Matthew W. "Matt"
Sutton, Ed
Walker, Overture

EDUCATION

Hembree, Greg, Chairman
Rankin, Luke A.
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Jackson, Darrell
Grooms, Lawrence K. "Larry"
Hutto, Brad
Young, Thomas R. "Tom", Jr.
Turner, Ross
Rice, Rex F.
Massey, A. Shane
Cash, Richard J.
Allen, Karl B.
Sabb, Ronnie A.
Johnson, Michael
Elliott, Jason
Fernandez, Tom
Nutt, Roger

ETHICS

Bennett, Sean M., Chairman
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Hutto, Brad
Rankin, Luke A.
Jackson, Darrell
Alexander, Thomas C.
Williams, Kent M.
Grooms, Lawrence K. "Larry"
Sabb, Ronnie A.
Matthews, Margie Bright

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FAMILY AND VETERANS' SERVICES COMMITTEE

Young, Thomas R. "Tom", Jr. , Chairman

Climmer, David Wesley "Wes"

Gambrell, Michael W. "Mike"

Cash, Richard J.

Adams, Brian

Kimbrell, Josh

Reichenbach, Mike

Tedder, Deon

Devine, Tameika Isaac

Chaplin, James Daniel

Elliott, Jason

Fernandez, Tom

Graham, Jeffrey

Nutt, Roger

Ott, Russell L.

Stubbs, Everett

Zell, Jeff

FINANCE

Peeler, Harvey S., Jr., Chairman

Alexander, Thomas C.

Grooms, Lawrence K., "Larry"

Verdin, Daniel B., "Danny", III

Cromer, Ronnie W.

Jackson, Darrell

Williams, Kent M.

Davis, Thomas C. "Tom"

Martin, Shane R.

Allen, Karl B.

Bennett, Sean M.

Corbin, Thomas D. "Tom"

Hembree, Greg

Turner, Ross

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Matthews, Margie Bright

Climmer, David Wesley "Wes"

Hutto, Brad

Sabb, Ronnie A.

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Rice, Rex F.
Garrett, Billy J.

FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY

Campsen, George E. "Chip", III, Chairman
Cromer, Ronnie W.
Williams, Kent M.
Young, Thomas R. "Tom", Jr.
Goldfinch, Stephen L., Jr.
Adams, Brian
Turner, Ross
Garrett, Billy J.
Blackmon, Allen
Chaplin, James Daniel
Graham, Jeffrey
Kennedy, Carlisle
Nutt, Roger
Ott, Russell L.
Stubbs, Everett
Sutton, Ed
Zell, Jeff

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Alexander, Thomas C., Chairman
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Jackson, Darrell
Hutto, Brad
Rankin, Luke A.

JUDICIARY

Rankin, Luke A., Chairman
Campsen, George E. "Chip", III
Massey, A. Shane
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Kimbrell, Joshua B. "Josh"
Reichenbach, Mike
Tedder, Deon
Devine, Tameika Isaac
Blackmon, Allen

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Chaplin, James Daniel
Elliott, Jason
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Graham, Jeffrey
Kennedy, Carlisle
Leber, Matthew W. "Matt"
Nutt, Roger
Ott, Russell L.
Stubbs, Everett
Sutton, Ed
Walker, Overture
Zell, Jeff

LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Davis, Thomas C. "Tom", Chairman
Alexander, Thomas C.
Williams, Kent M.
Massey, A. Shane
Bennett, Sean M.
Corbin, Thomas D. "Tom"
Allen, Karl B.
Climer, David Wesley "Wes"
Rice, Rex F.
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Garrett, Billy J.
Johnson, Michael
Kimbrell, Joshua B. "Josh"
Reichenbach, Mike
Tedder, Deon T.
Kennedy, Carlisle
Leber, Matthew W. "Matt"

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Alexander, Thomas C., Chairman
Jackson, Darrell
Hutto, Brad
Campsen, George E. "Chip", III
Williams, Kent M.
Massey A. Shane
Davis, Thomas C. "Tom"
Young, Thomas R. "Tom", Jr.

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Climmer, David Wesley “Wes”
Allen, Karl B.
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Sabb, Ronnie A.
Matthews, Margie Bright

MEDICAL AFFAIRS

Verdin, Daniel B. “Danny”, III, Chairman
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Hutto, Brad
Martin, Shane R.
Alexander, Thomas C.
Davis, Thomas C. “Tom”
Corbin, Thomas D. “Tom”
Matthews, Margie Bright
Gambrell, Michael W. “Mike”
Cash, Richard J.
Garrett, Billy J.
Sabb, Ronnie A.
Tedder, Deon
Kimbrell, Josh
Fernandez, Tom
Leber, Matthew W. “Matt”
Zell, Jeff

RULES

Massey, A. Shane, Chairman
Cromer, Ronnie W.
Martin, Shane R.
Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III
Corbin, Thomas D. “Tom”
Sabb, Ronnie A.
Grooms, Lawrence K. “Larry”
Hembree, Greg
Goldfinch, Stephen L., Jr.
Johnson, Michael
Allen, Karl B.
Cash, Richard J.
Blackmon, Allen
Elliott, Jason
Kennedy, Carlisle

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Ott, Russell L.
Walker, Overture

TRANSPORTATION

Grooms, Lawrence K. "Larry", Chairman
Rankin, Luke A.
Verdin, Daniel B. "Danny", III
Campsen, George E. "Chip", III
Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.
Bennett, Sean M.
Hembree, Greg
Matthews, Margie Bright
Climer, David Wesley "Wes"
Rice, Rex F.
Adams, Brian
Reichenbach, Mike
Devine, Tameika Isaac
Blackmon, Allen
Chaplin, James Daniel
Sutton, Ed
Walker, Overture

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE SENATE

ADAMS, BRIAN

Corrections and Penology
Family and Veterans' Services
Fish, Game and Forestry
Judiciary
Transportation

ALEXANDER, THOMAS C.

Banking and Insurance
Ethics
Finance
Interstate Cooperation, Chairman
Labor, Commerce and Industry
Legislative Oversight, Chairman
Medical Affairs

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ALLEN, KARL B.

Banking and Insurance
Corrections and Penology
Education
Finance
Labor, Commerce and Industry
Legislative Oversight
Rules

BENNETT, SEAN M.

Banking and Insurance
Corrections and Penology
Ethics, Chairman
Finance
Labor, Commerce and Industry
Transportation

BLACKMON, ALLEN

Banking and Insurance
Fish, Game and Forestry
Judiciary
Rules
Transportation

CAMPSEN, GEORGE E. "CHIP", III

Corrections and Penology
Fish, Game and Forestry, Chairman
Judiciary
Legislative Oversight
Rules
Transportation

CASH, RICHARD J.

Education
Family and Veterans' Services
Judiciary
Medical Affairs
Rules

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CHAPLIN, JAMES DANIEL

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Veterans' Services
Fish, Game and Forestry
Judiciary
Transportation

CLIMER, DAVID WESLEY "WES"

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chairman
Family and Veterans' Services
Finance
Labor, Commerce and Industry
Legislative Oversight
Transportation

CORBIN, THOMAS D. "TOM"

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Finance
Labor, Commerce and Industry
Medical Affairs
Rules

CROMER, RONNIE W.

Banking and Insurance, Chairman
Finance
Fish, Game and Forestry
Rules

DAVIS, THOMAS C. "TOM"

Corrections and Penology
Banking and Insurance
Finance
Labor, Commerce and Industry, Chairman
Legislative Oversight
Medical Affairs

DEVINE, TAMEIKA ISAAC

Corrections and Penology
Family and Veterans' Services
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ELLIOTT, JASON

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Education
Family and Veterans' Services
Judiciary
Rules

FERNANDEZ, TOM

Corrections and Penology
Education
Family and Veterans' Services
Judiciary
Medical Affairs

GAMBRELL, MICHAEL W. "MIKE"

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Banking and Insurance
Family and Veterans' Services
Finance
Medical Affairs

GARRETT, BILLY J.

Banking and Insurance
Finance
Fish, Game and Forestry
Labor, Commerce and Industry
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SEATING SELECTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 4, the Senate proceeded to the selection of seats.

The Reading Clerk called the seniority roll for the purpose of seating selections as follows:

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Seat 1 Sen. Peeler
Seat 2 Sen. Rankin
Seat 3 Sen. Alexander
Seat 4 Sen. Grooms
Seat 5 Sen. Cromer
Seat 6 Sen. Campsen
Seat 7 Sen. Davis
Seat 8 Sen. Kennedy
Seat 9 Sen. Martin
Seat 10 Sen. Verdin
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Seat 13 Sen. Climer
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Seat 22 Sen. Kimbrell
Seat 23 Sen. Corbin
Seat 24 Sen. Williams
Seat 25 Sen. Hutto
Seat 26 Sen. Jackson
Seat 27 Sen. Tedder
Seat 28 Sen. Ott
Seat 29 Sen. Sutton
Seat 30 Sen. Allen
Seat 31 Sen. Devine
Seat 32 Sen. Graham
Seat 33 Sen. Elliott
Seat 34 Sen. Nutt
Seat 35 Sen. Stubbs
Seat 36 Sen. Chaplin
Seat 37 Sen. Sabb
Seat 38 Sen. Zell
Seat 39 Sen. Walker
Seat 40 Sen. Blackmon
Seat 41 Sen. Rice

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Seat 42 Sen. Reichenbach
Seat 43 Sen. Garrett
Seat 44 Sen. Johnson
Seat 45 Sen. Fernandez
Seat 46 Sen. Adams

Motion Adopted

On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senators GROOMS, ADAMS, ALEXANDER, ALLEN, BENNETT, BLACKMON, CAMPSER, CASH, CHAPLIN, CLIMER, CORBIN, CROMER, DAVIS, DEVINE, ELLIOTT, FERNANDEZ, GAMBRELL, GARRETT, GOLDFINCH, GRAHAM, HEMBREE, HUTTO, JACKSON, JOHNSON, KENNEDY, KIMBRELL, LEBER, MARTIN, MASSEY, MATTHEWS, NUTT, OTT, PEELER, RANKIN, REICHENBACH, RICE, SABB, STUBB, SUTTON, TEDDER, TURNER, VERDIN, WALKER, WILLIAMS, YOUNG and ZELL, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Ms. Jane Virginia Hazzard of Blythewood, S.C. Jane earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. She then modeled regionally and internationally from Columbia, Charlotte, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Milan and Tokyo and was featured in many magazines and newspapers. Jane was an avid animal lover, Gamecock fan, film and theater enthusiast and enjoyed spending time with her family. Jane was a loving daughter, devoted sister and doting aunt.

and

MOTION ADOPTED

On motion of Senator GROOMS, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mrs. Stacey Mizzell of St. George, S.C. Stacey was a graduate of Dorchester Academy and Coastal Carolina University. She was a caterer with Tonya's Catering Service by Design. Stacey was an avid Carolina Gamecock fan and enjoyed going to the beach and fishing. Stacey was a loving daughter and devoted mother who will be dearly missed.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 3:11 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 12:00 Noon.

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