~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 5, 2014

**S. 815**

Introduced by Senators L. Martin and Campsen

S. Printed 2/5/14--S.

Read the first time January 14, 2014.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 815) to amend Section 7‑11‑30, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, to provide that a party may choose to change nomination of candidates by primary, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

JOHN L. SCOTT, JR. for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The State Election Commission indicates there would be no impact with the adoption of this bill.

*Approved By:*

Brenda Hart

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑11‑30, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, TO PROVIDE THAT A PARTY MAY CHOOSE TO CHANGE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES BY PRIMARY TO A CONVENTION IF THREE‑FOURTHS OF THE CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP APPROVES OF THE CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCESS, AND A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS IN THAT PARTY’S NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION APPROVES THE USE OF A CONVENTION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑11‑30 of the 1976 Code of Laws is amended to read:

“Section 7‑11‑30. (A) A party may choose to change from nomination of candidates by primary to a method to nominate candidates by convention for all offices including, but not limited to, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, United States Senator, United States House of Representatives, Circuit Solicitor, State Senator, and members of the State House of Representatives if:

(1) there is a three‑fourths vote of the total membership of the convention to use the convention nomination process; and

(2) a majority of voters in that party’s next primary election approve the use of the convention nomination process.

(B) A party may not choose to nominate by party convention for an election cycle in which the filing period for candidates has begun.

(C) A political party nominating candidates by party convention shall nominate the party candidates and make the nominations public not later than the time for certifying candidates to the authority charged by law with preparing ballots for the general or special election.”

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

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