**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**S. 436**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Campsen, Setzler, L. Martin, Malloy, Hayes and Gregory

Document Path: l:\s-jud\bills\campsen\jud0052.js.docx

Introduced in the Senate on February 10, 2015

Introduced in the House on March 19, 2015

Last Amended on March 17, 2015

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

Summary: Election of judges

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/10/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-10-15.docx))

2/10/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-10-15.docx))

2/13/2015 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Campsen (ch), S.Martin, Allen

3/11/2015 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-11-15.docx))

3/12/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

3/17/2015 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-17-15.docx))

3/17/2015 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-17-15.docx))

3/17/2015 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-17-15.docx))

3/18/2015 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-18-15.docx))

3/19/2015 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-19-15.docx))

3/19/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-19-15.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=436&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/10/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\436_20150210.docx)

[3/11/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\436_20150311.docx)

[3/12/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\436_20150312.docx)

[3/17/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\436_20150317.docx)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED

March 17, 2015

**S. 436**

Introduced by Senators Campsen, Setzler, L. Martin, Malloy, Hayes and Gregory

S. Printed 3/17/15--S.

Read the first time February 10, 2015.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 2-19-70(C), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE TIME PERIOD FOR SEEKING OR GIVING A PLEDGE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT PLEDGES FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES MAY NOT BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SOUGHT OR GIVEN UNTIL TWELVE DAYS, RATHER THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, AFTER THE INITIAL RELEASE OF THE REPORT CONCERNING NOMINEES TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO AMEND SECTION 2-19-80(E), RELATING TO THE TIME BETWEEN THE RELEASE OF THE COMMISSION’S REPORT ON NOMINATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ELECTION OF JUDGESHIPS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THERE BE A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWENTY-TWO DAYS, RATHER THAN TWO WEEKS, AFTER THE TIME THE REPORT IS PRINTED IN THE JOURNALS AND THE TIME OF THE ELECTION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 70, Chapter 19, Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(C) ~~No candidate for judicial office~~ A person may not ~~seek~~ directly or indirectly seek the pledge of a member of the General Assembly’s vote or, directly or indirectly, contact a member of the General Assembly regarding screening for ~~the~~ any judicial office until the qualifications of all candidates for that office have been determined by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and the commission has formally released its report as to the qualifications of all candidates for the vacancy to the General Assembly. ~~No~~ A member of the General Assembly may not directly or indirectly offer his pledge until the qualifications of all candidates for that office have been determined by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and until the commission has formally released its report as to the qualifications of its nominees to the General Assembly. The formal release of the report of qualifications shall occur no earlier than ~~forty‑eight hours~~ noon, on the twelfth day after the nominees have been initially released to members of the General Assembly. For purposes of this section, indirectly seeking a pledge means ~~the~~ a person, a candidate, or someone acting on behalf of and at the request of ~~the~~ a person or a candidate, requesting ~~a person~~ someone to contact a member of the General Assembly on behalf of ~~the~~ a person or a candidate before nominations for that office are formally made by the commission. The prohibitions of this section do not extend to an announcement of candidacy by the candidate and statements by the candidate detailing the candidate’s qualifications.”

SECTION 2. Section 2-19-80(E) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(E) A period of at least ~~two weeks~~ twenty-two days must elapse between the date of the commission’s inital report of nominations to the General Assembly and the date the General Assembly conducts the election for these judgeships.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect and applies to elections taking place after July 1, 2015.

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