SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE

www.scstatehouse.gov

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO

ROLL CALL VOTE HISTORY

SEARCH & REPORT FEATURES

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Introduction/Overview

The roll call votes cast by Senators and Representatives are a matter of public record and are recorded in the official Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives (House). Prior to Session 119 (2011-2012), roll call votes could only be accessed from the Journals.

Beginning with the 2011 Session, the South Carolina Legislature began publishing roll call votes on the Senate and House Vote History pages on the legislative website, **www.scstatehouse.gov**. The roll call votes are published after adjournment of each daily Senate and House session. The Vote History pages provide a list of all roll call votes recorded and link to the Bills, Amendments, and each individual roll call designated by a Vote Number. The vote history results allow the data to be sorted and provide a link to a printer friendly version of each roll call vote.

Effective March 28, 2013 Senate and House roll call votes can be searched using multiple criteria to perform searches by Chamber, on specific Legislation, and by each Legislator. Additionally, printer friendly reports are available for all search results. The reports may be printed, saved as a PDF file, or sent as an email attachment.

Senate and House roll call votes may be searched from several locations on the legislative website. The Quick Reference Guide provides direction to these locations and the types of searches available.

South Carolina Legislature
Website: **www.scstatehouse.gov**

Roll Call Vote Searches
Search By Chamber
Search By Bill Number
Search By Legislator

Explanation Of Terms Related To Search Criteria And Results Legend

Search Criteria

Chamber:	Senate and House
Bill Number:	Senate legislation reference, S 0001 - S 2999
	House legislation reference, H 3000 - H ####
Bills:	All Bills or specific Bill Number (General Bills, Joint Resolutions, Concurrent Resolutions, Senate and House Resolutions)
Legislator:	Member of the Senate (Senator) and House (Representative)
Session:	Two consecutive years of the legislature convening - Session 119(2011-2012)
	Session 120(2013-2014)

Vote Type criteria:
    All Vote Types   *(Note: The criteria does not appear in the list until*
    Attendance Only   *the type vote has been recorded and published)*
    Roll Calls Only
    Elections Only
    Confirmations Only   *(Note: Senate vote type only for Senate Appointments)*

Vote criteria:	Senate	House
	All Votes	All Votes
	Abstains Only	Abstains Only *(Note: Vote not recorded in roll call - abstention statement published in House Journal)*
	Aye Votes Only	Excused Absences Only (Exc. Abs.)
	Excused Absences Only (Exc. Abs.)	Nay Votes Only
	Nay Votes Only	Not Voting Only (N/V)
	Not Voting Only (N/V)	Yea Votes Only
	Present Votes Only (Pres.)	

Results Legend

Vote History:	Search results on Senate and House roll call vote data
Vote Number (Vote#):	Individual number assigned to each roll call vote recorded and referenced by Chamber or Joint Election:

        Senate = [S]-1
        House = [H]-1
        Joint Election = [J]-1

Bill Number (Bill#):	Senate legislation reference, S 0001 - S 2999
	House legislation reference, H 3000 - H ####
(Summary)/Motion:	Summary is a short synopsis of the legislation
	Motion is a description of why the vote was taken
Date/Time:	Date and time vote was recorded
Candidate:	Name of candidate(s) in and election vote

Votes:	Senate	House
	Ayes	Yeas
	Nays	Nays
	N/V (Not Voting Only)	N/V (Not Voting Only)
	Exc. Abs. (Excused Absence)	Exc. Abs. (Excused Absence)
	Pres. (Present)	Pres. (Present)
	Abstain	Abstain

Total:	Total of all votes recorded

Result:	Roll Calls	Attendance	Joint Election	Confirmation (Senate)
	Passed	Quorum	Elected	Confirmed
	Failed		Not Elected	Not Confirmed

Website Locations For Roll Call Vote History Searches & Reports

Home Page
- Legislative Voting Record box, bottom center of page
  - Single criteria search returning vote history for Current Session
  - ***By Chamber*** – select Senate or House; click Get Voting Record
    - ○ Results returned for that Chamber only with the ability to then select additional criteria
      - ▪ Change Session
      - ▪ Change Chamber
      - ▪ Change Vote Type (All Vote Types, Attendance Only, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only, Confirmations Only) (*Note: Confirmations Only criteria for Senate*)
      - ▪ Change list of Bills (All Bills, specific Bill Number) (*Note: only available when Vote Type = All Vote Types, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only*)

- *By Bill Number* – select Bill; enter Bill Number; click Get Voting Record
  - ○ Results returned for all roll call votes recorded by House and Senate on that Bill
- *By Legislator* – select Choose a Legislator; click the down arrow to choose Senator or Representative from list; click Get Voting Record
  - ○ Results returned for all roll call votes by that Legislator on all Vote Types and all Bills with the ability to then select additional criteria
    - ▪ Change Session
    - ▪ Change Legislator
    - ▪ Change Vote Type (All Vote Types, Attendance Only, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only, Confirmations Only) *(Note: Confirmations Only criteria for Senate)*
    - ▪ Change Vote cast - *(Note: specific Vote list for Representatives and Senators)*
      - ○ Representatives Vote = All Votes, Abstains Only, Excused Absences Only, Nay Votes Only, Not Voting Only, Yea Votes Only
      - ○ Senators Vote = All Votes, Abstains Only, Aye Votes Only, Excused Absences Only, Nay Votes Only, Not Voting Only, Present Votes Only
    - ▪ Change list of Bills (All Bills, specific Bill Number)
      - *(Note: only available when Vote Type = All Vote Types, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only)*
- Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
- Printer friendly report link provided for results
  - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
- Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
  - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

➢ Roll Call Votes links, list below House and Senate headings in center of page
  - Single criteria search returning vote history for specific *Chamber* for Current Session
  - Results returned for that Chamber only with the ability to then select additional criteria
    - ○ Change Session
    - ○ Change Chamber
    - ○ Change Vote Type (All Vote Types, Attendance Only, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only, Confirmations Only)
      - *(Note: Confirmations Only criteria for Senate)*
    - ○ Change list of Bills (All Bills, specific Bill Number)
      - *(Note: only available when Vote Type = All Vote Types, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only)*
  - Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
  - Printer friendly report link provided for results
    - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
  - Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
    - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

➢ Quick Search heading, center of page
  - Single criteria search on specific *Bill Number* in Current Session to access *View Vote History link* for that Bill
    - ○ From Quick Search list, select Bill Number and insert number in "Search for:" field; click Search Icon
    - ○ Bill Title and History page displays for that Bill; access *View Vote History link* below Title
  - Results returned for all roll call votes recorded by the House and Senate on that Bill
  - Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
  - Printer friendly report link provided for results
    - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
  - Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
    - ○ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

Legislator Biography Pages - additional location for Search *By Legislator*
- ➢ <u>Senate and House Members Listed By Name</u> - home page access from list under respective Chamber headings in center of page; *Senators and Representatives links*   OR
- ➢ <u>Senate and House Members Listed By Name</u> - from home page access Senate and House of Representatives headings in center of page; click Senate or House located on blue horizontal menu bar displayed; click Members link   OR
- ➢ <u>Senate and House Members Listed By Name</u> - from home page access *Senate and House menu links* located on tan horizontal menu bar; click *Members link* located on Senate or House blue horizontal menu bar
  - • *Select the Legislator* from the list of Members by clicking the name link to display his/her Bio Page
    - o On the Legislator's Bio Page, under the *Voting Record heading*, select the Session; click Find Votes
  - • Results returned for all roll call votes on all Vote Types and all Bills with the ability to then select additional criteria
    - o Change Session
    - o Change Legislator
    - o Change Vote Type (All Vote Types, Attendance Only, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only, Confirmations Only)
      - *(Note: Confirmations Only criteria for Senate)*
    - o Change Vote cast - Note: specific Vote list for Representatives and Senators
      - ▪ Representatives Vote = All Votes, Abstains Only, Excused Absences Only, Nay Votes Only, Not Voting Only, Yea Votes Only
      - ▪ Senators Vote = All Votes, Abstains Only, Aye Votes Only, Excused Absences Only, Nay Votes Only, Not Voting Only, Present Votes Only
    - o Change list of Bills (All Bills, specific Bill Number)
      - *(Note: only available when Vote Type = All Vote Types, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only)*
  - • Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
  - • Printer friendly report link provided for results
    - o Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
  - • Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
    - o Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

Legislation and Research Pages – additional locations for search *By Chamber* or By *Bill Number*
- ➢ <u>Legislation and Research Links on website vertical menu bar</u>
  - • *Roll Call Votes heading*   (***By Chamber***)
    - o Access *House and Senate Vote History link*; select Session; select Chamber; click Submit
    - o Single criteria search returning vote history for specific Chamber for specific Session
    - o Results returned with the ability to then select additional criteria
      - ▪ Change Session
      - ▪ Change Chamber
      - ▪ Change Vote Type (All Vote Types, Attendance Only, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only, Confirmations Only)
        - *(Note: Confirmations Only criteria for Senate)*
      - ▪ Change list of Bills (All Bills, specific Bill Number)
        - *(Note: only available when Vote Type = All Vote Types, Roll Calls Only, Elections Only)*
    - o Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
    - o Printer friendly report link provided for results
      - ▪ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
    - o Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
      - ▪ Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

- *Search Current And Archived Legislation heading* (***By Bill Number***)
  (Note: On Research page, under Legislation heading, Search Current And Archived Legislation link)
  - Access *Bill, Act or Rat Number link* - select Session; insert Number in "Enter Numbers:" field; click Submit
  - Single criteria search on specific Bill Number to access *View Vote History link* for that Bill
  - Bill Title and History page displays for access to *View Vote History link*
  - Results returned for all roll call votes recorded by House and Senate on that Bill
  - Results may be sorted by clicking column heading
  - Printer friendly report link provided for results
    - Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment
  - Printer friendly report provided for individual roll call vote by clicking on the Vote Number
    - Report may be printed, saved as PDF document, or emailed as an attachment

Questions or Assistance Regarding Senate and House Roll Call Vote History Search & Report Features

On behalf of the South Carolina General Assembly, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) maintains the legislative website and can assist with the features described above.

For assistance, please **send us a message** or contact us at (803) 212-4420.