Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H 3552 General Bill, By B. Newton, Taylor, Guest and Crawford

Summary: Abolish runoff elections

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 7-13-42 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR A GIVEN OFFICE IN THE PRIMARY OF A POLITICAL PARTY IS CONSIDERED NOMINATED; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 7-5-150 AND 7-5-220, BOTH RELATING TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE PRECEDING AN ELECTION, BOTH SO AS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO RUNOFF ELECTIONS; BY AMENDING SECTION 7-11-55, RELATING TO SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS TO REPLACE A PARTY NOMINEE, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 7-13-25, 7-13-40, AND 7-13-190, RELATING TO EARLY VOTING, THE DATE OF PRIMARY PARTY ELECTIONS, AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN OFFICE, RESPECTIVELY, ALL SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 7-17-280, RELATING TO MANDATORY RECOUNTS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY AMENDING SECTION 7-17-510, RELATING TO CANVASS AND CERTIFICATION OF PRIMARY RESULTS, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; BY REPEALING SECTIONS 7-13-50, 7-17-600, AND 7-17-610 RELATING TO SECOND PRIMARIES OR RUNOFFS, THE REQUIREMENT THAT A CANDIDATE RECEIVE A MAJORITY OF VOTES CAST IN A FIRST PRIMARY TO BE DECLARED NOMINATED, AND METHODS OF DETERMINING WHAT CONSTITUTES A MAJORITY VOTE FOR A PARTICULAR OFFICE, RESPECTIVELY.

12/05/24	**House**	**Prefiled**
12/05/24	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary**
01/14/25	**House**	**Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 242)**
01/14/25	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 242)**
02/26/25	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Guest, Crawford**