Session 126 - (2025-2026)

H 4755 General Bill, By Gatch, G.M. Smith, W. Newton, Caskey, Jordan, Bailey, Ballentine, Brewer, Brittain, Chapman, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Duncan, Edgerton, Forrest, Gagnon, Gilliam, Guest, Guffey, Hager, Hardee, Hartz, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Huff, Kilmartin, Lawson, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, Martin, McCravy, McGinnis, C. Mitchell, B. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Sanders, Schuessler, Sessions, M.M. Smith, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, White, Whitmire, Willis, Yow, Erickson, Chumley, Ford, Lastinger, Wickensimer, Bowers, D. Mitchell and Gilreath

Summary: Judicial Selection Reform

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 2-19-5, 2-19-20, 2-19-30, 2-19-35, 2-19-50, 2-19-60 AND 2-19-70, ALL RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION SCREENING AND ELECTION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES, SO AS TO REVISE THE STAFFING AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF THE COMMISSION AND TRANSFER THAT AUTHORITY TO THE GOVERNOR, TO PROHIBIT SITTING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS FROM SERVING ON THE COMMISSION, TO PROHIBIT THE COMMISSION FROM CONSIDERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CRITERIA ALONG WITH OTHER SIMILAR CRITERIA, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

12/16/25	**House**	**Prefiled**
12/16/25	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary**
01/13/26	**House**	**Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 79)**
01/13/26	**House**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 79)**
01/14/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Ford**
01/21/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Lastinger, Wickensimer**
02/05/26	**House**	**Committee report: Favorable Judiciary (House Journal-page 5)**
02/10/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bowers**
02/10/26		**Scrivener's error corrected**
02/10/26	**House**	**Requests for debate-Rep(s). B Newton, Hewitt, Cox, Lawson, McCravy, Long, White, Edgerton, Magnuson, Hixon, Taylor, Hartz, Cromer (House Journal-page 23)**
02/11/26	**House**	**Member(s) request name added as sponsor: D.Mitchell, Gilreath**
02/11/26	**House**	**Amended (House Journal-page 24)**
02/11/26	**House**	**Read second time (House Journal-page 24)**
02/11/26	**House**	**Roll call Yeas-86 Nays-25 (House Journal-page 32)**
02/12/26	**House**	**Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 24)**
02/12/26	**House**	**Roll call Yeas-71 Nays-10 (House Journal-page 25)**
02/12/26	**Senate**	**Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 4)**
02/12/26	**Senate**	**Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 4)**