~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The House assembled at 11:00 a.m.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by Rev. Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr., as follows:

Our thought for today is from Judges 10:28: “Then Samson called to the Lord and said, ‘Lord God, remember me and strengthen me.’”

Let us pray. O Lord, do not forget these Representatives as we gather to organize this new session. Provide for each of them Your strength and Your love. Grant them courage, wisdom, and integrity as they represent the people of their districts. Bestow Your strength and remember the leaders and staff of our Nation, State, and this Assembly. Bless and protect our defenders of freedom at home and abroad as they protect us. Heal our warriors’ wounds, both seen and hidden. Hear us, O Lord. Amen.

Pursuant to Rule 6.3, the House of Representatives was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by the Acting CLERK.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN**

The CLERK of the late House announced that the first order of business is the appointment of a Temporary CHAIRMAN.

The CLERK of the late House appointed Rep. NEILSON.

The CLERK of the late House appointed Reps. WILLIAMS, BALES, COBB-HUNTER, ALLISON, LUCAS and COOPER to escort Rep. NEILSON to the rostrum.

Rep. NEILSON presented her credentials and the oath of office was administered to her by the CLERK.

Rep. NEILSON thereupon took the Chair and offered the following statement:

“Thank you and the people of South Carolina. The person that I replace today as the longest serving member, Herb Kirsh, is an outstanding individual who was an exceptional public servant, who served the State of South Carolina faithfully and diligently for many years. We will sorely miss him and his expertise on the Budget Committee. No one can accuse Mr. Kirsh of not reading the bill. He read that budget line by line, and with a businessman’s eye. He was not a news hound, but a hard working Representative, who just wanted to serve the people of this State. Herb worked on a level of diligence to which we should all aspire. Seldom have I seen a more dedicated public servant in the truest sense of the word and I encourage each of you to serve with diligence and selflessness, as you pursue the governance of this State. Now many people come to this Chamber for diverse notions, but Herb Kirsh came to serve and I would like to thank him for his public service.”

**TEMPORARY OFFICERS**

The Temporary CHAIRMAN appointed Mr. Charles F. Reid to act as Temporary Clerk; Mr. James L. Mann Cromer, Jr., as Temporary Reading Clerk, and Mr. Mitchell G. Dorman as Temporary Sergeant at Arms.

**COMMUNICATION**

The following was received:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

November 16, 2010

House of Representatives

Mr. Charles F. Reid

Clerk of the House

Post Office Box 11867

Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Mr. Reid:

The State Election Commission has certified to this office that the attached list of candidates received the greatest number of votes cast for the House of Representatives in the General Election held in South Carolina on November 2, 2010.

The attached are hereby certified as the duly and properly elected members of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

/s/Mark Hammond

Secretary of State

CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS

MEMBERS OF THE S.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2010

District 1 William R. “Bill” Whitmire (R)

District 2 William E. “Bill” Sandifer III (R)

District 3 B. R. Skelton (R)

District 4 David R. Hiott (R)

District 5 Phillip D. “Phil” Owens (R)

District 6 W. Brian White (R)

District 7 Michael W. “Mike” Gambrell (R)

District 8 Don C. Bowen (R)

District 9 Anne Thayer (R)

District 10 Daniel T. Cooper (R)

District 11 Paul L. Agnew (D)

District 12 J. Anne Parks (D)

District 13 Lewis E. “Gene” Pinson (R)

District 14 Michael A. “Mike” Pitts (R)

District 15 David Tribble, Jr. (R)

District 16 Mark N. Willis (R)

District 17 Tom Corbin (R)

District 18 Tommy M. Stringer (R)

District 19 Dwight A. Loftis (R)

District 20 Daniel P. Hamilton (R)

District 21 Vacant

(Special Election being held 12-14-10)

District 22 Wendy K. Nanney (R)

District 23 Chandra E. Dillard (D)

District 24 Bruce W. Bannister (R)

District 25 Karl B. Allen (D)

District 26 Eric Bikas (R)

District 27 Garry R. Smith (R)

District 28 Eric M. Bedingfield (R)

District 29 Dennis C. Moss (R)

District 30 Olin R. Phillips (D)

District 31 Harold Mitchell, Jr. (D)

District 32 J. Derham Cole, Jr. (R)

District 33 Edward “Eddie” Tallon (R)

District 34 Michael Forrester (R)

District 35 Bill Chumley (R)

District 36 Merita “Rita” A. Allison (R)

District 37 Steve A. Parker (R)

District 38 Doug Brannon (R)

District 39 Marion B. Frye (R)

District 40 Walton J. McLeod (D)

District 41 H. Boyd Brown (D)

District 42 Michael A. Anthony (D)

District 43 F. Gregory “Greg” Delleney (R)

District 44 James M. “Jimmy” Neal (D)

District 45 Deborah A. Long (R)

District 46 J. Gary Simrill (R)

District 47 Thomas “Tommy” Pope (R)

District 48 Carl Lee Gullick (R)

District 49 John R. King (D)

District 50 Grady A. Brown (D)

District 51 J. David Weeks (D)

District 52 Laurie Slade Funderburk (D)

District 53 Ted Martin Vick (D)

District 54 Elizabeth R. Munnerlyn (D)

District 55 Jackie E. Hayes (D)

District 56 Denny W. Neilson (D)

District 57 James A. “Jim” Battle, Jr. (D)

District 58 Liston D. Barfield (R)

District 59 Terry Alexander (D)

District 60 Phillip D. Lowe (R)

District 61 Lester P. Branham, Jr. (D)

District 62 Robert Q. Williams (D)

District 63 Kristopher R. “Kris” Crawford (R)

District 64 Cathy B. Harvin (D)

District 65 James H. “Jay” Lucas (R)

District 66 Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D)

District 67 G. Murrell Smith, Jr. (R)

District 68 Thad T. Viers (R)

District 69 Richard “Rick” Quinn (R)

District 70 Joseph H. Neal (D)

District 71 Nathan Ballentine (R)

District 72 James E. Smith, Jr. (D)

District 73 Christopher R. “Chris” Hart (D)

District 74 J. Todd Rutherford (D)

District 75 James H. “Jim” Harrison (R)

District 76 Leon Howard (D)

District 77 Joseph A. “Joe” McEachern (D)

District 78 Joan B. Brady (R)

District 79 Mia Butler Garrick (D)

District 80 Jimmy C. Bales (D)

District 81 Thomas R. Young, Jr. (R)

District 82 William “Bill” Clyburn (D)

District 83 William “Bill” Hixon (R)

District 84 J. Roland Smith (R)

District 85 Chip Huggins (R)

District 86 Bill Taylor (R)

District 87 Todd Atwater (R)

District 88 McLain R. “Mac” Toole (R)

District 89 Kenneth A. “Kenny” Bingham (R)

District 90 Bakari Sellers (D)

District 91 Lonnie Hosey (D)

District 92 Joseph S. Daning (R)

District 93 Harry L. Ott, Jr. (D)

District 94 Jenny A. Horne (R)

District 95 Jerry N. Govan, Jr. (D)

District 96 Lawrence “Kit” Spires (R)

District 97 Patsy G. Knight (D)

District 98 Chris Murphy (R)

District 99 James H. “Jim” Merrill (R)

District 100 C. David Umphlett, Jr. (R)

District 101 Ronnie A. Sabb (D)

District 102 Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. (D)

District 103 Carl L. Anderson (D)

District 104 Tracy R. Edge (R)

District 105 George M. Hearn (R)

District 106 Nelson L. Hardwick (R)

District 107 Alan D. Clemmons (R)

District 108 Kevin Ryan (R)

District 109 David J. Mack III (D)

District 110 Harry B. “Chip” Limehouse III (R)

District 111 Wendell G. Gilliard (D)

District 112 Michael F. Sottile (R)

District 113 J. Seth Whipper (D)

District 114 Robert W. “Bobby” Harrell, Jr. (R)

District 115 Peter McCoy, Jr. (R)

District 116 Robert L. Brown (D)

District 117 William “Bill” Crosby (R)

District 118 William G. “Bill” Herbkersman (R)

District 119 Leonidas E. “Leon” Stavrinakis (D)

District 120 William K. “Bill” Bowers (D)

District 121 Kenneth F. Hodges (D)

District 122 Curtis Brantley (D)

District 123 Andy Patrick (R)

District 124 Shannon S. Erickson (R)

**MEMBERS-ELECT SWORN IN**

The TEMPORARY READING CLERK of the late House then commenced a call of the members-elect of the House of Representatives by roll call resulting as follows:

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call of the House of Representatives was taken resulting as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agnew | Alexander | Allen |
| Allison | Anderson | Anthony |
| Atwater | Bales | Ballentine |
| Bannister | Battle | Bikas |
| Bingham | Bowen | Bowers |
| Brady | Branham | Brannon |
| Brantley | G. A. Brown | H. B. Brown |
| R. L. Brown | Butler Garrick | Chumley |
| Clemmons | Clyburn | Cobb-Hunter |
| Cole | Cooper | Corbin |
| Crawford | Crosby | Daning |
| Delleney | Dillard | Erickson |
| Forrester | Frye | Funderburk |
| Gambrell | Gilliard | Hamilton |
| Hardwick | Harrell | Harrison |
| Hart | Harvin | Hayes |
| Hearn | Herbkersman | Hiott |
| Hixon | Hodges | Horne |
| Hosey | Howard | Huggins |
| Jefferson | King | Knight |
| Limehouse | Loftis | Long |
| Lowe | Lucas | Mack |
| McCoy | McEachern | McLeod |
| Merrill | Mitchell | D. C. Moss |
| V. S. Moss | Munnerlyn | Murphy |
| Nanney | J. M. Neal | Neilson |
| Norman | Ott | Owens |
| Parker | Parks | Patrick |
| Pinson | Pitts | Pope |
| Quinn | Rutherford | Ryan |
| Sabb | Sandifer | Sellers |
| Simrill | Skelton | G. M. Smith |
| G. R. Smith | J. E. Smith | J. R. Smith |
| Sottile | Spires | Stavrinakis |
| Stringer | Tallon | Taylor |
| Thayer | Toole | Tribble |
| Umphlett | Vick | Viers |
| Weeks | White | Williams |
| Willis | Young |  |

The foregoing were then sworn in by the Temporary CHAIRMAN.

**STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE**

I came in after the roll call and was present for the Session on Wednesday, November 17.

Liston Barfield Joseph H. Neal

Jerry N. Govan Seth Whipper

William Whitmire Tracy Edge

**Total--122**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER granted Rep. EDGE a temporary leave of absence.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER granted Rep. BEDINGFIELD a leave of absence for the day due to work commitments.

**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

The Temporary CHAIRMAN announced that nominations were in order for a SPEAKER.

Rep. BANNISTER nominated Rep. ROBERT W. HARRELL, JR., of Charleston, as follows:

“Madame Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the House, distinguished guests, it is a great privilege to stand before you today to

nominate my friend Bobby Harrell to be Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The role of Speaker of the South Carolina House is a great honor that carries with it a distinguished history.

Today, on the first day of the 119th session of this great body, we focus on the best person to lead this body, and our State, into the future.

Bobby Harrell is that person. Bobby is not only a good friend of mine--he is a true public servant in every respect. He works tirelessly serving the people of this State, the members of this body, the people of his House district, as well as his family.

Over the past 5 years, I have seen someone who possesses the leadership, character, and drive that has built the trust to previously elect him Speaker three times.

I have seen Bobby work hard to make South Carolina a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Through his leadership, this body has tackled some of the most difficult issues our State has faced in our lifetimes. He has tackled these issues with courage and integrity — always doing what is right while respecting those who disagree with him on the issues.

Those of us who are returning to the House this year know Bobby as a friend whose door is always open. We know him as someone willing to work with every member of this body, no matter their political party or ideology. He does not hesitate to reach across party lines, and hear issues from every side.

As we move on from the historic election just a few short weeks ago, the leader we choose for this body must be able to listen to both sides, lead without judgment, and push every person in this Chamber to not shy away from the difficult issues at hand.

Bobby Harrell is that leader. We have a number of new colleagues joining us this year, and they will soon learn that Bobby is always there for you when you need him. He has always helped me, and has never been without a kind word of support or guidance.

To be a leader, you must earn the trust of those you lead. Nobody is born a leader, but when our State and this body have been tested over the last several years, we all watched Bobby Harrell stand up and lead us.

Being a leader is a process that begins with people. First elected in 1992, Republican Bobby Harrell was immediately elected Chairman of his freshman class when Republicans were still in the minority in this

Chamber. In 1997, he was elected Majority Leader. In 1999, he was selected to chair the Ways and Means Committee.

We all know that to be a leader elected by your peers is an especially high honor. It is an honor this body first gave Bobby in 2005, and he has earned his re-election as our Speaker again this year.

We have achieved many accomplishments since Bobby became our Speaker, and most of the major issues that have become law in our State began right here... in this Chamber. Under Bobby’s leadership, we have made significant reforms and improved the way our government operates. We have returned billions of dollars back to the taxpayers, built our State’s business climate to one of the best in the nation, and we continue to make improving education a top priority within this body.

Bobby Harrell is *OUR* Speaker.

And while tackling these issues hasn’t always been easy, Speaker Harrell has always united us to work together for the common good of South Carolina. He has always acted in a way that was fair and done what he believes is in the best interest of our State and this body.

Ladies and gentlemen, Bobby Harrell is not just a proven leader, I am proud to say that he is our leader, and he is a friend to all of us. He has earned our trust and respect and he has more than earned another term as Speaker.

My fellow members, that is why I am honored to nominate my friend, Bobby Harrell, for Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Thank you and may God continue to guide our decisions and our service to the people of South Carolina.”

Rep. SIMRILL placed in nomination, Rep. RALPH W. NORMAN, of Rock Hill.

On motion of Rep. SANDIFER, nominations were closed and the vote was taken resulting as follows:

The following members voted for Rep. HARRELL:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agnew | Alexander | Allen |
| Allison | Anderson | Anthony |
| Atwater | Bales | Bannister |
| Battle | Bikas | Bingham |
| Bowen | Bowers | Brady |
| Branham | Brannon | Brantley |
| G. A. Brown | H. B. Brown | R. L. Brown |
| Butler Garrick | Chumley | Clemmons |
| Clyburn | Cobb-Hunter | Cole |
| Cooper | Corbin | Crawford |
| Crosby | Daning | Delleney |
| Dillard | Erickson | Forrester |
| Frye | Funderburk | Gambrell |
| Gilliard | Hamilton | Hardwick |
| Harrell | Harrison | Hart |
| Harvin | Hayes | Hearn |
| Herbkersman | Hiott | Hixon |
| Hodges | Horne | Hosey |
| Howard | Huggins | Jefferson |
| Knight | Limehouse | Loftis |
| Long | Lowe | Lucas |
| Mack | McCoy | McEachern |
| McLeod | Merrill | Mitchell |
| D. C. Moss | V. S. Moss | Munnerlyn |
| Murphy | Nanney | J. M. Neal |
| Neilson | Ott | Owens |
| Parker | Parks | Patrick |
| Pinson | Pitts | Quinn |
| Rutherford | Ryan | Saab |
| Sandifer | Sellers | Skelton |
| G. M. Smith | G. R. Smith | J. E. Smith |
| J. R. Smith | Sottile | Spires |
| Stavrinakis | Stringer | Tallon |
| Taylor | Thayer | Toole |
| Tribble | Umphlett | Vick |
| Viers | Weeks | White |
| Whitmire | Williams | Willis |
| Young |  |  |

**Total--112**

The following members voted for Rep. NORMAN

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ballentine | King | Norman |
| Pope | Simrill |  |

**Total--5**

The Temporary CHAIRMAN appointed Reps. OTT, BINGHAM, CLYBURN and BRADY to escort SPEAKER-ELECT ROBERT W. HARRELL, JR., to the desk where the oath of office was administered to him by the Temporary CHAIRMAN.

SPEAKER HARRELL thereupon took the Chair and addressed the House as follows:

“Madame Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the House, thank you. And, to many of my friends who are in the gallery who traveled here today from Charleston and other places around the State, and to my family for being here today, thank you so very much.

This is a great honor and trust that you have bestowed on me. As your Speaker, I will do everything I can to make you proud of your decision to choose me.

Bruce, thank you so much for those kind words. You are a good friend and your nomination means a lot to me.

To all my fellow House members and friends in this body, thank you. I am continually in awe of this great institution and humbled by the role we all have in our state’s great history. It is a privilege to serve the people of my district, and it is a tremendous honor to continue serving as your Speaker.

Democracy is noisy, and it should be. The members of this body represent your constituents’ interests with passion and enthusiasm. Passing laws and reforming government isn’t easy. It takes great effort, leadership, **and most importantly**, a willingness to work together.

When I first ran for Speaker, I pledged to you that I would do my best to be an open and fair leader who would defend the integrity of this body. I stand before you today because of the leadership decision that you’ve made. And I still hold that commitment to you, that together, **together,** we will decide what is best for our State as an entire representative body.

God has blessed my family and me with so much. And I deeply appreciate all the support my family provides…Cathy, my wonderful wife of 31 years, thank you for being here, not just today, but for over 3 decades of our lives together. My children, Trey and Charlotte, my mother, my sister and my brother, and other family who are here. Thank you all so very much.

Your strength and support have been my rock and is what makes it possible for me to even be here today.

Ladies and gentlemen, this has been a difficult year for our family. As many of you may know, last April, we lost Cathy’s mother, a beautiful woman, particularly on the inside, who devoted her life to raising her four children, and then in early September, my father, my family’s patriarch, passed away. I miss him more than I can express to you.

During their time with us, they both taught us a great deal about life. They taught us how to live by their example--how to lead by working hard, adhering to principle and how to be compassionate and caring about other people. And, then in their last moments, they taught us how to go on to the next life with honor and with dignity.

Cathy and I greatly appreciate all the phone calls, emails, and personal letters our family received from you. They gave us more comfort during that difficult time than you will ever know.

To all my friends returning to this Chamber and to all our newly elected members, I congratulate you. Our citizens, our friends and neighbors have entrusted each of us with a huge responsibility.

What you do in this Chamber everyday will directly affect the lives of 4 ½ million people. And I challenge you, always do what you think is best for our State and best for those you represent…and never, ever forget how you got here and who we work for…the people back home.

The past few years have been difficult to say the least but even in these trying times, this body has still accomplished a great deal. We now need to focus our efforts on building on that foundation as we begin our work this legislative session.

The nationwide economic downturn slowed our economy and produced budget shortfalls in every single state in our Nation. In just two years, we have cut our own state’s general fund budget by $2 billion.

This decision to cut spending instead of raising taxes to deal with budget shortfalls will lead to a stronger economy for our State in the long run. Making sure more capital stays in the hands of our citizens and businesses will produce more private sector activity than any tax increase ever could. And, the way out of our difficult economic times is by the private sector creating more jobs.

Strengthening our economy and putting South Carolinians back to work should be priority number one for our State. And to succeed in this, it needs to be the private sector – not government – leading this economic recovery effort.

Boeing was the single biggest jobs victory our State has ever seen. This General Assembly acted swiftly to pass a fair and competitive plan that played a major part in landing over 4,000 new jobs and over a billion dollars in new investment, and we did it with everyone working together, across party lines.

But we must also credit this historic opportunity with our years-long record of passing measures that improved our business climate. This body’s commitment to protect small businesses, remain a right-to-work state and strengthen our economy is what first attracts major companies to consider South Carolina. We have to continue to build on that success.

The Economic Development Competitiveness Act that we passed last session has made our State a more attractive investment for new businesses and will help our existing businesses grow. Since this Bill became law, South Carolina’s ranking has jumped to the top tier of over a dozen national business competitiveness rankings.

Last year, when we discovered the disturbing failures and lack of accountability taking place at the Employment Security Commission, this body once again acted quickly to bring needed reforms. We restructured a broken agency and created a new Department of Workforce whose main goal is to find someone a job, not simply act as a check writing agency. And, both of these pieces of legislation were successful because we all worked together, Republicans and Democrats, in this Chamber.

These are some major steps we’ve taken to strengthen our economy and lower our unemployment rate. But still, there is so much more we need to do to improve our state’s situation.

This body again needs to take the lead on passing major initiatives like business Tort Reform. Restructuring our state government and streamlining agencies will allow us to provide core services more efficiently. Setting a spending limit that controls government growth and increasing transparency will instill the trust our citizens should have in their state government.

We must continue traveling down a path that leads to more jobs and better government.

Obviously, we have much work to do. But I am confident that this body is up to the task. Again, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Speaker. It means more to me than I can tell you.

Serving in this body is an honor for all of us. An honor we hold in our hands for only a brief period in our State’s history. We must do our best for the people we represent in the short time we are blessed to have, and together, **together**, leave a great state for our children to inherit.

May God help us, and lead us, in this journey. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to get to work. Thank you very much.”

**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE***

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE.*

Rep. DELLENEY nominated Rep. LUCAS as follows:

“Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, I rise today to nominate one of my very best friends and desk-mate for the last ten years, James Howle “Jay” Lucas, as Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

I have never had a higher honor during my service in this body. Out of all the members of the House, I can think of no one who is better suited or equipped to be Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the South Carolina House of Representatives than my friend Jay Lucas.

In order to be a successful leader there are certain traits that a leader must have, including being persuasive and having the ability to inspire others. Jay Lucas qualifies. He possesses what truly matters to be a great leader.

Intellectual ability matters. Jay graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1975 Phi Beta Kappa. He later received his Master’s Degree in Public Administration in 1981 and then his *Juris Doctorate* Degree in 1987, all from the University of South Carolina. In law school he was a member of the Order of the Coif and he graduated third in his law school class. He was also a member of the Wig and Robe and managing editor of the South Carolina Law Review. Jay is one of the smartest members to ever serve in the General Assembly.

Courage and conviction matter. I can testify as to Jay Lucas’ courage and conviction. During my service in the House, there has never been pressure and influence exerted on the members of this body like during the final days of video poker. During that time, we had just experienced a general election. In that election, the candidate for Governor supported by the video poker industry won and the political leadership of this House came close to changing. Every lobbyist who wanted to be employed by the video poker industry was hired. For the first time, the Republican leadership of this House, rather than seeking to ban video poker, was seeking to compromise. They instead supported a bill regulating the industry rather than banning it. The Democratic leadership of this House was supporting that same compromise, as well as the newly elected Governor. At times during the debate, you could look across the floor and see the Republican leadership of this House surround freshman Representative Jay Lucas. They surrounded him because the House was at a one vote impasse. Jay was a freshman Representative who had just won his first election by thirty-two (32) votes. He was also refusing to be pressured into supporting the video poker compromise. Because of Jay Lucas and like-minded social conservatives, time ran out and the session ended without passing the compromise bill. The Governor called the legislature back into special session. The video poker industry was desperate for a regulatory bill, because of a pending action in federal district court. The leadership of both parties wanted to put this issue behind them. Once the legislature was called back into special session, the conference committee on video poker was reconvened. Eventually a compromise bill was passed, but during that special session, a contingent ban provision was added which proved to be the undoing of the video poker industry. That would have never happened if a compromise had been reached during regular session. That would have never happened without the courage and conviction of freshman Representative Jay Lucas standing up to the pressure of the leadership of this House, the Governor and the lobby. That took courage and conviction. I’ve also seen Jay Lucas as a member of the Ways and Means Committee stand up for the rights of the unborn. He did so even when there was a realistic threat from the Senate that there would not be the votes to pass a budget. He stood up to the leadership. That took courage. When courage matters, Representative Jay Lucas always has courage and conviction.

Commitment to God matters. Jay Lucas belongs to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Hartsville, South Carolina, his family church for successive generations. The most excited I have ever seen Jay was a few years ago when he called me in Chester to tell me that his teenage son, Will, had accepted Christ. He called to tell me that Will had been saved and was going to be baptized. I have never before or since heard such joy and excitement as Jay expressed on that day. Jay Lucas is a man committed to the Lord.

Character and integrity matter. Without character, leadership is impossible. Character is the first requirement for leadership. It is the pillar of leadership. Without character, there is no moral authority, there is no respect, and there is no ability of persuasion or inspiration. In short, there is no leadership. Nothing witnesses to Jay’s character like his commitment to his family and especially to his marriage and his wife, Tracy. If you cannot keep the marriage contract, the most basic of all human commitments, what contract can you be expected to keep? Jay Lucas is a man of unquestionable character and integrity.

Jay Lucas possesses what matters to be a great leader. It is my great honor and privilege to place the name of James Howle Lucas in nomination for the office of Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the South Carolina House of Representatives.”

On motion of Rep. DELLENEY, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

The SPEAKER appointed Reps. J. M. NEAL, LONG, HAYES, SIMRILL, WILLIAMS and G. M. SMITH, to escort the SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE*-elect to the Desk where the oath of office was administered to him by the SPEAKER.

SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE* LUCAS thereupon took the Chair and addressed the House as follows:

“Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of the General Assembly, thank you for this vote of trust and confidence. That is what this is all about. The bond of our word. That is what we have between us here. I will keep my bond and word in all my dealings with you.

I have thought about this over the years, especially at each election. We are here to do our duties as representatives…to follow the will of those who voted for us. And in return we use our judgment and perspective to do what we think is best with what is entrusted to us.

‘I promise that I will work fairly, honestly, and openly with each member of this body to promote the honor and integrity of this institution that I really love.’

Those words are the words of several past Speaker *Pro Tempores,* you know, I like that as a pledge.

Those are words we all need to live by. My door will always be open to anyone who needs to talk.

I am not going to get carried away with soaring rhetoric. I like to keep it simple. I know where my heart lies. I am a legislator from a rural district in a state that faces hard challenges.

I want to recognize and thank several people. First, my wife, Tracy. Thank you for being there for me and being a great wife to me and a great mom to Will. To my mom, Shirley, thank you for all you have done and for looking out after Dad. You both make it possible for me to be here. Thank you for helping me and making it possible to do what I love. You have both been my best advisors and supporters. We all should take a moment and thank our families--we all know the toll it takes on them.

For you new members I would like to say one thing, and to some of the older members, don't take your families for granted while you are here. They make this sacrifice for you, because they recognize your duty of commitment.

And I must thank my seat mate of the last ten years…Greg Delleney -- like my wife, he has managed to put up with me. Greg, thanks for your moral example and guidance…they have been invaluable to me.

My first and most popular act as Speaker *Pro Tempore* will be to close these brief remarks and make sure you don’t miss lunch.

Therefore, in closing, I ask that we work together and take counsel from our hearts in doing the hard things that we must do to this session. And let’s talk. My door is open to all of you.

Thank you.”

**ELECTION OF THE CLERK**

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for the Clerk of the House.

Rep. BRANHAM nominated MR. CHARLES F. REID of Columbia as follows:

“Charles Reid was born in Denmark, South Carolina. At the age of 8, he moved to Columbia, S.C., and graduated from Dreher High School in 1986. He went on to attend Wofford College where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1990.

After finishing college, Charles enrolled in the University of South Carolina School of Law and graduated in 1993. During law school he was a member of the Order of the Wig and Robe and received American Jurisprudence Awards for Civil Procedure and Conflicts of Laws.

Charles began his legal career in private practice with the law firm of Davis & Lavender, P.C., concentrating in administrative and regulatory law. He then served two years in the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office as an Assistant Attorney General, practicing in the area of criminal appeals where he participated in various drug prosecutions, murder cases, and other criminal prosecutions. In this capacity he appeared regularly in both South Carolina Circuit Courts and Appellate Courts--including numerous appearances before the South Carolina Supreme Court.

In 1995Charles joined the Office of House Speaker, David H. Wilkins, as Legal Counsel to the Speaker. In this position he managed, conducted and supervised litigation on behalf of the South Carolina House of Representatives, served as chief staff attorney for legislative redistricting, and provided legal counsel to the Speaker of the House. He also served as legal counsel to the House Rules Committee, the House Ethics Committee, and the House Ways & Means Committee. In 1998, in addition to his duties as Legal Counsel to the Speaker, Charles was appointed Chief of Staff to the Speaker’s Office.

In 2001 Charles joined the McNair Law Firm, P.A., and practiced law in the areas of Governmental Affairs, Civil Rights & Legislative Redistricting litigation, Procurement Law, and South Carolina Constitutional Law.

In January of 2004, Charles returned to employment with the South Carolina General Assembly as General Counsel to the House of Representatives. As General Counsel he served as the chief staff attorney for the House of Representatives, served as legal counsel to the House Rules Committee and House Ways & Means Committee, and provided legal counsel to the House on a variety of legislative and administrative issues.

On November 30, 2004, Charles was elected Clerk of the South Carolina House of Representatives. He was reelected to this office in 2006 and 2008. As Clerk, he serves as the Chief Operating Officer and Administrative Employee of the House of Representatives, supervises more than 75 full-time employees, and is responsible for parliamentary procedures, personnel, administration, financial matters, and staff training.

Charles is also an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law where he teaches a class entitled ‘The Legislative Process’ to second and third year law students. He has also authored and co-authored several legal articles in various treatises and journals and is currently developing and writing a textbook concerning the South Carolina legislative process.

Charles is the son of Reverend and Mrs. George B. Strait and the late Reverend William C. Reid. He, and his wife, the former Miss Taj Burnside, and their three daughters, Callie, Emily, and Lilly, reside in Columbia, South Carolina.

Please join me in re-electing Charles Reid to be our Clerk. He will work hard for us all.”

On motion of Rep. BRANHAM, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

The oath of office was administered to him by the SPEAKER.

**ELECTION OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS**

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for the Sergeant at Arms.

Rep. MACK nominated MR. MITCHELL G. DORMAN of Kershaw as follows:

“Mr. Speaker, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, it is my great honor and privilege to place the name of Mitchell G. Dorman, ‘Mitch’, in nomination for Sergeant at Arms, for the S.C. House of Representatives.

From the day we are born, one of the basic needs that man has is for security, the need to feel secure. In this chaotic, unpredictable, fast paced world, we call the S.C. House of Representatives, one constant, one rock, one security blanket, that we all know and depend on is Mitch Dorman and his phenomenal staff. Mitch started working for the House of Representatives in 1983. Mitch was promoted to Assistant Director of Security in 1986. First elected Sergeant at Arms on Dec. 4, 1990, Mitch is a graduate of USC-Lancaster in Criminal Justice and is married to the former Leah Blanton of Spartanburg. They have one son, Nicholas, age 12, who many of us have watched grow up in this Chamber.

Mitch and his staff are very professional and operate totally in a nonpartisan manner and are dedicated and loyal to the Members of the House, regardless of party, length of service or opposition. Mitch and his staff will give you 100 percent if you ask them for help.

On a personal note, my father, who is 81, has met Mitch twice, and often asks me when I return home, ‘How is your Head of Security?’ Earlier this year, when Mitch’s father passed, I told my father and we went out and got a card and sent it to Mitch, and he had only met him twice. The magic of Mitch you cannot teach in a book, not even the Bible, you have to have an integrity within you. To us in this body, nothing is more important than our family and he meets our family when they come through this door, making them feel special and safe. You cannot teach that in a book.

In closing, I have three sons, my wife and I, ages 32, 30, and 29. I often thought when they were very young if something were to happen to me, that they would watch a man of character, integrity, purpose and professionalism…a man like Mitch Dorman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to place in nomination, the name of Mitch G. Dorman, for Sergeant at Arms and I would move that the nomination be closed and Mitch be elected by acclamation.”

On motion of Rep. MACK, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

**ELECTION OF THE READING CLERK**

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for the Reading Clerk.

Rep. COOPER nominated MR. JAMES L. MANN CROMER, JR., as follows:

“Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, today I rise to nominate Mr. James L. Mann Cromer, Jr., for the position of Reading Clerk. I can tell you first hand that Bubba is a smart and capable man, having graduated from Clemson with a degree in English and later receiving his *Juris Doctorate* degree from South Carolina. He proves his intelligence and worth each day by posting on the voting board such challenging words as: VOTE, ADJOURN, and even AMENDMENT.

Bubba is also an accomplished filmmaker, having won the 2007 Best Narrative Feature at the New York International Independent Film & Video Festival for ‘The Long Way Home: A Bigfoot Story.’

When people think of Bubba, it is not his writing skills and expertise as a filmmaker that first come to mind, but his effervescent personality and his ability to entertain any crowd with his timely jokes.

Before being elected as Reading Clerk in 1998, I along with an ever-decreasing number of House members, had the privilege to serve with Bubba in the House. He and I were both elected in 1991, where we learned the ropes, as many of you will do this year in this glorious body.

It is my privilege to nominate a gentleman most of us already know and have come to trust to carry out the crucial duties of the Reading Clerk for the South Carolina House of Representatives. Bubba Cromer is a professional whose passion for service to this honorable body and the State of South Carolina is unquestioned and unequaled.

I do not believe there is any other person more suited or qualified for the Reading Clerk position than Bubba Cromer. Mr. Speaker, I move that the nominations for the position of Reading Clerk be closed and James Lewis Mann Cromer, Jr., be elected by acclamation.”

On motion of Rep. COOPER, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

### ELECTION OF THE CHAPLAIN

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for the Chaplain.

Rep. BRANTLEY nominated REV. CHARLES E. SEASTRUNK, JR., of Columbia, as follows:

“Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of this great body. I am honored and pleased to place in nomination one who has proven to be certified and qualified to serve in this great and distinguished body as Chaplain. Because of the mental rigor that the Members of this body face on a regular basis, the position of chaplaincy requires someone whose spiritual fervor and inspirational fervor is tempered with spiritual acclamation and we have such a person with great judgment, to do just that. Therefore, I would like to place in nomination the name of the Right Reverend Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr., to serve as Chaplain in this South Carolina Legislative Body for the 2011-2012 Legislative Session. And Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion that this nomination come to a close on this said name, and Mr. Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr., be elected by acclamation.”

On motion of Rep. BRANTLEY, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominee.

### OFFICERS SWORN IN

The SPEAKER administered the oath of office to the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Mitchell G. Dorman, the Reading Clerk, Mr. James L. Mann Cromer, Jr., and the Chaplain, Rev. Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 3000 -- Reps. Harrell, Bingham and Ott: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE FOR ALLOTTING SEATS TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 2011 AND 2012 SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That for the purposes of allotting seats to members of the House of Representatives for the 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly the following procedure is adopted:

“As soon as practicable, after the House has been organized, the seats of the members must be allotted as follows:

The Clerk shall prepare a ballot for each county with only its name printed on it. These must be put in a closed box. The Speaker shall then direct a person or persons to draw them out, one by one. As each ballot is drawn, the delegation from that county shall select their seats, in accordance with the county in which the member resides. In the event a member’s district consists of more than one county, the member may elect to be seated with the delegation the member desires, provided the member indicates the preference to the Clerk of the House prior to balloting. No delegation may select more than one seat on the main aisle.”

Be it further resolved that when the House adopts its rules for the 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly, they shall incorporate the above provision as part of the Rules of the House of Representatives with an appropriate numerical designation.

The Resolution was adopted.

**ALLOTMENT OF SEATS**

The SPEAKER then announced that the House would proceed to the allotment of seats, the names of the counties being drawn from a container by Master Edward Benjamin Armistead Hottel.

### ALLOTMENT OF SEATS

Agnew 51 Alexander 46

Allen 25 Allison 94

Anderson 30 Anthony 57

Atwater 84 Bales 111

Ballentine 100 Bannister 36

Barfield 23 Battle 49

Bedingfield 38 Bikas 18

Bingham 86 Bowen 53

Bowers 73 Brady 120

Branham 47 Brannon 104

Brantley 112 Brown, G. A. 31

Brown, H. B. 102 Brown, R. L. 16

Butler Garrick 83 Chumley 105

Clemmons 22 Clyburn 33

Cobb-Hunter 91 Cole 106

Cooper 61 Corbin 8

Crawford 98 Crosby 114

Daning 115 Delleney 7

Dillard 24 Edge 88

Erickson 113 Forrester 96

Frye 70 Funderburk 75

Gambrell 50 Gilliard 34

Govan 72 Hamilton 37

Hardwick 27 Harrell 118

Harrison 119 Hart 82

Harvin 78 Hayes 48

Hearn 26 Herbkersman 124

Hiott 14 Hixon 3

Hodges 1 Horne 58

Hosey 32 Howard 81

Huggins 101 Jefferson 62

King 77 Knight 76

Limehouse 29 Loftis 9

Long 108 Lowe 99

Lucas 6 Mack 35

McCoy 44 McEachern 66

McLeod 74 Merrill 121

Mitchell 97 Moss, D. C. 5

Moss, V. S. 56 Munnerlyn 92

Murphy 59 Nanney 41

Neal, J. H. 80 Neal, J. M. 109

Neilson 110 Norman 4

Ott 90 Owens 19

Parker 95 Parks 65

Patrick 123 Pinson 64

Pitts 68 Pope 10

Quinn 85 Rutherford 116

Ryan 43 Sabb 79

Sandifer 54 Sellers 103

Simrill 11 Skelton 15

Smith, G. M. 21 Smith, G. R. 39

Smith, J. E. 117 Smith, J. R. 2

Sottile 28 Spires 71

Stavrinakis 45 Stringer 42

Tallon 107 Taylor 13

Thayer 60 Toole 87

Tribble 67 Umphlett 122

Vick 93 Viers 89

Weeks 20 Whipper 17

White 52 Whitmire 55

Williams 63 Willis 69

Young 12

**MOTION ADOPTED**

Rep. HODGES moved that the House recede until 3:30 p.m., which was adopted.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER granted Rep. GILLIARD a leave of absence for the remainder of the day.

**THE HOUSE RESUMES**

At 3:30 p.m. the House resumed, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

**POINT OF QUORUM**

The question of a quorum was raised.

A quorum was later present.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 3001 -- Reps. Harrell, White, Bingham and Ott: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 2011 AND 2012 SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

That the following rules are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly:

“**Rule 1**

**The Speaker**

**Speaker *Pro Tempore***

**1.1** The Speaker shall take the chair on every legislative day precisely at the hour to which the House adjourned at the last sitting, immediately call the members to order, cause prayer to be said, the Journal of the previous proceedings to be corrected, and if a quorum be present, proceed to other business.

**1.2** The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries, or in the lobby, may cause the same to be cleared. Any person guilty of contempt of the House may be ordered into custody by the House and dealt with as it deems proper.

**1.3** If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the House, the Speaker shall call him to order, or any member may call such transgressions to the attention of the Speaker who shall call the transgressor to order. If repeated cries of order are ineffective, the Speaker may call a member by name, and if the Speaker deems it necessary, he shall state the offense committed. The member may be heard in his exculpation and shall withdraw, and the House shall consider his punishment or any further proceedings to be had.

**1.4** The Speaker shall sign all acts, joint resolutions, memorials, writs, warrants, and authorizations for payment or other papers authorized by the House.

**1.5** The Speaker shall decide all points of order, subject to an appeal by any member, and he may require the member raising a point of order to cite the rule or other authority in support of the question. With unanimous consent, a member may withdraw a point of order the member has raised. Upon appeal, no member shall speak more than once and for no longer than twenty minutes each, except by permission of the House.

**1.6** The Speaker may vote in all cases (except when he may be personally or pecuniarily interested). If the House be equally divided, the question shall be decided in the negative. The presiding officer may give information or explain any matter before the House; he may speak on points of order in preference to other members, and as often as he may deem necessary, but he shall not enter into any debate or endeavor to influence any question before the House while presiding. Provided, the Speaker, in his discretion, may address the body concerning matters of importance to the House.

**1.7** The Speaker shall be elected on the opening day of the organizational session by the membership of the House.

**1.8** The Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall be elected on the opening day of the organizational session. The Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall preside in the absence of the Speaker. *Provided*, the Speaker or the Speaker *Pro Tempore*, whoever may be presiding at the time, may name a member to preside, but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment. In the absence of the Speaker and the Speaker *Pro Tempore* for more than one day, the House may elect a Speaker *Pro Tempore* to serve until the return of the Speaker or Speaker *Pro Tempore*. When the Speaker *Pro Tempore* is absent for more than three consecutive statewide legislative days, the House of Representatives may elect an acting Speaker *Pro Tempore* who shall serve until the return of the Speaker *Pro Tempore*. The acting Speaker *Pro Tempore* may continue to serve on any committee to which he has been appointed.

**1.9** All committees shall be appointed by the Speaker, unless otherwise provided for by law, except Senatorial and Gubernatorial appointees and *ex officio* members of the House. The Speaker shall name the members constituting each committee in alphabetical order. The Chairman shall be elected by the respective committees during the organizational session. If any subsequent vacancy shall occur in a committee’s chairmanship, the election of a new committee chairman shall take place at the time and date to be set by the presiding officer of the respective committee. The committees may at their discretion elect a Vice‑Chairman and such other officers as they may choose.

**1.10** The Speaker is responsible that all amendments ordered by the House be correctly made and that the attention of the House be called to all amendments made by the Senate since the matter was before the House. All Senate amendments to matters previously considered by the House and all House amendments to matters previously considered by the Senate shall, after adoption, be printed by use of distinctive type interlineation in such a manner as to reflect in one text the original version and the language of the amendment.

**1.11** If the Speaker or Speaker *Pro Tempore* resigns from such position, he shall submit his resignation to the Clerk of the House in writing. This procedure shall be followed in the case of the resignation of any elected officer of the House.

**1.12** In case of emergency, the Speaker has the authority, when, in his opinion, it is impractical or dangerous to hold a regularly scheduled session(s) of the House of Representatives, to declare the body adjourned to some other time. Such actions are to be taken only in times of great emergency including, but not limited to, natural disasters, severe weather, and Acts of God.

When, due to great emergency or through inadvertence, the House is adjourned without provision for the next meeting, the Speaker may issue a call specifying the time for the next meeting.

**Rule 2**

**Elected Officials**

**Clerk, Reading Clerk, Chaplain, and**

**Sergeant At Arms**

**2.1** The Clerk shall be elected by the membership of the House for a term of two years. This election will take place on the opening day of the organizational session.

**2.2** The Clerk of the preceding session shall, at the beginning of the organizational session of the House, call the members to order, proceed to call the roll of members in alphabetical order, and pending election of a Speaker, Speaker *Pro Tempore*, or temporary officers, preserve order and decorum, and decide all questions of order subject to appeal by any member. The duties of this section may be delegated by the Clerk to any member of the House.

**2.3** The Clerk shall cause to be kept a correct Journal of the proceedings of the House, and this Journal shall be numbered serially from the first day of each session of the Legislature. He shall not permit any books or papers belonging to the House to be taken out of his custody other than in the regular course of business and then upon receipt when he deems necessary. He shall report any missing papers to the Speaker.

**2.4** The Clerk of the House shall cause to be prepared and laid on the desks of the members every morning an itinerary of the day’s business to be called the Calendar. This Calendar shall include the orders of the preceding day and all continued matters arranged according to priority, and numbered from the commencement of the session, every matter being introduced and newly numbered after every new order upon it.

**2.5** The Clerk shall assist, under the direction of the Speaker, in taking roll call or division votes.

**2.6** The Clerk shall issue all pay certificates for *per diem* and mileage and incidental expenses upon the order of the Speaker, the signature of the Speaker being attested by the Clerk. The Clerk shall also attest to all writs and warrants and to the passage of all bills, resolutions, and memorials.

**2.7** The Clerk shall prepare in writing, present to the Speaker for his signature, and send all messages to the Senate and elsewhere as ordered by the House.

**2.8** The Clerk shall also be charged with the duty of having executed, in a prompt and accurate manner, all the printing required by the Rules or orders of the House.

**2.9** The Reading Clerk shall be elected by the membership of the House for a term of two years. This election will take place on the opening day of the organizational session.

**2.10** The Reading Clerk shall read all papers to be read at the desk, which the Speaker may direct him to read and shall assist in taking any roll call votes at the Speaker’s direction. Upon ordering of a roll call vote, or upon a quorum call, the electronic roll call system is to be used following the procedure of Rule 7.3. When the electronic roll call system is not operating in any manner, the Reading Clerk shall call the roll and take the names of all who vote ‘aye’ and all who vote ‘nay’ which shall be entered in the Journal and the provisions of Rule 7.3 shall not apply. If, during the course of an ordered electronic roll call, the electronic roll system malfunctions, in such a manner that the number of aye votes and the number of nay votes are recorded but the names of the members so voting are not recorded, the vote shall stand, and any member desiring to publish a record of his individual vote may submit a statement which shall be printed in the House Journal. If, during the course of an ordered electronic roll call, the electronic roll call system malfunctions in such a manner as to record no accurate information as to the vote totals, the question shall be resubmitted and the Reading Clerk shall call the roll of the members as hereinabove specified.

*Provided*, however, in the case of a malfunction in the electronic roll call where the roll call to be taken is mandated by the Constitution or Statutes, any malfunction will void the roll call and it will be retaken.

*Provided*, that whether the ayes and nays are taken by electronic roll or otherwise, they shall be recorded by the Clerk in the Journal.

**2.11** The Chaplain shall be elected by the membership of the House for a term of two years. This election will take place on the opening day of the organizational session.

**2.12** The Chaplain shall provide spiritual guidance for the membership of the House.

**2.13** The Sergeant at Arms shall be elected by the membership of the House for a term of two years and shall be under the direct supervision of the Speaker of the House. This election will take place on the opening day of the organizational session.

**2.14** The Sergeant at Arms shall assist the Speaker in maintaining order and decorum.

**2.15** The duties of the Sergeant at Arms, shall be as provided for in Chapter 3 of Title 2, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

**2.16** The Sergeant at Arms may designate, subject to the approval of the Speaker, other staff members of the House to assist the Speaker and the Sergeant in performing such duties as they may direct, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Title 2, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

**Rule 3**

**Members and Membership**

**3.1** Every member shall be within the House Chamber during its sittings unless excused or necessarily prevented, and may vote on each question put, except that no member shall be permitted to vote on any question immediately concerning his private rights as distinct from the public interest.

**3.2** The Speaker may excuse any member from attendance on the House and its committees for any stated period upon reason shown, and such excused absence shall be noted in the Journal.

**3.3** Any member absenting himself from attendance on the House or its committees and having in his possession any original papers relating to the business before the House, shall leave such original papers with the Clerk before departing from the Capitol.

**3.4** Any member who enters after the roll call at the opening of the daily session and notifies the Clerk in writing shall thereafter be shown as present for such day. *Provided*, that no person except those recorded present shall be eligible for subsistence for that day.

**3.5** In cases of contest for a seat in the House, notice setting forth the grounds of such contest shall be given by the contestant to the House within three calendar days after the House first convenes, and in such case, the contest shall be determined by majority vote as speedily as reasonably possible.

**3.6** When the House is called to order, every member shall take his seat and shall act with decorum at all times when the House is in session. Every member, when about to speak, shall rise from his seat and respectfully address himself to ‘Mr. Speaker’ and shall avoid disrespect to the House or the Senate and all personalities, observe decency of speech, and shall confine himself to the question under consideration.

The Speaker, when duly addressed by a member, shall hear from the member who, in the Speaker’s opinion, shall arise first, by identifying the member. The Reading Clerk shall not turn on any member’s microphone until the Speaker has recognized that person.

**3.7** No employee of the House shall personally interest or concern himself with the passage or consideration of any measure whatsoever. If any employee does so, it shall be grounds for summary dismissal. While within the House Chamber during session, no one may personally, or in an official or representative capacity, concern himself with the passage or consideration of any measure whatsoever, except sitting members of the General Assembly and House staff in the usual and ordinary performance of their duties as an employee of the House. The Speaker may require immediate removal from the House Chamber of any person, who violates the provisions of this rule.

**3.8** No member shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the House, except merely to explain his meaning, even if the debate on the question should be continued for many days. In the case of a matter requiring more than one reading, this limitation applies separately to each reading, *provided*, however, notwithstanding that a matter may move from the uncontested to contested Calendar or vice versa within the same reading, the limitation applies to the entire reading. If a member has the floor and is addressing the body, he shall not lose the floor by asking a question of any member of the body.

**3.9** If any member shall be absent without leave and a quorum is not present, the Speaker shall instruct the Sergeant at Arms or appoint other authorized persons to send for such member or members and take them into custody. The outer doors to the Chamber shall be closed. The Speaker shall order that security personnel shall be posted at the outer doors of the Chamber and no member shall be permitted to leave the second floor of the State House without written leave of the Speaker. The Speaker may also order that security personnel be posted at all entrances to the State House to prevent members from leaving without authorization. An absent member who is taken into custody after the invocation of this rule shall pay for all reasonable expenses incurred which shall include mileage at the prevailing rate for state employees. In addition, such absent member who is taken into custody shall forfeit his entitlement to subsistence and mileage for that legislative day and shall be subject to any additional penalties the Speaker deems necessary. Should a quorum be present and ten members request, such absent member or members shall be sent for as herein provided and subjected to the same penalties. The Speaker shall strictly enforce the pro­visions of this rule. *Provided*, however, in the case of a member not being present when Rule 3.9 is invoked and such member voluntarily returns without being taken into custody, he shall not be subject to the penalties of this section. The invocation of this rule may be rescinded by a majority vote of those present and voting.

**3.10** As soon as practicable, after the House has been organized, the seats of the members shall be allotted as follows:

The Clerk shall prepare a ballot for each county with only its name printed on it. These shall be put in a closed box. The Speaker shall then direct a person or persons to draw them out, one by one. As each ballot is drawn, the delegation from that county shall select their seats, in accordance with the county in which the member resides. In the event a member’s district consists of more than one county, the member may elect to be seated with the delegation the member desires, provided the member indicates the preference to the Clerk of the House prior to balloting. No delegation may select more than one seat on the main aisle.

**3.11** As soon as practicable, after the House has been organized, office space of members must be allotted as follows:

Each member shall choose an office in the Blatt Building on the basis of their seniority in the House in accordance with a floor plan prepared by the House Operations and Management Committee with the consent of the Speaker. A member who has served in the immediately preceding session shall have first preference on retention of his previously assigned office. The House Operations and Management Committee is authorized to make necessary adjustments in the assignment of office space with the consent of the Speaker when available space cannot be reasonably adjusted to conform with the county selections made pursuant to this subsection.

The provisions of this rule do not apply to office space for the Speaker, Speaker *Pro Tempore*, Chairman of the Rules Committee, Chairman of the Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee, Chairman of the Interstate Cooperation Committee and Chairmen of any other standing study committees or any other caucus having assigned space in the Blatt Building.

**3.12** Members and employees of the House, other than pages, shall observe appropriate and dignified attire which means coat, trousers, shirt and tie for males and dress, skirt, slacks and blouse, or pants suits for females, unless otherwise excused by the Speaker in his sole discretion.

**3.13** Each legislative caucus occupying office space in the Blatt Office Building may pay to the Clerk of the House of Representatives an amount, determined by the Clerk, for the use of office space by each caucus. Each caucus may also pay an amount for use of state‑owned office related equipment including, but not limited to, copying services, computer equipment, and software and related connection charges for internet access and telephone equipment and service. Each legislative caucus may make payment for equipment and services in the manner to be determined by the Clerk.

**Rule 4**

**Committees**

**4.1** Committee appointments: see Rule 1.9.

**4.2** As soon as practicable after the members have been sworn in and have taken their seats, the following Standing Committees, except the House of Representatives Legislative Ethics Committee, and the House of Representatives Committee on Operations and Management, shall be appointed with the indicated number of members appointed thereto:

1. Committee on Ways and Means – 25.

2. Committee on the Judiciary (Privileges and Elections) – 25.

3. Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (Fish, Game, Forestry, State Parks, Rural Development, Environmental Affairs) – 18.

4. Committee on Education and Public Works (Education, Highways, State House and Grounds, Railroads, Aviation) – 18.

5. Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs (Medical Affairs, Social Security, Penitentiary, State Hospital, Police Regulations, Military Affairs, Veteran’s Affairs) – 18.

6. Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry (Labor, Commerce and Manufacturing, Banking and Insurance, Merchants and Mercantile Affairs) – 18.

7. Committee on Rules – 15.

8. Committee on Interstate Cooperation (membership limited to 5, under 1976 Code, Sec. 1–17–30) – 5.

9. House of Representatives Legislative Ethics Committee – 6.

10. Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions (Invitations, Resolutions memorializing the Federal or State Government or any official or agency thereof, sympathy, and congratulatory Resolutions) – 5.

11. Committee on Operations and Management of the House of Representatives (Advisory to the Speaker on personnel, administration and management of facilities, including management of the Blatt Building) – 7.

Each member shall serve on one and only one of the first six Standing Committees listed above. However, a member of these Committees may also serve on any one of the following Committees: Committee on Rules, Committee on Interstate Cooperation, Committee on Ethics, Committee on Invitations, or Committee on Operations and Management of the House of Representatives. The Speaker, Speaker *Pro Tempore*, and Clerk shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Committee on Operations and Management of the House of Representatives but no chairman of any other standing committee shall serve as a member of such committee.

*Provided*, that the members of the Committee on Operations and Management of the House of Representatives (advisory to the Speaker on personnel, administration and management of facilities), and the members of the House of Representatives Legislative Ethics Committee, shall be elected by the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, their terms to be coterminous with their respective term of office.

*Provided*, that the Committee on Education and Public Works shall be deemed to be the Committee on Education, and the Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs shall be deemed to be the Committee on Military Affairs and the Committee on Medical Affairs, in all cases where the statutes provide for the Chairman of these committees to perform *ex officio* duties.

*Provided*, that the Committee on Operations and Management of the House of Representatives with the consent of the Speaker may formulate such policies as it deems advisable relating to House personnel. Such policies shall be distributed to the members and must be adopted by majority vote of the House by House Resolution.

*Provided*, that except as herein provided neither the Speaker nor Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall be a member of any of the foregoing Standing Committees.

No member shall be appointed on a committee before he has been sworn in and has taken his seat. Any member who is sworn in after the general announcement of the committee shall, within a few days afterward, be placed by the Speaker on a Standing Committee whose number of members will not thereby be extended beyond the number provided in these rules.

After a committee has been appointed, no addition to it or change shall be made, except to fill a vacancy or to remove a member for conduct unbecoming a member.

*Provided*, that in filling a vacancy, the assignment of any member may be changed from another committee to fill such vacancy.

**4.3** Unless otherwise ordered, committees shall have jurisdiction only over matters pertaining to the subjects indicated by the names of the respective committees, and to the subject matter indicated in parenthesis following the names.

**4.4** Committees shall meet regularly to consider pending legislation in the room assigned for their use by the Speaker. Notice of date, time, and place of such meetings shall be posted on a bulletin board provided for this purpose in the lobby. Whenever feasible twenty‑four hour advance notice shall be given for all committee meetings. Such notice shall be mailed to the members by the committee chairmen when the House is not in session. Notice of regular and special meetings shall also be given by the administrative assistants to each member of the committees and to the Sergeant at Arms in the manner the committee deems proper. Information as to subcommittee meetings shall be provided by the administrative assistants to the Sergeant at Arms and shall be available at the Sergeant at Arms’ desk. Failure of notice of any meeting shall not invalidate committee action unless bad faith is shown. No committee shall meet while the House is in session without special leave by the Speaker. *Provided,* however, that the Committee on Rules and any committee of conference or free conference, may sit at any time and may report its message to the House at any time.

No committee shall sit unless a quorum be present and all bills introduced by committees must carry the statement of the Chairman that the bill has the approval of two‑thirds of the membership of the committee, except that the State Appropriations Bill, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, a Rescission Bill, and the Deficiency Appropriations Bill may be introduced by a majority vote of the Ways and Means Committee.

No committee shall introduce a bill pertaining to subject matter over which it has no jurisdiction.

Notice in writing of all public hearings shall be given by Committee Chairmen to the Clerk of the House at least five calendar days prior to the date fixed for the hearing, such notice to be published in the House Calendar. Notice in writing of all committee action taken on a bill or resolution shall be given to the principal author thereof.

No statewide bill directly appropriating money shall be considered by the House until after such bill has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee, *provided,* however, a statewide bill which directly or by implication provides for *per diem*, subsistence or mileage in connection with the subject matter of the bill, but does not otherwise directly appropriate money, shall not be required to be referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

After the House sets a bill for Special Order pursuant to Rule 6.3, no point of order may be raised regarding its reference to committee, however, the House by majority vote may commit or recommit a bill or other matter under debate.

No committee action shall be taken on a bill or resolution except at a regular or called meeting, but this shall not apply to resolutions referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

When any standing committee or subcommittee schedules a public hearing on a bill or resolution, the principal sponsor of such bill or resolution shall be notified of the time and place of such hearing not less than five calendar days prior to the hearing date.

**4.5** All meetings of all committees shall be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the Chairman to maintain order and decorum with the right to go into Executive Session as provided for in the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Title 30, Chapter 4 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended. *Provided*, a legislative caucus as defined by Section 2‑17‑10 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, and its meetings are not subject to the provisions of Title 30, Chapter 4 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

No committee shall file a report unless the committee has met formally at an authorized time and place with a quorum present. All standing committees of the House shall prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30‑4‑90 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, the minutes of full committee meetings. Such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings but shall include those matters required by the above mentioned Freedom of Information Act.

**4.6** After twenty days from the date of reference, the Chairman of the Committee in possession of a measure shall, upon written request of a sponsor or, in the case of a Senate measure, a House member, set a time for consideration of the measure by the full committee or subcommittee which shall be no later than seven legislative working days thereafter. *Provided*, however, that a member may request consideration of a bill or resolution pursuant to this rule only one time per bill or resolution during a legislative session.

**4.7** a.Each report of a committee shall contain the action of the committee on the bill or other measure being transmitted. Such report shall certify the action by the committee and shall be signed by an officer of the committee.

b. When reporting a Senate bill as favorable, the committee may include in its report an amendment identical to the final version of any House bill that has been referred to that committee and passed by the House during the current two‑year session. If the amendment is identical to a previously passed House bill, the amendment must be considered germane to the bill.

**4.8** Any bill, report, petition, or other paper except an amendment which may come before the House, may be committed or recommitted before a final decision thereon. *Provided*, further that the Speaker may, in his discretion, commit to a committee any bill, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution returned from the Senate with an amendment that has so materially changed the bill that the bill’s contents, as amended by the Senate, are no longer substantially germane to the bill, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution as it passed the House. Such bill, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution may be reported out of the committee with its recommendation and shall be placed on the Calendar under the heading of second reading or concurrent resolution. If not amended, it shall be enrolled as an act and ratified. If said bill, joint resolution, or concurrent resolution shall be amended, it shall be returned to the Senate at the conclusion of the process as a House amendment.

**4.9** In all cases the House may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole. The motion to resolve the House into a Committee of the Whole shall specify the subject(s) to be considered in the Committee of the Whole. In the event the House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, the Committee of the Whole shall limit discussion to the subject(s) specified in the motion. The Speaker shall leave the Chair after appointing a Chairman to preside, who shall, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct, have the power to cause same to be cleared. No bill or resolution may be considered by the Committee of the Whole House, except by a two‑thirds vote, unless same has first been considered by the appropriate Standing Committee of the House.

**4.10** The Committee of the Whole shall consist of the entire body of members in attendance at the particular meeting of the House. Such committee is a real committee in the parliamentary sense. During the time that a meeting of the Committee of the Whole is held, it is technically not ‘the assembly’.

**4.11** The Rules of the House so far as they are applicable shall be observed in a Committee of the Whole, the Chairman being substituted for the Speaker.

**4.12** No Committee of the Whole or other committee shall deface or interline a bill or other paper, referred to it, but shall report any amendments recommended on a separate paper, noting the page and line.

**4.13** No person shall be permitted to address the House or the Joint Assembly except by written resolution, and such resolution shall be referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions before being considered by the House. The Committee shall not extend an invitation to any individual or group to address the House or the Joint Assembly unless such person or group is of significant national or state prominence at the time the invitation is extended and will bring a message of major importance to the State or such individual or group will present an artistic performance during the established hours of meeting.

Any invitations extended to the House as a whole to attend any functions shall be submitted to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions at least 10 days in advance in order that it may determine what legislation or other pertinent matters may be pending before the House and its Committees before the invitation is accepted. The House shall accept no invitations to any functions other than a breakfast or luncheon prior to 6:00 p.m. Pages are not permitted to attend such functions. No invitations to functions for the House as a whole will be accepted during the week anticipated for the debate of the State Appropriations Bill.

**4.14** No member of a committee shall be allowed under any circumstances to vote by proxy.

**4.15** None of the House Rules shall be rescinded, suspended, or altered, except by written resolution which has been referred to the Rules Committee, or originates therein, and agreed to by two‑thirds of the members of the House present after the committee has made its report. *Provided*, that any rule may be amended by a simple majority of the House during the month of January of each year.

**4.16** a. The House of Representatives Legislative Ethics Committee has the following duties in addition to those provided for by statutory law:

(1) upon request of any member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, to render advisory opinions with regard to legislative ethics when in its judgment such opinions would serve the public interest;

(2) to make available annually to the House of Representatives a compilation of the principles set forth in advisory opinions rendered;

(3) upon the filing of a complaint with the Ethics Committee alleging a violation of the ethics law or House Rules or upon the referral by the Speaker of a matter in which there is an allegation of conduct in contempt of the House or which otherwise violates House Rules, the Committee shall conduct a hearing and/or render an advisory opinion and report its findings, with any order of punishment, to the Speaker.

b. All papers, documents, and proceedings relating to conduct or disciplinary action against members are confidential and must be handled in the manner prescribed in Section 8‑13‑540 of the 1976 Code unless made public by the Committee in a report to the House of Representatives.

**4.17** The Standing Committees may order to be printed for their use such papers as shall be referred to them.

**4.18** The House shall not resolve itself into Executive Session except under those circumstances permitted by the laws of this State, and then only upon a vote of two‑thirds of the membership present and voting, a quorum being present. Upon resolving itself into Executive Session, the Halls of the House shall be cleared of all persons except the members of the House, the Clerk of the House and the Sergeant at Arms.

No action shall be taken which violates the Statutory Law of this State and when such action is permissible it shall only be taken upon a two‑thirds vote of the membership present and voting, a quorum being present.

**4.19** When a bill or resolution is reported out of a standing committee of the House of Representatives, a summary of the bill or resolution prepared by the staff of that committee, if such summary is available, may be made available to the members electronically. Each summary prepared by staff shall have the following language printed in bold capital letters at the top of the summary: ‘THE BELOW CONSTITUTED SUMMARY IS PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IS NOT THE EXPRESSION OF THE LEGISLATION’S SPONSOR(S) OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS STRICTLY FOR THE INTERNAL USE AND BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED BY A COURT OF LAW AS AN EXPRESSION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT’.

**Rule 5**

**Bills, Resolutions, and Reports**

**5.1** No notice shall be required of a member of his intention to introduce a bill or resolution. Any member may introduce bills or resolutions which shall be received by the House staff whether or not the House is in session. Bills and resolutions so received shall be periodically referred by the Speaker of the House to the appropriate committee or committees which may then consider them at such times as the committee meets. Any matter acted upon favorably by any committee may be reported out by the committee when the House reconvenes and need not thereafter be sent to any committee but shall then be ready, upon compliance with other Rules of the House, for second reading consideration; *provided*, however, that bills appropriating revenue shall be referred to the Ways and Means Committee. *Provided*, further, that bills and resolutions creating study committees shall first be referred to the appropriate standing committee having jurisdiction of the subject matter of the bill or resolution. The Clerk of the House shall establish procedures to notify the House membership on a monthly basis of bills and resolutions introduced during periods when the Journal is not printed.

All bills received prior to the first day of the convening or reconvening of the General Assembly shall receive first reading on the first day of the session.

In those years in which all seats of the House are up for election, no bill shall be received for prefiling between the dates of adjournment *sine die* and the date of completion of the Organizational Session of the House.

When the House of Representatives is not in session and bills are being prefiled and assigned to committees, any member who wishes to have their name added as a sponsor of a bill may do so by notifying the Clerk of the House in writing. The Clerk shall then notify the Chairman of the committee to which the bill has been assigned and their name shall be added. If a member wishes to sponsor a bill individually then they shall so indicate on the face of the bill and no additional sponsors shall be allowed.

**5.2** Every bill before presentation shall have its title endorsed; every report, its title at length; every petition, memorial, or other paper, its prayer or substance; and, in every instance, the name of the member presenting any paper shall be endorsed and the papers shall be presented by the member to the Speaker at the desk. A member may add his name to a bill or resolution or a co‑sponsor of a bill or resolution may remove his name at any time prior to the bill or resolution receiving passage on second reading. The member or co‑sponsor shall notify the Clerk of the House in writing of his desire to have his name added or removed from the bill or resolution. The Clerk of the House shall print the member’s or co‑sponsor’s written notification in the House Journal. The removal or addition of a name does not apply to a bill or resolution sponsored by a committee.

And every bill or joint resolution which shall propose the amendment or repeal of any Section, Chapter, or Title of the General Statutes or of any Act of Assembly or joint resolution, shall, in its title express the subject matter of such section, chapter, title, act, or joint resolution so sought to be amended or repealed. If this is not complied with, the paper shall not be received by the Speaker and objection may be raised by any member to such improper introduction at any time prior to third reading that the bill or resolution is being considered by the House.

Every bill or joint resolution proposing to amend any section or clearly identifiable subdivision or portion of a section of any chapter of the General Statutes or of any Act of Assembly or joint resolution shall give the full text of the Section or clearly identifiable subdivision or portion of a Section as it would read with such amendment inserted therein. And if this latter clause of this rule is not complied with, the bill or joint resolution shall be amended so as to conform to this rule before it be considered by the House. Any member may require such amendment at any time a bill or resolution not in conformance herewith is being considered by the House.

**5.3** General Appropriations Bill and Supplemental Appropriations Bill

A. Certificate: Every General Appropriations Bill and Supplemental Appropriations Bill for the ordinary expenses of State Government before presentation shall have attached thereto a certificate from the Budget Division of the State Budget and Control Board stating that the total of the appropriations therein provided for is not in excess of the estimated total revenue of the State for such purposes, including that revenue which may be provided for in the bill, or in any other bill previously passed by the House for the fiscal year to which the bill is applicable, and an Appropriations Bill without such certificate shall not be read the first time in the House, but shall be returned to the Committee on Ways and Means by the Speaker. After passage on second reading and before its consideration on third reading, every General Appropriations Bill, and every Supplemental Appropriations Bill shall have attached thereto a certificate from the Budget Division of the State Budget and Control Board that the total of the appropriations therein provided is not in excess of the estimated total revenue of the State for such purposes, including that revenue which may be provided in the bill, or in any other bill previously passed by the House for the fiscal year to which the bill is applicable, and if the Budget Division cannot give such certificate, the Speaker shall order the bill recommitted to the Ways and Means Committee.

B. Germaneness and Amendments: The General Appropriations Bill and Supplemental Appropriations Bills may include both temporary and permanent provisions of law. The substantial effect of all temporary provisions of law and amendments thereto must be directly germane to the appropriation of funds, affecting revenue, or be rules, regulations, directives, or procedures relative to the appropriation of funds or affecting revenue for the fiscal year referred to in the bill. The substantial effect of all permanent provisions of law and amendments thereto must be directly related to and expressly germane to the purpose of an appropriation being made or revenue provided therein for the fiscal year referred to in the bill. An amendment which has the effect of appropriating funds in excess of five million dollars during the fiscal year stated within the bill shall include within the amendment the corresponding appropriation reduction(s) and/or revenue increase(s) within the same section that shall fully fund the amendment’s proposed appropriation(s) or have attached to it in writing an explanation of the specific appropriation reduction(s) and/or revenue increase(s) from the different section(s) that shall fully fund the amendment’s proposed appropriation(s). The provisions of this paragraph shall be narrowly and strictly construed with regard to all provisions of and amendments to the General Appropriations Bill and Supplemental Appropriations Bills.

C. Report of Conference of Committee: The following requirement applies to the report of the Conference Committee on the Annual Appropriations Bill: Any provision offered for inclusion in the Annual Appropriations Bill which increases or decreases the most recent official projection of general fund revenues of the Board of Economic Advisors may not be included in the bill or recommendation unless the revenue impact is certified by the Board of Economic Advisors. Changes to the official general fund revenue estimate as a result of such provisions may not exceed amounts certified by the Board of Economic Advisors. This requirement is in addition to other provisions of law regarding fiscal impact statements.

D. Format of Appropriations Bill: All State Appropriations Bills must be printed at the following stages in their passage so that:

1. The House Ways and Means Committee version of the Appropriations Bill must include the amounts recommended by the Ways and Means Committee.

2. The House version of the Appropriations Bill must include the amounts recommended by the Ways and Means Committee and the amounts passed by the House.

3. The Report of Conference or Free Conference Committee must include the amounts passed by the House, the amounts passed by the Senate, and the amounts agreed upon by the Conference Committee.

4. The Appropriations Act must include total funds approved for the next fiscal year and a listing of appropriations from the General Fund.

5. *Provided*, further, that:

a. the full salary of the principal officer of each department, agency, or institution shall be set forth as an item distinct and apart;

b. minor budget classifications or other descriptive terminology may be used when necessary to better express the purpose of the appropriation;

c.where the major portion of the operating funds to any department, institution, or principal operational division thereof is derived from Federal or other nonappropriated funds, the total appropriation for each major budget classification may be shown, and the relative contributions of State and nonappropriated funds therefor shall be shown as completely as possible; and

d. the appropriations must be in conformity with the program budget format as adopted by the Ways and Means Committee.

E. Any bill or resolution considered by the House of Representatives, upon second reading, that raises revenue must conform to the provisions of Article III, Section 15 of the South Carolina Constitution.

F. Earmark Projects and Programs: For purposes of this section:

1. ‘Appropriations bill’ means the annual general appropriations bill, a supplemental appropriations bill, the joint resolution appropriating revenues of the capital reserve fund, a bill appropriating contingency reserve fund revenues, bond bills, or any other bill appropriating state revenues while under consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee or Senate Finance Committee or any subcommittee of it and any free conference committee on an appropriations bill. For purposes of this definition, a bill includes a joint resolution.

2. ‘Earmark project or program’ means:

a. an appropriation for a specific program or project not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year;

b. an appropriations bill proviso directing the expenditure of funds appropriated to an agency for a purpose not originating with a written agency budget request or not included in an appropriations act from the prior fiscal year.

3. Each request for an earmark project or program included in an appropriations bill must be memorialized in writing on a form designed by the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The form must include the member’s name who requested the earmark project or program, an explanation of the earmark project or program requested, and such other information as the form may require. The form must be filed with the House Ways and Means Committee.

4. Each request for an earmark project or program included in the House Ways and Means Committee version of an appropriations bill must be listed on a separate document prepared by the appropriate committee and placed on the members’ desks before beginning debate of the appropriations bill on second reading. The document must include the members’ name requesting the earmark project or program, a brief description of the earmark project or program request, and such other information as the form may require and must be posted on the General Assembly’s web site.

5. An earmark project or program request made while an appropriations bill is in the Senate and is included in the report of a committee of conference must be listed on a separate document, similar to the form described in item 4., and placed on the members’ desks before beginning debate of the report of the committee of conference. The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is charged with providing this form to the House membership.

6. An earmark project or program request made while an appropriations bill is in a committee of free conference must be listed on a separate document, similar to the form described in item 4., and placed on the members’ desks before beginning debate of the report of the committee of free conference. The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is charged with providing this form to the House membership.

7. If the provisions of this subsection are not followed in reference to an individual earmark project or program, a two‑thirds vote of the membership present and voting is required to include the earmark project or program in the appropriations bill or the report of the committee of conference or free conference.

G. The Annual General Appropriations Bill must be considered section‑by‑section on second reading, and when the pending question is the adoption of an individual section, the yeas and nays must be taken by roll call and the votes on it must be recorded by name in the Journal except when the House agrees to a section by unanimous consent.

**5.4** No bill or amendment providing an appropriation to pay a private claim against this State or a department thereof shall be introduced or considered.

**5.5** No bill or joint resolution shall be introduced as a delegation bill or resolution unless such bill or resolution relates only to local matters concerning the county which such delegation represents.

**5.6** Except asprovided in subsection 5.1, the first reading of the bill shall be by title only. No amendments shall then be in order and the bill shall be referred to some committee, unless the House unanimously agrees, without debate, to dispense with reference.

**5.7** Upon the second reading of a bill, after all amendments and motions have been disposed of, the question shall be the passage of the bill. Upon a decision in the affirmative, the order shall be made accordingly and the bill shall take its place on the Calendar for third reading.

**5.8** At the third reading of a bill, the bill shall be read by its title only.

If the bill originated in the House, the question then shall be the passage of the bill. On a bill which originated in the Senate, if no amendment has been made by the House, the question shall be the passage of the bill and in the case of an affirmative vote, the title ‘Bill’ shall be changed to an ‘Act’ and the act shall be enrolled for ratification.

If the bill has been amended in the House, the question shall be the passage of the bill, as amended, and in the event of an affirmative vote, the bill, as amended, shall be returned to the Senate.

**5.9** All bills and resolutions reported by a committee shall, as a matter of course, be printed, together with the report of a committee. A bill or joint resolution shall be reprinted following its second reading, if amended by the House, reflecting the substance of the bill in its amended form. Every committee report which amends the provisions of legislation referred to such committee shall give the full text of the section or clearly identifiable subdivision or portion of a section as it would read with such amendment inserted therein. If this rule is not complied with, the committee report shall be amended so as to conform to this rule before the bill or joint resolution is considered by the House. This shall be the responsibility of the committee chairman.

**5.10** No local bill or joint resolution shall receive a second reading unless its number and title shall have been printed in the House Calendar at least one day prior to such reading. *Provided*, that no statewide bill or joint resolution shall receive a second reading unless its number and title shall have been printed in the House Calendar at least one statewide legislative day prior to such reading unless said bill or resolution has been set for Special Order consideration as provided for by Rule 6.3(14)(b). *Provided,* further, no General Appropriations Bill or Supplemental Appropriations Bill for the ordinary expenses of the State Government shall receive a second reading unless printed copies of such Appropriations Bill shall have been laid on the desks of members at least three legislative days prior to second reading.

**5.11** Any bill, resolution, report, or other paper which has been under consideration, may, at the Speaker’s discretion, be ordered to be printed for distribution to the members.

**5.12** No statewide bill or joint resolution, except an appropriations bill, general, supplemental, deficiency, or a joint resolution approving or disapproving regulations of a state agency shall be considered unless (1) such legislation is introduced in the House prior to April fifteenth of the second year of a two‑year legislative session or (2) such legislation shall have been introduced in the Senate and received by May first in the House, unless in either event it was introduced in the previous year and was carried over to the year in which it is to be considered; *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall prevent a statewide bill or joint resolution from being received, given first reading, and referred to the appropriate committee. No such bill or joint resolution shall be placed on the Calendar for further consideration unless two‑thirds of those members present and voting agree to waive the rule. Once voted on and rejected, no further vote shall be allowed to waive this rule.

The motion to waive this rule shall not be debatable, except that the mover shall have the right to make a three‑minute explanation of his motion.

The provisions of this rule shall apply only to regular sessions of the General Assembly as opposed to special sessions of the General Assembly.

The Speaker shall enforce the deadlines provided by this rule and shall not allow consideration without putting the question of waiver before the House.

**5.13** Each bill effecting the expenditures of money by the State shall, prior to receiving second reading, have attached to it in writing such comment of the appropriate state official or office as may appear appropriate regarding the bill’s effect on the finances of the State. Each committee amendment that substantially changes a bill effecting expenditures of money by the State, prior to the bill receiving second reading, shall have attached to the committee amendment such comment of the appropriate state official or office as may appear appropriate regarding the committee amendment’s effect on the finances of the State. *Provided*, however, this rule shall not be invoked where the amount is shown in the bill.

Committee chairmen shall satisfy these requirements of a fiscal impact statement prior to the bill receiving second reading.

**5.14** No report of a Committee on Conference or Free Conference, except on a *Sine Die* Resolution, the General Appropriations Bill, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, the Capital Reserve Fund, or local matters, shall be considered until such report has been printed in the House Journal and explained by the conferees on the floor of the House.

**5.15** The printing of any document required to be printed under the Rules of the House may specifically be dispensed with by two‑thirds vote of the membership present and voting of the House, a quorum being present; *provided*, such vote shall be by division vote; *provided*, however, the printing of any bill which has not been referred to committee shall not be waived.

**5.16** Should any member seek immediate consideration of any House or Concurrent Resolution, the resolution shall receive immediate consideration unless five members object. If immediate consideration of such resolution is not sought, or in the event five members do object where immediate consideration is sought, the resolution shall be referred to an appropriate committee and shall not be considered by the House until after the committee has made its report and at that time shall take its place on the Calendar. *Provided,* however, a House or Concurrent Resolution concerning *Sine Die* Adjournment under Article III, Section 21 of the South Carolina Constitution and Section 2‑1‑180 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, shall receive immediate consideration, which shall include the motion to commit or recommit.

A House or Concurrent Resolution sponsored by a committee shall receive immediate consideration if so requested by a member unless five members object, in which case it shall take its place on the Calendar without the necessity of being referred to a committee. Such resolution shall be printed in the same manner as is prescribed in Rule 5.9 for the printing of bills.

*Provided*, however, the Clerk shall prepare forms for House Resolutions expressing the sympathy or congratulations of the members of the House. Any member wishing to sponsor such a resolution shall forward in writing on a form prepared by the Clerk information sufficient to prepare the resolution. The Speaker shall sign the resolution on behalf of the membership. Such resolutions shall not be read to the House or printed in the Journal except upon the request of ten members. The Speaker may refer any such resolution to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions and, in such event, the resolutions must be approved by the committee or if the committee recommends, by the House.

**5.17** (A) Upon the consideration of any statewide uncontested bill or joint resolution, an objection or request for debate by five (5) members at any time prevents the consideration of the statewide bill or resolution and it then must be placed upon the statewide contested Calendar and remain on it until one (1) or more objections or requests for debate are formally withdrawn from the floor, and if there are not further objections or requests for debate entered at that time so that the total number of outstanding cumulative objections or requests for debate is less than five (5) or more, the statewide bill or resolution shall then receive immediate consideration if there is any time remaining in the applicable period for that statewide day for that bill or resolution.

(B) Upon the consideration of any local uncontested bill or joint resolution, an objection or request for debate by three (3) members at any time prevents the consideration of the local bill or resolution and it then must be placed upon the local contested Calendar and remain on it until one (1) or more objections or requests for debate are formally withdrawn from the floor, and if there are not further objections or requests for debate entered at that time so that the total number of outstanding objections or requests for debate is less than three (3), the local bill or resolution shall then receive immediate consideration if there is any time remaining in the applicable period for that day for that local bill or resolution.

**5.18** If any bill or resolution shall be recommitted to a committee or referred to another committee retaining its place on the Calendar, the same may be listed on the Calendar by number only until it is returned to the floor for debate or such action as may be appropriate.

Any bill, resolution, or report upon which debate has been adjourned may be listed on the Calendar by number only until the date for consideration has been reached.

**5.19** a. No member shall speak more than twice on the main question of a bill or resolution being considered for any reading and not longer than sixtyminutes for the first speech nor longer than thirty minutes for the second speech, unless allowed to do so by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting. No member shall speak more than twice upon an amendment or a motion to reconsider that is debatable and then not longer than ten minutes each time. However, if the previous question has been invoked, no member may speak more than twice on a motion to reconsider that is debatable and then not longer than the amount of time remaining for debate of the underlying motion; *provided*, that proposed amendments announced and introduced by the Reading Clerk shall be considered prior to a member speaking on the bill. No member shall speak more than twice on Senate amendments to a House bill and not longer than sixty minutes for the first speech nor longer than thirty minutes for the second speech, unless allowed to do so by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting. The House may, however, by consent of a majority of the members present and voting suspend the operation of this rule during any debate on any particular question before the House.

b. Subsection (a) of this rule shall be applicable on a section‑by‑section basis on debate upon the General Appropriations Bill, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, or the bond bills but shall not apply to bills on reapportionment.

c. The question of granting Free Conference Powers shall require an affirmative vote of two‑thirds of the membership of the House and is not debatable. No member shall speak more than twice on the question of adoption of a Conference or Free Conference Report and not longer than sixty minutes for the first speech nor longer than thirty minutes for the second speech, unless allowed to do so by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting. When the pending question is adoption of a Conference or Free Conference Report, the yeas and nays must be taken by roll call and the votes on it must be recorded by name in the Journal. Furthermore, the question of adoption of a Conference or Free Conference Report is subject to the provisions of Rule 8.6.

**5.20** Notwithstanding the provisions of any other House Rule, no House or Concurrent Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States, the President of the United States, or any state or federal department, agency, or official shall receive immediate consideration but shall be referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions and shall remain in such committee unless three members of the committee vote to report the resolution out of committee. No such resolution may be recalled from committee.

**Rule 6**

**Daily Order of Business and Calendar**

**6.1** a.The House shall meet each legislative day at 12:00 Noon every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday, and 10:00 a.m. every Thursday and Friday unless otherwise ordered by the House. *Provided*, that by motion made at any time the House by majority vote may fix the day and hour at which time the House shall next meet (not to exceed constitutional limitations) and this shall be decided without debate.

*Provided*, further, that during the first three weeks of the first year of a legislative session, unless a majority of the House members present object, on Wednesdays the House shall meet at 2:00 p.m. to provide time in the morning hours for committees to meet and hearings to be held.

*Provided*, further, that unless ordered otherwise, the House shall consider only local uncontested matters on Friday of each week.

b. The Speaker, in his sole discretion, is authorized to call the House of Representatives into statewide session for the exclusive purpose of the introduction and referral of bills and receipt and reading of communications and committee reports and to adjourn immediately thereafter with no roll to be taken. Any such action by the Speaker shall provide the specific date of the statewide session and shall provide that the House of Representatives must convene at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn not later than 10:30 a.m. on these days. Provided, that a statewide session held pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered in calculating the provisions of Rules 5.10 and 9.1.

**6.2** All questions as to priority of business or as to the time when any matters shall be considered or ordered for consideration and as to a departure from the regular order of business shall be decided without debate.

**6.3** The following order of business shall be enforced every day by the Speaker, except that Special Orders as defined in subsection 14a of this rule shall be considered at the time and place set.

1. a. prayer;

b. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America;

2. corrections to the Journal;

3. receipt of communications including messages from the Senate;

4. reports of committees including Conference and Free Conference;

5. first reading of House resolutions, concurrent resolutions, committee reports on resolutions, joint resolutions, and bills upon the desk;

6. call of the roll of the House;

7. a. consideration of local uncontested bills and joint resolutions on third reading;

b. consideration of local uncontested bills and joint resolutions on second reading;

8. a. consideration of statewide uncontested bills and joint resolutions on third reading;

b. consideration of statewide uncontested bills and joint resolutions on second reading;

9. withdrawal of objections and requests for debate;

10. consideration of pending motions to reconsider;

11. a. consideration of unanimous consent requests;

b. consideration of vetoes;

c. consideration of Senate amendments;

d. consideration of local contested bills and joint resolutions on third reading;

12. consideration of statewide contested bills and joint resolutions on third reading in the order in which they appear on the Calendar;

13. a. motion period;

b. consideration of local contested bills and joint resolutions on second reading;

14. consideration of statewide contested bills and joint resolutions on second reading in the order in which they appear on the Calendar;

a. Notwithstanding the order of business set forth in Rule 6.3 a matter may be set for Special Order for consideration on a particular day at a particular hour or at a particular place on the Calendar.

b. Special orders may be set for appropriations bills and local bills by majority vote of the House. Special orders on all other bills on the Calendar shall be set only by written resolution, which has been referred to the Rules Committee or originates therein, and agreed to by two‑thirds of the members of that committee and agreed to by majority of the members of the House present after the committee has made its report; *provided*, however, that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 9 governing the amendability of bills and resolutions, no amendments may be offered to any Special Order resolution, which amendments do not pertain to the bill which is the subject of the Special Order resolution, except as to the time and date called for in such resolution.

*Provided,* that for the purpose of explaining any Special Order resolution the time limit for opponents shall not exceed five minutes and the time limit for proponents shall not exceed five minutes.

c. A Special Order set for a certain day and hour, not being considered by the House at the hour named, shall be transferred by the Clerk of the House to the Special Orders of the following day until disposed of, in the chronological order of original appointment.

Any member may insist upon a Special Order of the Day, or other Special Orders, until it be discharged.

d. The motion period provided for the daily order of business under Rule 6.3 shall be limited to ten minutes only.

*Provided*, however, that time consumed by roll call votes shall not be construed as part of time allotted to said motions period.

e. Consideration of uncontested local bills and joint resolutions on third and second readings as provided in subsection 7a and b of this rule shall be limited to a total of ten minutes only. Consideration of contested local bills and joint resolutions on second and third readings as provided in subsections 11b and 13b of this rule is limited to a total of ten minutes for second reading bills and joint resolutions and ten minutes for third reading bills and joint resolutions.

f. Consideration of uncontested statewide bills and joint resolutions on third and second readings as provided in subsection 8a and b of this rule shall be limited to a total of thirty minutes only.

g. No debate shall be allowed in the uncontested period, *provided,* however, the Speaker may recognize a proponent and opponent of any uncontested bill or joint resolution for a brief explanation of their position.

h. Consideration of unanimous consent requests as provided for in subsection 11 of this rule shall be limited to five minutes only. No unanimous consent requests except those unanimous consent requests dealing with the pending matter may be considered at any time other than during the time provided for in subsection 11 of this rule.

**6.4** A debate interrupted by a simple adjournment shall afterwards be resumed at the point of interruption as if debate had been formally adjourned. A matter interrupted by a call for the Orders of the Day shall, after the Orders have been disposed of, be resumed at the point of interruption before any other question.

**6.5** Messages may be received at any time while the door is open, except while a question is being put, or a ballot, or a *viva voce* vote is taken. A message shall be presented to the House by the Speaker when received, or afterwards, according to its nature, and the business in which the House is engaged, or its consideration may, on motion, be ordered by the House.

**6.6** In all particulars not determined by these rules, or by the laws of the Constitution of this State, or of the United States, the practice of this House shall conform to its previous usage, or be guided by parliamentary law as it may be collected from the best authorities, *Mason*’*s Manual of Legislative Procedure* being the preferred parliamentary authority.

**Rule 7**

**Voting**

**7.1** If, upon a question by acclamation, the Speaker doubts, or a division be called for, the House shall proceed with a division vote by voting on the electronic roll call board. If the electronic roll call board malfunctions, the Speaker shall proceed to call the division vote by voice vote. When division votes are made by use of the electronic roll call equipment, no individual votes shall be recorded. The Speaker shall state: ‘The pending question is ... (designating the matter to be voted upon)’. The Speaker shall then unlock the voting machine and announce that voting will proceed. He shall then sound the bell. Thirty seconds after the announcement of the commencement of the vote on the board, the Speaker shall then announce that voting is closed and shall lock the machine and instruct the Clerk to tabulate the vote on the electronic roll call board. The Speaker shall then announce the result of the vote.

**7.2** The House of Representatives shall take a roll call vote on second and on third reading when an amendment has been made on third reading for the following matters, whereupon the yeas and nays shall be ordered and shall be entered by name in the House Journal, the electronic roll call system shall be used, and the procedure provided for in Rule 7.3 shall be followed:

(1) adoption of a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of South Carolina;

(2) adoption of legislation ratifying a proposed amendment to the Constitution of South Carolina;

(3) adoption of a Bill or Joint Resolution establishing a fee or tax, raising an existing fee or tax, or reducing an existing fee or tax;

(4) adoption of the Annual General Appropriations Bill and any individual section of it pursuant to Rule 5.3G;

(5) adoption of a state or congressional reapportionment plan;

(6) adoption of a Bill or Joint Resolution directly increasing or decreasing the salary, benefits, or retirement benefits of members of the General Assembly, elected officials of the Executive Branch, or members of the Judicial Branch;

(7) adoption of a Bill or Joint Resolution amending the Ethics and Accountability Act or the Campaign Finance Act; and

(8) adoption of a Conference or Free Conference Report pursuant to Rule 5.19c.

Provided, the House of Representatives shall take a roll call vote and shall enter the yeas and nays in the House Journal for the following questions:

(1) a question for which the Constitution of South Carolina requires the yeas and nays to be recorded;

(2) an election by the General Assembly or the House of Representatives except where the election is declared by unanimous consent to be by declaration;

(3) adoption of an amendment to the Annual General Appropriations Bill where the amendment directly effects the raising or spending of revenue in the amount of ten thousand dollars or more;

(4) a question of overriding or sustaining an Act returned by the Governor with objections;

(5) a question for which ten members of the House request a roll call vote; and

(6) a question of concurrence, nonconcurrence, or adoption of amendments to bills or joint resolutions returned to the House with amendments by the Senate.

**7.3** a. When the House is ready to vote upon any question requiring the yeas and nays and the vote is to be taken by the electronic roll call system, the Speaker shall state: ‘The pending question is ...... (designating the matter to be voted upon)’. The Speaker shall then unlock the voting machine and announce: ‘Roll call vote. Voting on the board’. He shall then sound the bell. Once the voting has begun, it shall not be interrupted, except for the purpose of questioning the validity of a member’s vote before the result is announced.

b. Two minutes after the bell has been sounded, the Speaker shall ask the question: ‘Have all members present voted?’ After a pause, the Speaker shall then lock the machine and instruct the Clerk to tabulate the vote on the electronic roll call board. The Speaker shall then announce the result of the vote.

c. After the voting machine is locked, no member may change his vote and the votes of tardy members shall not be counted.

d. Subject to the provisions of Rule 2.10, the vote as electronically recorded on the roll of members shall not in any manner be altered or changed by any person.

e. No member shall vote for another member, nor shall any person not a member vote for a member. Any member who shall vote or attempt to vote for another member or a person not a member who shall vote or attempt to vote for a member may be punished in such manner as the House determines.

f. Any member or other person who wilfully tampers with or attempts to disarrange, deface, impair, or destroy in any manner whatsoever the electronic voting equipment or who destroys or changes the record of votes thereon shall be punished in such manner as the House determines.

*Provided*, however, the minimum penalty for violation of Rule 7.3 shall be a public reprimand.

g. The Speaker *Pro Tempore* or a member who has been appointed by the Speaker to preside may designate another member to cast his vote on any question while he is presiding in accordance with his instructions from the Chair.

h. A member recorded as voting while absent from the Chamber shall present to the presiding officer an affidavit attesting to this fact. Any member may also report to the presiding officer his knowledge that another member was recorded as voting while absent from the Chamber. If the affidavit of the member whose vote is in question is presented within forty‑eight hours of the vote, the presiding officer shall adjust the vote totals to reflect the affidavit and order action on the question in accordance with the adjusted vote total. If the member filing the affidavit or any other member has knowledge of the identity of the person who voted for him while absent, he shall present this information to the presiding officer who shall refer it to the Ethics Committee for consideration of any recommendation of punishment in accordance with this rule.

i. Each member shall be issued one electronic card by the Sergeant at Arms to activate the voting console on his desk to operate the electronic voting system. That card may not be duplicated by the member nor may a duplicate be issued to a member. The card must not be left in the voting console at any time while the member is not within the outer doors of the Chamber. If a member loses his card, a replacement will be issued by the Sergeant at Arms at the member’s expense. If a member is temporarily without his card while the House is in session, the Sergeant at Arms will provide a temporary card to that member at the member’s request for that day only and that card may not be removed from the House Chamber.

**7.4** If the electronic roll call machine is declared by the Speaker of the House to be inoperative, the ‘Yeas’ and ‘Nays’ shall be taken by the Reading Clerk calling each member’s name in alphabetical order and each member responding by answering simply: ‘Yea’ or ‘Nay’. Each member who may be in the House when called may give his vote.

*Provided*, further, that when the electronic roll call system is being used to record votes, the doors shall not be closed and members shall be permitted to vote as *provided* in Rule 7.3.

**7.5** No member shall, under any circumstances, be permitted to vote after a decision shall have been announced by the Chair. After the decision of the question, a member absent may be permitted to record the vote he would have given if present, but such vote shall not affect the previous question.

**7.6** No member shall be permitted to explain his vote during a roll call, but may reduce his explanation to writing, in not more than 200 words, and upon filing said explanation with the Clerk, it shall be entered in the Journal.

**7.7** When the pending question is the passage of any bill or resolution on the contested Calendar on second reading, the yeas and nays shall be taken by roll call and the votes thereon shall be recorded in the Journal.

**7.8** A member of the House of Representatives may give his proxy to vote on matters before the full body to another member of the House of Representatives if that member is deployed by military order for federal military duty or state national guard duty to a combat zone for a period of more than twenty‑one days during a legislative session. However, the member holding the proxy may not cast a vote for the deployed member unless the deployed member has specifically provided the voting member with written voting instructions, including, but not limited to, instruction transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail, with regard to the deployed member’s position on the issue. The proxy on a particular question may be used upon unanimous consent of the members of the House present and voting provided the proxy vote does not change the outcome of the question.

**Rule 8**

**Motions and Their Precedence**

**8.1** No motion shall be debated until it shall have been stated by the Speaker. Any motion, if requested by the Speaker, must be reduced to writing and delivered at the desk and read, before it shall be debated.

**8.2** The mover may withdraw any question or proposition before an amendment or decision, except after a demand for the yeas and nays and except after the previous question has been ordered.

**8.3** No dilatory motion or amendment shall be entertained by the Speaker, prior precedents to the contrary notwithstanding.

**8.4** A question before the House shall be suspended by:

1. a message;

2. a report or resolution of the Committees on Rules, Conference, Free Conference, or Invitations;

3. a question of order;

4. a question of privilege;

5. a question of taking recess;

6. any other incidental questions, such as of reading papers, dividing a question, withdrawing a motion, excusing a member from voting, or the like. *Provided*, further, the five first named may suspend even a speech; *provided*, that the fifth, if once negatived, shall not be received during the same speech without the consent of the member speaking.

**8.5** When a question is under debate only those motions herein below shall be received and notwithstanding the provisions of any other rule, none of such motions except the motion to adjourn or recede, a motion to continue, or a motion for the previous question shall be considered until the conclusion of such debate. Such motions shall require a simple majority vote unless otherwise specified herein:

1. to adjourn or recede;

2. to continue;

3. to lay on the table;

4. for the previous question (fifty percent of those present and voting, a quorum being present, plus five when a member has the floor at the time the motion is made);

5. to adjourn the debate to a certain day;

6. to commit or recommit.

These motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are hereinabove arranged.

*Provided*, a motion to reconsider shall be received and noted while a speech is being made but notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 8.14, shall be considered immediately after disposal of the pending matter or pursuant to Rule 6.3, subparagraph 10, whichever shall come first.

**8.6** The previous question upon any matter may be invoked as follows:

Upon an affirmative vote on a motion for the previous question (fifty percent of those present and voting, a quorum being present, plus five, being required to interrupt debate and a simple majority vote at all other times), the amendments then upon the desk shall be considered, but no further amendments shall be allowed to be offered unless the amendment has at least two‑thirds of the membership of the House as its sponsor. The proponents of an amendment shall be allowed an opportunity to make a short explanation of his amendment for a period not to exceed three minutes, then opponents to the amendment shall be permitted not more than three minutes to oppose the proposed amendment. Then two hours of debate shall be allowed on the bill, the time being equally divided between opponents and proponents with no person to speak more than ten minutes. *Provided*, that after the previous question has been invoked, the primary sponsor of an amendment may withdraw it with unanimous consent without making a motion to table it.

*Provided,* the previous question may be invoked on a motion to reconsider only when the matter to be reconsidered is debatable.

*Provided*, a motion to adjourn debate shall be in order even though the previous question has been invoked.

*Provided*, further, any member who has been recognized by the Speaker and is speaking from the podium, is considered to be debating the issue and a call for the previous question, whether by the member or any other member, requires the necessary fifty percent of those present and voting plus five.

**8.7** A motion to recess may state the time for reconvening and in the absence of such time stated, reconvening shall be at the call of the Chair. The Speaker may at anytime order the House to stand at ease to be reconvened at the call of the Chair.

**8.8** (Reserved)

**8.9** When a motion is made during a motion period, the Speaker shall entertain but one motion at a time and there shall be no substitute motions considered. The same motion may be entertained consecutively during the motion period.

**8.10** Any member may without debate, call for the division of a question and the House may divide the question if the Speaker determines the question so distinct that, one being taken away, the rest may stand entirely on its own. *Provided*, however, that a bill may not be divided into separate parts.

**8.11** a. The following motions shall be decided by simple majority unless otherwise specified and without debate after any short remarks the Speaker permits:

to adjourn;

to recede;

to continue;

to lay on the table;

for the previous question (unless it is made when a member

has the floor and then it requires a majority plus five);

to adjourn debate;

to commit or recommit;

to resolve the House into a Committee of the Whole;

to proceed to the orders of the day;

to recur to the morning hour;

to fix the hour to which the House shall next meet;

to grant free conference powers;

to divide the question.

b. The following motions shall not be permitted at the same stage of the bill or proposition until one hour of time has elapsed since the same question was negatived:

for the previous question;

to lay on the table;

to adjourn debate;

to continue;

to commit or recommit;

to recur to the morning hour.

**8.12** Motions to adjourn, to recede, and to recede subject to the call of the Chair, shall always be in order except while the House is actually engaged in deciding a question by yeas and nays or in voting *viva voce* or in balloting. However, if a motion to adjourn or to take a recess has been negatived, no new motion to adjourn or take a recess shall be in order until fifteen minutes shall have elapsed from the decision of the former motion, even though such motion to recede might be to recede to a different time.

**8.13** (Reserved)

**8.14** When a question shall have been once decided in the affirmative or negative, any member who voted with the prevailing side may on the same day or the next day of the sitting of the House move for a reconsideration thereof and the House, if in session for statewide matters, shall immediately have the question of reconsideration before it. If the House is not in session for statewide matters or have before it a matter under Special Order, it shall have the question of reconsideration before it as provided in Rule 6.3. *Provided*, that, if the motion to reconsider concerns an amendment to the matter under Special Order, the House shall immediately have the question of reconsideration before it. If the House shall refuse to reconsider, or, upon reconsideration, shall affirm its first decision, no further motion shall be in order except by unanimous consent; *provided*, that once a motion to reconsider is made it may not be withdrawn except in the same day in which it was made.

*Provided*, that a motion to reconsider shall not be allowed if the bill, resolution, message, report, amendment, motion, or the paper upon which the vote was taken shall have gone out of the possession of the House.

A motion to reconsider may be laid on the table. If such motion be laid on the table, it shall be deemed a final disposition of the motion.

**8.15** A member may move to continue a matter when called on the Calendar to the next session, but not to a specific date in the next session; and if the House agrees thereto, the matter shall be thereupon continued to the next session, and the Clerk of the House shall make up a Calendar of all the matters so continued, placing the same thereupon, in the order in which they have been continued. At the ensuing session the continued matters shall be taken up and considered in the same stage in which they were when so continued and shall have priority according to the last order for consideration made upon them.

If a motion to continue, having received an affirmative vote, shall be reconsidered and thereupon such motion to continue shall receive a negative vote, the matter shall be taken up in its original place on the Calendar.

**Rule 9**

**Amendments**

**9.1** A bill which originated in the House, or which, having originated in the Senate and having been amended by the House, shall be returned from the Senate with amendments, such bill as amended shall be printed, placed on the House Calendar, and shall not be considered until its number and title shall have been printed in the House Calendar for at least one statewide day prior to such reading. *Provided*, however, that this requirement shall not apply to local bills; nor shall this requirement apply to bills returned from the Senate with amendments during any extension of the session under Section 2‑1‑180 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, or to bills returned from the Senate with amendments during an extra session pursuant to Article IV, Section 19 of the South Carolina Constitution.

The consideration of amendments shall have precedence over a motion to either concur or nonconcur in the Senate amendments. Once the matter is amended and all pending amendments are considered, then said bill is returned to the Senate for consideration.

If no amendments have been adopted by the House then the question shall be: ‘Will the House agree to the Senate amendment?’ A decision in the negative shall be a rejection. Upon a decision in the affirmative, the title of the bill shall be changed to an act and ordered to be enrolled.

**9.2** At the third reading of a bill, no amendment shall be permitted without unanimous consent, except that the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means may (if he shall have given notice at the second reading of his intention to offer amendments at the third) be permitted to offer amendments to any appropriations bill, as may be pertinent to the bill. The chairman of any committee may (if he has given notice at the second reading of his intention to offer amendments at the third) be permitted to offer technical amendments to any bill which has been reported from his committee; and

*Provided*, that the House may, in its discretion, commit or recommit any bill at its third reading and after the report of the committee any amendment which it shall recommend may be adopted.

**9.3** No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment unless it refers to the intent of the motion or proposition under consideration. *Provided*, that nothing in this rule shall prevent a committee from amending and favorably reporting a Senate bill with an amendment identical to the final version of a House bill that was referred to that committee and passed by the House during the current two‑year session. *Provided*, further, that nothing shall prevent the adoption of an amendment which rewrites the bill in its entirety if the bill as rewritten remains germane to the original title of the bill. *Provided*, further, that in determining whether or not any amendment be germane, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be guided by precedents of the House of Representatives to the extent available.

**9.4** A proposed amendment shall be in order regardless of the number of changes proposed therein to the matter under debate, *provided* such amendment is otherwise in order. Proposed amendments must be typewritten and in the proper format for the computer system except as allowed by the Speaker at his discretion.

**9.5** Proposed amendments to any matter before the House shall be initially considered in the order in which received.

**9.6** Proposed amendments to local bills may not impact, affect, or reference any portion of a county other than the county originally referenced in the local bill.

**Rule 10**

**Miscellaneous**

**10.1** Only the following persons shall be admitted within the House Chamber during a session of the House unless otherwise authorized by House Resolution.

The present and former members and officers and present employees of the House of Representatives; the members of the Press as designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Governor; the Lieutenant Governor; each statewide constitutional officer; the present members, officers, and employees of the Senate; the present employees of the Legislative Council; dignitaries and the family of members designated by the Speaker, employees of the respective legislative delegations; the employees of legislative caucuses, and such persons as may be invited by resolution of the House; *provided*, however, that employees of legislative caucuses, legislative delegations, the Senate, state agencies, and other branches of state government that are authorized admittance must remain behind the rail in the back of the Chamber at all times when the House is in session; *provided*, no seat in the House shall be occupied by anyone except the members thereof. No lobbyist, including former members registered as lobbyists, shall be admitted within the Hall without special leave of the House. No former member seeking personal favors nor any former member who has filed as a candidate or is a candidate for a position which is elected by the General Assembly shall be admitted within the outer doors of the Chamber without special leave of the House. *Provided*, that no member of the Press may conduct interviews within the House Chamber while the House is in session.

*Provided*, that notwithstanding other provisions of this rule, access within the outer doors of the Chamber is denied to any former House member who has been convicted of a crime, the conviction of which would impose a maximum penalty of imprisonment of one year or more. This paragraph does not apply to a former House member who is re‑elected to either House of the General Assembly after the conviction of the crime referred to in this paragraph.

**10.2** Whenever the pronoun ‘he’ appears in any rule, it shall be deemed to designate either masculine or feminine. The words ‘person’ and ‘party’ and any other word importing the singular number used in any bill or resolution shall be held to include the plural and to include firms, companies, associations, and corporations and all words in the plural shall apply also to the singular in all cases in which the spirit and intent of the bill or resolution may require it. All words in a bill or resolution importing the masculine gender shall apply to females also and words in the feminine gender shall apply to males. And all words importing the present tense shall apply to the future also.

**10.3** Definitions of measures:

1. ‘Resolutions’ This term includes:

a. ‘House Resolution’ which affects only the action of the House and the members thereof. It requires only one reading for adoption, and shall not be submitted to the Senate.

b. ‘Concurrent Resolution’ which affects only the action of the General Assembly and the members thereof. It requires only one reading in each House for adoption.

c. ‘Joint Resolution’ which shall have the same force of law as an act, but is a temporary measure, dying when its subject matter is completed. It requires the same treatment as a bill does in its passage through both Houses, but its title after passage shall not be changed to that of an act; and when used to propose an amendment to the Constitution it does not require the approval of the Governor.

2. ‘Bill’ A bill is the term applied to a measure introduced in either House designed to become a permanent law (or an ‘act’).

It must be read and adopted three times on three separate days in each House, following which its title is changed to that of an act.

3. ‘Act’ An act is the term applied to a bill that has passed both Houses, been ratified by the presiding officer of each House and signed by the Governor or passed over his veto. It is a permanent measure, having the force of law until repealed.

4. ‘Veto’ The term used for disapproval of a bill or joint resolution by the Governor. It may be overridden by a two‑thirds vote of the members present and voting of each House.

**10.4** The House shall not accept any invitations to attend functions (social or otherwise) which are to be held at a club or organization which does not admit as members persons of all races, religions, colors, sexes, or national origins. All invitations received shall be referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions and the five House members on the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions shall have the duty of recommending to the House which invitations should be accepted.

**10.5** Each member of the House shall be entitled to appoint one individual as a House page to perform such duties as determined by the Speaker. The provisions of this rule shall be contingent upon the General Assembly providing for at least one hundred twenty–four House pages in the annual General Appropriations Act for the fiscal year during which such session shall take place. Any additional House pages authorized shall be appointed by the Speaker in his sole discretion. Pages and guests of the House shall observe appropriate and dignified attire which means shirt and tie for males and dress, skirt or slacks and blouse, or pants suits for females. This provision shall be enforced by the Speaker.

**10.6** Laptop computers located in the House Chamber may not be removed from the Chamber.

**10.7** No smoking or use of tobacco products is permitted in any area under the exclusive control of the House of Representatives unless the area is otherwise designated a ‘smoking area’ by the Speaker. Smoking for purposes of this rule includes carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted smoking equipment. *Provided*, further, that the consumption of food is not permitted within the House Chamber.

**10.8** No member of the House shall incur more than one thousand eight hundred dollars in long distance telephone charges at state expense during any fiscal year. If a member accumulates more than one thousand eight hundred dollars in long distance telephone expenses during any fiscal year, he shall be billed and must reimburse the State on a monthly basis for the remaining balance.

**10.9** House Resolutions granting the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber to persons not otherwise granted the privilege pursuant to House Rule 10.1 are limited to the following conditions:

(a) The privilege of admittance to the House Chamber is limited to school teams or school groups that have won state or national championships or received statewide or national awards. Individual persons are not granted the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber.

(b) School teams or groups may be scheduled for the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber only on Wednesdays and Thursdays that the House is in session, and no more than two teams or groups may be scheduled in one day. *Provided*, further, that no school teams or groups may be granted the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber during the last week of the regularly scheduled legislative session.

(c) The House member wishing for the qualified school team or group to have privilege of admittance to the House Chamber shall introduce a House Resolution granting the privilege on a ‘date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House’. The House of Representatives shall adopt the resolution in order for the team or group to be granted the privilege. *Provided*, the school team or group’s list of members, coaches, mascot, and other appropriate school officials must be listed on the House Calendar for the day in which they are granted the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber. The House member sponsoring the resolution shall provide the appropriate information to the Clerk five days in advance of the school team or group scheduled admittance to the House Chamber.

(d) All other teams, groups, or individuals not otherwise allowed the privilege of admittance to the House Chamber may be recognized in the balcony of the House Chamber at a ‘time determined by the Speaker of the House’. *Provided*, no presentation either within the House Chamber or in the balcony may exceed five minutes, and no one, other than a House member, may speak or make remarks during a presentation.

**10.10** The use of audible pagers, cell phones, and any other personal communication device by any person is prohibited in the House Chamber when the House is in session and when the General Assembly is meeting in Joint Session. The use of these devices by any person is also prohibited in House committee meetings and subcommittee meetings. These devices must be turned off, or placed in a silent mode, such as vibrate, prior to being carried into the House Chamber, committee meetings, or subcommittee meetings. Should a device which has been placed in a silent mode activate in the Chamber, a committee meeting, or subcommittee meeting the person possessing the device must exit the Chamber, committee room, or subcommittee room prior to responding in any fashion.

**10.11** The Clerk’s office shall establish procedures for providing House members with certificates commemorating birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, achievements, awards, etc. as needed. House members shall request certificates in writing and provide the Clerk’s office with the information necessary to complete the certificates.

The Clerk’s office also shall establish procedures whereby members may have House certificates and House and Concurrent Resolutions framed at local businesses providing framing services within the Columbia area during the legislative session. House members are responsible for paying for all framing services within a timely manner.

The Clerk’s office shall establish procedures whereby staff shall deliver framing requests to local businesses no more than one time each legislative day. *Provided*, further, the Clerk’s office shall establish procedures whereby staff shall pickup framing requests from local businesses no more than one time each legislative day. Framing requests will not be delivered or picked up on nonlegislative days. All framing requests, upon their completion and pickup, must be delivered to the House member on the State House complex. House staff may not deliver framing requests to members outside the State House complex.”

The Resolution was adopted.

**ELECTION OF OPERATIONS**

**AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for seven members of the House Operations and Management Committee.

The following names were placed in nomination: Reps. G. R. SMITH, BALES, ALLISON, LONG, KNIGHT, PARKER and TOOLE.

On motion of Rep. COBB-HUNTER, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominees.

Whereupon, the SPEAKER announced that Reps. G. R. SMITH, BALES, ALLISON, LONG, KNIGHT, PARKER and TOOLE were duly elected for the term prescribed by law.

**ELECTION OF HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The SPEAKER announced that nominations were in order for six members of the House Ethics Committee.

The following names were placed in nomination: Reps. FUNDERBURK, LOWE, PITTS, UMPHLETT, J. R. SMITH and BRADY.

On motion of Rep. HIOTT, nominations were closed and, with unanimous consent, the vote was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of the nominees.

Whereupon, the SPEAKER announced that Reps. FUNDERBURK, LOWE, PITTS, UMPHLETT, J. R. SMITH and BRADY were duly elected for the term prescribed by law.

**HOUSE TO MEET AT 10:00 A.M. TOMORROW**

Rep. TAYLOR moved that when the House adjourns it adjourn to meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, which was agreed to.

Rep. SKELTON moved that the House do now adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:00 p.m. the House, in accordance with the motion of Rep. TAYLOR adjourned to meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.