**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO OFFICERS AND RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MATTERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE FOR THE 2020 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THEREAFTER, NO PERSON MAY BE SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF A STANDING COMMITTEE IN EITHER HOUSE WHO DID NOT SERVE ON THAT COMMITTEE DURING THE SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING; AND TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2020 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THEREAFTER, NO PERSON MAY SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF A PARTICULAR STANDING COMMITTEE IN EITHER HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR A PERIOD IN EXCESS OF TWELVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, NOT INCLUDING ANY SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN DUE TO DEATH, RESIGNATION, OR REMOVAL.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 12, Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

“Beginning with the organizational sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the 2020 session of the General Assembly and thereafter, no person may be selected as chairman of a standing committee in either house who did not serve on that committee during the session of the General Assembly immediately preceding.”

SECTION 2. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballot:

“Must Section 12, Article III of the Constitution of this State, relating to officers and rules of the General Assembly and related matters, be amended so as to provide that beginning with the organizational sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the 2020 session of the General Assembly and thereafter, no person may be selected as chairman of a standing committee in either house who did not serve on that committee during the session of the General Assembly immediately preceding?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

SECTION 3. It is proposed that Section 12, Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

“Beginning with the 2020 session of the General Assembly and thereafter, no person may serve as chairman of a particular standing committee in either house of the General Assembly for a period in excess of twelve consecutive years, not including any service as chairman to fill a vacancy in the office of chairman due to death, resignation, or removal.”

SECTION 4. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballot:

“Must Section 12, Article III of the Constitution of this State, relating to officers and rules of the General Assembly and related matters beginning with the 2020 session of the General Assembly and thereafter, be amended so as to provide that no person may serve as chairman of a particular standing committee in either house of the General Assembly for a period in excess of twelve consecutive years, not including any service as chairman to fill a vacancy in the office of chairman due to death, resignation, or removal?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

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