**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**A181, R118, S996**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Alexander, Rankin and Hutto

Document Path: l:\s-jud\bills\alexander\jud0083.hla.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 4827

Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2020

Introduced in the House on January 21, 2020

Last Amended on January 30, 2020

Passed by the General Assembly on February 5, 2020

Governor's Action: February 6, 2020, Signed

Summary: Public Utilities Review Committee

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/14/2020 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 66](file:///h:\sj\20200114.docx))

1/14/2020 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 66](file:///h:\sj\20200114.docx))

1/15/2020 Senate Recalled from Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 2](file:///h:\sj\20200115.docx))

1/15/2020 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 2](file:///h:\sj\20200115.docx))

1/16/2020 Scrivener's error corrected

1/16/2020 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\sj\20200116.docx))

1/16/2020 Senate Roll call Ayes‑37 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\sj\20200116.docx))

1/21/2020 House Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference ([House Journal‑page 71](file:///h:\hj\20200121.docx))

1/22/2020 House Requests for debate‑Rep(s).  King, Rutherford, Cobb‑Hunter, Ott, Brawley, Govan, Garvin, Matthews, Bamberg, S Williams, Gilliard, Fry, Crawford, Clemmons, Moore ([House Journal‑page 32](file:///h:\hj\20200122.docx))

1/23/2020 House Requests for debate removed‑Rep(s).  King, Fry, Crawford, Rutherford, S Williams, Ott, Brawley, Garvin, Matthews, Clemmons, Cobb‑Hunter, Moore ([House Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\hj\20200123.docx))

1/23/2020 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 52](file:///h:\hj\20200123.docx))

1/23/2020 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 52](file:///h:\hj\20200123.docx))

1/23/2020 House Roll call Yeas‑78 Nays‑32 ([House Journal‑page 54](file:///h:\hj\20200123.docx))

1/28/2020 House Returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\hj\20200128.docx))

1/30/2020 Senate House amendment amended ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj\20200130.docx))

1/30/2020 Senate Returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\sj\20200130.docx))

1/31/2020 Scrivener's error corrected

2/5/2020 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\hj\20200205.docx))

2/5/2020 House Roll call Yeas‑79 Nays‑19 ([House Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\hj\20200205.docx))

2/6/2020 Ratified R 118

2/6/2020 Signed By Governor

2/11/2020 Effective date 02/06/2020

10/9/2020 Act No.  181

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=996&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/14/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200114.docx)

[1/15/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200115.docx)

[1/16/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200116.docx)

[1/21/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200121.docx)

[1/23/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200123.docx)

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[1/31/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\996_20200131.docx)

(A181, R118, S996)

**A JOINT RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE TO EXTEND THE SCREENING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SEATS 1, 3, 5, AND 7; TO REQUIRE THESE POSITIONS TO BE ADVERTISED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TIME PERIOD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS; TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2020, THROUGH NOON ON FEBRUARY 28, 2020; TO PROVIDE WHO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER; TO PROVIDE WHEN TRANSCRIPTS FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS MAY BE RELEASED; AND TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE.**

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

**Candidate screening extended for Public Service Commission Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7**

SECTION 1. The Public Utilities Review Committee conducted a screening of candidates for the Public Service Commission, Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7. After the committee’s public hearings, held on January 7 and 8, 2020, a total of six candidates were found qualified.

The Public Utilities Review Committee shall extend the screening for candidates for the Public Service Commission, Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7. The committee previously fulfilled the notice requirements pursuant to Section 2‑20‑15 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976; however, the committee is directed to advertise for these positions for an additional time period, to begin no later than Sunday, January 26, 2020, through Sunday, February 23, 2020. This advertisement shall be forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation in Congressional Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 with a request that the advertisement be published once a week. The committee also must forward the advertisement to media outlets for a general press release as well as make reasonable efforts to notify professional organizations within South Carolina, if applicable, that represent the areas of background and expertise listed in Section 58‑3‑20(A)(2) regarding the vacancies.

The committee will accept applications from Monday, February 3, 2020, through noon on Friday, February 28, 2020. These applications will be considered by the committee, in addition to the applications of those persons whom the committee found qualified on January 8, 2020. Applicants who either withdrew, or who the committee failed to find “qualified” for Seats 1, 3, 5, or 7 from October 11, 2019, through this joint resolution’s effective date, shall not receive further consideration.

The committee shall simultaneously release the transcripts, including exhibits, from all public hearings during this screening process within a reasonable time upon the completion of all public hearings for candidates.

In screening candidates for the Public Service Commission and making its findings, the Public Utilities Review Committee must seek to find the best qualified people by giving due consideration to the: (1) ability, dedication, compassion, common sense, and integrity of the candidates; and (2) race and gender of the candidates and other demographic factors to assure nondiscrimination to the greatest extent possible of all segments of the population of the State.

**Time effective**

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 6th day of February, 2020.

Approved the 6th day of February, 2020.

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