COMMITTEE REPORT

January 16, 2020

**H. 4827**

Introduced by Reps. Lucas, Sandifer, Forrester and Mack

S. Printed 1/16/20--H. [SEC 1/17/20 1:29 PM]

Read the first time January 14, 2020.

**THE COMMITTEE ON**

**LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

To whom was referred a Joint Resolution (H. 4827) to provide that the Public Utilities Review Committee shall extend candidate screening for candidates for the South Carolina Public Service Commission seats 1, 3, 5, and 7, to provide, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

WILLIAM E. SANDIFER III for Committee.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL EXTEND CANDIDATE SCREENING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SEATS 1, 3, 5, AND 7, TO PROVIDE THAT THESE POSITIONS MUST BE ADVERTISED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TIME PERIOD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN OTHER SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR A TIME PERIOD BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020, THROUGH NOON ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020, TO PROVIDE WHO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER, AND TO PROVIDE WHEN TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARINGS MUST BE RELEASED.

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

SECTION 1. The Public Utilities Review Committee conducted a screening of candidates for the Public Service Commission, Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7. Following the committee’s public hearings held on January 7‑8, 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; 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 must 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 shall 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 Public Utilities Review Committee shall accept applications from Monday, February 3, 2020, through noon on Friday, February 28, 2020. These applications must 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 whom the committee failed to find “qualified” for Seats 1, 3, 5, or 7 from October 11, 2019, through this concurrent resolution’s effective date must not receive further consideration.

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

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

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