

NO. 75

**JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**SENATE**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION BEGINNING**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026**

---

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

**Saturday, May 23, 2026  
(Extraordinary Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 10:00 A.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

II Chronicles 9:22

Holy Scripture reminds us that in the ancient world: “King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.”

Let us bow in prayer, please: Truly, O glorious Lord, I feel confident that not any of us would be bold enough or arrogant enough to declare that we -- like King Solomon of old -- possessed his grandiose level of wisdom, much less his wealth. Still, hardly a day passes when we do not thank You, O Lord, for the collective wisdom and the profound wealth of talent that these Senators and their staff aides all bring to their roles here in the Senate of South Carolina. And, as these leaders together take on issue after issue and problem after problem, we all are indeed grateful that they share their gifts on behalf of everyone here in our State, striving unflinchingly to conscientiously make life better for all. With grateful hearts dear Lord, we so pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

**Call of the Senate**

Senator PEELER moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Adams	Alexander	Allen
Bennett	Blackmon	Bright
Campsen	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Davis	Devine	Elliott
Fernandez	Gambrell	Garrett
Goldfinch	Graham	Grooms
Hembree	Hutto	Jackson
Johnson	Leber	Massey
Matthews	Peeler	Rankin

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Reichenbach	Rice	Sabb
Stubbs	Sutton	Tedder
Turner	Verdin	Walker
Young		

A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

**Recorded Presence**

Senators OTT and KIMBRELL recorded their presence subsequent to the Call of the Senate.

**Motion Adopted**

On motion of Senator PEELER, the Senate agreed that if and when the Senate stands adjourned today, it will adjourn to meet tomorrow Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 28; Nays 15**

**AYES**

Adams	Alexander	Bennett
Blackmon	Bright	Campsen
Cash	Climer	Corbin
Cromer	Davis	Elliott
Fernandez	Gambrell	Garrett
Goldfinch	Grooms	Johnson
Kennedy	Kimbrell	Leber
Peeler	Rankin	Reichenbach
Rice	Turner	Verdin
Young		

**Total--28**

**NAYS**

Allen	Chaplin	Devine
Graham	Hembree	Hutto
Jackson	Massey	Matthews
Ott	Sabb	Stubbs
Sutton	Tedder	Walker

**Total--15**

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

The motion was adopted.

**Leave of Absence**

On motion of Senator JACKSON, at 10:14 A.M., Senator WILLIAMS was granted a leave of absence for today.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

Senator JACKSON rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**Remarks to be Printed**

On motion of Senator CASH, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator JACKSON, when reduced to writing and made available to the Desk, would be printed in the Journal.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

Senator RANKIN rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO H. 5683 – REDISTRICTING OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS**

**READ THE SECOND TIME**

H. 5683 -- Reps. Rankin, Pace, C. Mitchell, Cromer, Gilreath, Bustos, Magnuson, Edgerton, Burns, Oremus, Bailey, Guest, Brittain, Chumley, J.E. Johnson, Haddon, Jordan, Lawson, Lowe, McGinnis, B. Newton, W. Newton, G.M. Smith, White, Willis and McCravy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 7-19-35 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTION DISTRICTS FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 7-19-45 RELATING TO ELECTION DISTRICTS FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WERE FORMERLY ELECTED.

The Senate proceeded to a consideration of the Bill, the question being the second reading of the Bill.

**Amendment No. 8**

Senators HUTTO, JACKSON, SABB, WILLIAMS, ALLEN, MATTHEWS, TEDDER, DEVINE, GRAHAM, OTT, SUTTON and WALKER proposed the following amendment (LC-5683.AHB0083S), which was withdrawn:

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. In conducting the 2026 Congressional redistricting, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any implementation of changes to congressional district boundaries shall be undertaken in a manner that allows sufficient time to avoid voter confusion and ensure orderly election administration.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Senator CAMPSSEN spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks to be Printed**

On motion of Senator CASH, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator CAMPSSEN, when reduced to writing and made available to the Desk, would be printed in the Journal.

Senator CAMPSSEN spoke on the amendment.

Senator GROOMS spoke on the amendment.

**Motion Under Rule 15B Adopted**

At 1:04 P.M., Senator GROOMS moved under the provisions of Rule 15B that debate on the entire matter of H. 5683 be brought to a close.

The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 26; Nays 18**

**AYES**

Adams	Alexander	Blackmon
Bright	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Elliott	Fernandez	Gambrell
Garrett	Goldfinch	Grooms
Johnson	Kennedy	Kimbrell
Leber	Peeler	Reichenbach
Rice	Stubbs	Turner
Verdin	Young	

**Total--26**

**NAYS**

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Allen	Bennett	Campsen
Davis	Devine	Graham
Hembree	Hutto	Jackson
Massey	Matthews	Ott
Rankin	Sabb	Sutton
Tedder	Walker	Zell

**Total--18**

The motion was adopted.

**RECESS**

At 1:09 P.M., on motion of Senator GROOMS, the Senate recessed from business.

At 2:17 P.M., the Senate resumed.

Senator OTT asked unanimous consent to proceed to Amendment No. 26A.

**Amendment No. 26A**

Senator OTT proposed the following amendment (LC-5683.HDB0139S), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 4, by adding a subsection to read:

(I) Any person who votes in the June statewide primary or runoff election for one party shall not vote in the August special primary for a different party.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Senator OTT explained the amendment.

Senator GROOMS moved to lay the amendment on the table.

The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 34; Nays 9**

**AYES**

Adams	Alexander	Bennett
Blackmon	Bright	Campsen

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Cash	Chaplin	Climer
Corbin	Cromer	Davis
Elliott	Fernandez	Gambrell
Garrett	Goldfinch	Grooms
Hembree	Hutto	Johnson
Kennedy	Kimbrell	Leber
Massey	Peeler	Rankin
Reichenbach	Rice	Stubbs
Turner	Verdin	Young
Zell		

**Total--34**

**NAYS**

Allen	Devine	Graham
Matthews	Ott	Sabb
Sutton	Tedder	Walker

**Total--9**

The amendment was laid on the table.

Senator SUTTON asked unanimous consent to proceed to Amendment No. 9A.

**Amendment No. 9A**

Senator SUTTON proposed the following amendment (LC-5683.HDB0136S), which was tabled:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 4, by adding a subsection to read:

(1)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 15, Title 7 of the S.C. Code, any voter who casts an absentee ballot in the June statewide primaries must be issued absentee ballots for the special primaries and special primary runoffs without being required to submit additional absentee ballot applications or otherwise comply with any additional requirements.

(2) Each county board of voter registration and elections shall issue absentee ballots for the special primaries and special primary runoffs to the same address each voter requested to receive an absentee ballot for the June statewide primaries unless a voter timely specifies a different address.

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

(3) The absentee ballots issued to each voter under this subsection must be for the same political party's special primary and runoff as the voter participated in during the June statewide primaries unless the voter timely requests to receive an absentee ballot for another party's special primary and runoff.

(J) The State Election Commission shall transmit with overseas ballots for the special primaries held on August 18, 2026, for the seven seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to be voted on in the November 3, 2026, general election a notice that explains why the recipient is receiving an additional ballot and that a vote the recipient cast previously for U.S. House of Representatives in the June primary election was not counted.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

Senator SUTTON explained the amendment.

Senator GROOMS spoke on the amendment.

Senator GROOMS moved to lay the amendment on the table.

The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 26; Nays 18**

**AYES**

Adams	Alexander	Blackmon
Bright	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Elliott	Fernandez	Gambrell
Garrett	Goldfinch	Grooms
Johnson	Kennedy	Kimbrell
Leber	Peeler	Reichenbach
Rice	Turner	Verdin
Young	Zell	

**Total--26**

**NAYS**

Allen	Bennett	Campsen
Davis	Devine	Graham
Hembree	Hutto	Jackson
Massey	Matthews	Ott

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Rankin	Sabb	Stubbs
Sutton	Tedder	Walker

**Total--18**

The amendment was laid on the table.

**Motion Adopted**

On motion of Senator MASSEY, with unanimous consent, the Senate agreed that all amendments currently on the desk were withdrawn; that after a successful roll call vote on second reading, the provisions of Rule 26B were waived for third reading; that the Senate would meet under the provisions of Rule 1B on Sunday, May 24, 2026, and Monday, May 25, 2026, with those days counting as statewide session days for debate on H. 5683; and further, that the Senate would meet in statewide session on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

The question then was second reading of the Bill.

The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 27; Nays 17**

**AYES**

Adams	Alexander	Blackmon
Bright	Cash	Chaplin
Climer	Corbin	Cromer
Elliott	Fernandez	Gambrell
Garrett	Goldfinch	Grooms
Johnson	Kennedy	Kimbrell
Leber	Peeler	Reichenbach
Rice	Stubbs	Turner
Verdin	Young	Zell

**Total--27**

**NAYS**

Allen	Bennett	Campsen
Davis	Devine	Graham
Hembree	Hutto	Jackson
Massey	Matthews	Ott
Rankin	Sabb	Sutton

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

Tedder

Walker

**Total--17**

There being no further amendments, the Bill was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**Motion Adopted**

On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:24 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M., under the provisions of Rule 1B.

\* \* \*

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**  
**SENATE JOURNAL INDEX**

H. 5683 .....3