

## Session 123 - (2019-2020)

**S 0760 General Bill, By M.B. Matthews**

***Similar (S 0539, H 3145)***

**Summary:** Electric coops

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 33-49-150 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF IS VESTED WITH THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION TO CONDUCT AUDITS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES IN THE SAME MANNER, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS IT IS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT AUDITS OF REGULATED PUBLIC UTILITIES AS PROVIDED BY LAW; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-420, RELATING TO ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS OF AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, SO AS TO REVISE THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MEETINGS; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-430, RELATING TO A QUORUM AT MEETINGS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, SO AS TO ALLOW PERSONS CASTING EARLY VOTING BALLOTS FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES TO BE COUNTED FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING A QUORUM AT THE MEETING FOR THE ELECTION, AND TO PROHIBIT VOTING BY PROXY; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-440, RELATING TO VOTING BY MEMBERS, SO AS TO PERMIT EARLY VOTING FOR MEETINGS AT WHICH TRUSTEES ARE TO BE ELECTED AND THE PROCEDURES FOR EARLY VOTING; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-610, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A COOPERATIVE, SO AS TO REVISE THE MANNER IN WHICH VACANCIES OCCURRING FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN EXPIRATION OF A TERM ARE FILLED WHICH MUST BE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM ONLY, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE BYLAWS MUST DIVIDE THE AREA OF THE COOPERATIVE INTO SEPARATE VOTING DISTRICTS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED, AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE RESIDING IN A VOTING DISTRICT SHALL ELECT A MEMBER OF THE BOARD FROM THAT DISTRICT; BY ADDING SECTION 33-49-615 SO AS TO REQUIRE ANNUAL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PAID TO OR PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES; TO AMEND SECTION 33-49-620, RELATING TO VOTING DISTRICTS WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED TO ELECT CERTAIN TRUSTEES AND DELEGATES WHO MAY VOTE FOR TRUSTEES, SO AS TO CONFORM ITS PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO REFLECT THAT BOARD MEMBERS MUST BE ELECTED FROM PARTICULAR VOTING DISTRICTS BY THE MEMBERS FROM THAT DISTRICT, AND TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS MAY VOTE ONLY IN PERSON AT A MEETING OR AT AN EARLY VOTING SITE; BY ADDING SECTION 33-49-625 SO AS TO REQUIRE SPECIFIED NOTICE OF MEETINGS TO THE COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP, TO REQUIRE ALL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OR THE BOARD TO BE PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, TO REQUIRE VOTES OF TRUSTEES TO BE TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION WITH THE SAME EXCEPTIONS, TO REQUIRE VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO BE RATIFIED IN OPEN SESSION, AND TO REQUIRE MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS TO BE PROVIDED TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 33-49-645 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IN THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS BY A COOPERATIVE, IT MUST PROHIBIT ADVOCACY OR CAMPAIGNING WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE OF THE POLLING PLACE.

**04/10/19 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 10)**

**04/10/19 Senate Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 10)**