**South Carolina General Assembly**

118th Session, 2009-2010

**S. 316**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Peeler, Verdin, McConnell, Bright, L. Martin, Campbell, Hayes, Grooms, Rose, Fair, Cromer, Ryberg, Bryant, S. Martin, O'Dell, Mulvaney, Shoopman, Massey and Williams

Document Path: l:\council\bills\ggs\22207mm09.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3305

Introduced in the Senate on January 27, 2009

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Secret ballots

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/27/2009 Senate Introduced and read first time [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-27-09.docx)‑18

1/27/2009 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** [SJ](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2009\01-27-09.docx)‑18

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/27/2009](file:///p:\pprever\2009-10\316_20090127.docx)

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1, ARTICLE II OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO ELECTIONS BY SECRET BALLOT AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT APPLIES IN REQUIRED DESIGNATIONS OR AUTHORIZATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 1, Article II of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

“Section 1. All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot, but the ballots shall not be counted in secret. The right of suffrage, as regulated in this Constitution, shall be protected by laws regulating elections and prohibiting, under adequate penalties, all undue influence from power, bribery, tumult, or improper conduct. To preserve and protect the fundamental right of individuals to vote by secret ballot, where local, state, or federal law requires elections for public office or ballot measures, or requires designations or authorizations for employee representation, the right of individuals to vote by secret ballot is guaranteed.”

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 1, Article II of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to provide that the guarantee of the right to vote by secret ballot applies in required designations or authorizations for employee representation?

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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