**Wednesday, December 12, 2012**

**(Statewide Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

## Indicates New Matter

 Pursuant to Article III, Section 9 of the S. C. Constitution, the Senate assembled at 12:00 Noon, the hour to which it stood adjourned, for the purpose of organizing, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

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

The Psalmist declares:

 “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of

water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” (Psalm 1: 1-3)

 Let us together bow in prayer:

 Holy and Ever-loving God, we ask Your special blessing upon the Senate of South Carolina this day. As these servants have gathered to organize for the new legislative year, may each individual be conscious of Your presence in this Chamber, Lord. By Your grace, strengthen these leaders as they prepare afresh to guide the good people of our State. May each Senator and staff member strive to honor You in all of their plans and decisions and actions. May wisdom, honor, and thoughtfulness lead to a new year filled with meaningful results for every South Carolinian. And, as always, truly to You, O God, be the glory. In Your loving name we pray, Lord.

Amen.

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

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator BRYANT, at 12:05 P.M., Senator SHANE MARTIN was granted a leave of absence for today.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

**Office of the Secretary of State**

1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525

Columbia, SC 29201

November 30, 2012

South Carolina Senate

Office of the Clerk

Jeffrey S. Gossett, Clerk

P. O. Box 142

Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Mr. Gossett:

 Please find enclosed a copy of the election results for the South Carolina Senate as certified to this office by the State Election Commission.

 If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-2512.

 With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,
/s/ Mark Hammond

Secretary of State

**South Carolina Election Commission**

2222 Devine Street, P. O. Box 5987

Columbia, SC 29250

November 28, 2012

Honorable Mark Hammond

Secretary of State

1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

 The State Election Commission, in its capacity as the State Board of Canvassers, hereby certifies the winners of the State Senate in the General Election held on November 6, 2012, as reflected below. This updated report includes offices on Richland County ballots that were not previously certified, as well as offices which were previously under protest and have since been resolved.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marci Andino

Executive Director

**SENATE MEMBERS**

2012 Election Results

District

 1 Thomas C. Alexander

 2 Larry A. Martin

 3 Kevin L. Bryant

 4 William H. O’Dell

 5 Tom Corbin

 6 Michael L. Fair

 7 Karl B. Allen

 8 Ross Turner

 9 Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III

10 Floyd Nicholson

11 Glenn G. Reese

12 Lee Bright

13 Shane R. Martin

14 Harvey S. Peeler

15 Robert W. Hayes, Jr.

16 Chauncey K. “Greg” Gregory

17 Creighton B. Coleman

18 Ronnie W. Cromer

19 John L. Scott, Jr.

20 John E. Courson

21 Darrell Jackson

22 Joel Lourie

23 Katrina Shealy

24 Thomas R. “Tom” Young, Jr.

25 A. Shane Massey

26 Nikki G. Setzler

27 Vincent A. Sheheen

28 Greg Hembree

29 Gerald Malloy

30 Kent M. Williams

31 Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

32 John Yancey McGill

33 Luke A. Rankin

34 Raymond E. Cleary III

35 Thomas McElveen

36 Kevin Johnson

37 Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms

38 Sean Bennett

39 John W. Matthews, Jr.

40 C. Bradley Hutto

41 Paul Thurmond

42 Robert Ford

43 George E. “Chip” Campsen III

44 Paul G. Campbell, Jr.

45 Clementa C. Pinckney

46 Tom Davis

**Administration of Oath of Office
Senators Sworn In**

 The Senators presented themselves at the Bar and the Oath of Office was administered to them by the PRESIDENT.

**Election of the PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE***

 The PRESIDENT announced that nominations for the PRESIDENT *Pro Tempore* were in order pursuant to Article IV, Section 9 of the South Carolina Constitution.

 Senator PEELER placed the name of the Honorable John E. Courson in nomination as PRESIDENT *Pro Tempore*.

 Senator SETZLER seconded the nomination.

 Senator SETZLER moved that the nominations be closed and that Senator COURSON be elected PRESIDENT *Pro Tempore* by acclamation.

 Senator COURSON was elected PRESIDENT *Pro Tempore* by acclamation.

**Privilege of the Floor**

 With unanimous consent, the Privilege of the Floor was extended to the Honorable Jean Toal, Chief Justice of the S. C. Supreme Court, for the purpose of administering the Oath of Office to the PRESIDENT *Pro Tempore*.

**Remarks by Senator COURSON**

 Senator COURSON, with unanimous consent, addressed remarks to the Senate.

**Motion Adopted**

 Senator COURSON asked unanimous consent to make a motion that the Senate proceed to the Election of Senate Officers *en banc* and then administer the Oaths of Office.

**Election of Senate Officers**

 The Senate proceeded to the election of officers.

 On motion of Senator COURSON, with unanimous consent, the following individuals were nominated for the respective positions and elected *en banc*:

 On motion of Senator COURSON, with unanimous consent, the name of Mr. Jeffrey S. Gossett was placed in nomination as Clerk; the name of Mr. John O. Wienges was placed in nomination as Reading Clerk; the name of Mr. James R. Melton was placed in nomination as Sergeant-at-Arms; and the name of the Reverend Dr. James I. St. John was placed in nomination as Chaplain.

 Senator LARRY MARTIN seconded the motion.

 The following individuals were elected *en banc* by acclamation:

 Clerk Mr. Jeffrey Stephen Gossett

 Reading Clerk Mr. John Othniel Wienges

 Sgt.-at-Arms Mr. James R. Melton

 Chaplain Reverend Dr. James I. St. John

**Administration of the Oath of Office**

 The Clerk of the Senate, Reading Clerk, Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms presented themselves at the Bar and the oath of office was administered by the PRESIDENT.

**Clerk’s Appointments**

 The Clerk announced the following appointments:

 Mr. Michael R. Hitchcock Assistant Clerk

 Mrs. Darlene M. Griggs Administrative Assistant

 Mrs. Joyce D. Reid Administrative Assistant

 Mrs. Agnes H. Walker General Desk Clerk

 Mrs. Cynthia C. Aiken Calendar Clerk

 Mrs. Betty Graham Chief Administrative

 Assistant to the Clerk of

 the Senate

 Mrs. Beth Dworjanyn Director of Senate Finance

 Ms. Alicia Eatmon Bill Clerk

 Ms. Kathleen Burns Assistant Bill Clerk

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator COURSON, with unanimous consent, Senators ALLEN, BENNETT, CORBIN, HEMBREE, JOHNSON, McELVEEN, SHEALY, THURMOND, TURNER and YOUNG were introduced and granted leave to address the Senate with brief remarks.

**Remarks by Senator ALLEN**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT and members of the body.

 It is certainly a pleasure to be a member of -- as the Senator from Lexington indicated -- the greatest deliberative body in America.

 I’ve had the opportunity to watch from across on the other side, with nothing but admiration for the members in this institution. It is with pleasure that I come before you to fill the shoes of a great Statesman, the previous Senator from Greenville -- Senator RALPH ANDERSON, who represented Senate District 7. I’ve had a great teacher, and I intend to follow in his footsteps.

 I’ll be brief and say that I look forward to working to improve the quality of life, with the other Senators, for the citizens of the great State of South Carolina.

 Mr. PRESIDENT, I’m pleased today to have one of our great campaign workers, Mr. Jack Logan, who previously worked for Senator ANDERSON and others, and I am pleased to have my daughter, Brittanie Allen, who decided to drive here from college to spend a little time with her dad. With that being said, I look forward to working with all of you to improve the quality of life.

 Thank you for this opportunity.

**Remarks by Senator BENNETT**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT.

 This is truly a special day for me and I could not ask for a better group to join me today. I would like to do a quick introduction of my family and my photography studio. I have my wife, Tina, who has been with me, in two weeks, going on twenty years now and I certainly could not do anything in my life without her. I also have my daughter, Haile, who is a junior at Ashley Ridge High School in Dorchester District Two and then my youngest daughter, Hayden, who is in the fifth grade at Summerville Catholic School in Summerville. It is good to have them with me today. The only other person I would rather have here in addition to them is my father, who, I am sad to say, passed away a few years ago. He is not here to see this but I know he is watching from above so be aware of that because he was a tough guy sometimes.

 Until you stand here, I do not know that you can truly feel and appreciate the honor that it is to be elected to political office to represent this State and certainly the districts that we represent back home. As I have mentioned before, on the company that I join, the people that have served this State with distinction going back to the founding of this great country, people like JOHN C. CALHOUN, ARTHUR MIDDLETON, THOMAS SUMTER, DeQUINCEY NEWMAN, CAROL CAMPBELL and others, many of whom are adorned on the walls of this Chamber. I certainly do not mention these names to pretend or suggest that I belong next to them in our history books -- only to recognize there is great responsibility and much to live up to as we deliberate here.

 You know, as a new member of this body, I come with a certain amount of naivety but also reverence. I know that many of you who have been here far longer than myself and my other freshmen colleagues have lost that naivety but hopefully that reverence remains because what we do here is important and the issues we face are great, and the way in which we deliberate is meaningful. Our children are watching, our grandchildren are watching and the citizens are watching.

 Much is expected of us. It is said that responsibility is given to those with whom trust rests. We have been granted a great deal of trust by the people who have sent us here and we must have the duty to govern with respect to that trust. It is truly an honor to be here and to be a part of this body. I look forward to calling you colleagues for many years to come and for us to do good work for the people of this State.

 Thank you very much.

**Remarks by Senator CORBIN**

 What a tough speech to follow.

 I also am honored to here today. When I was serving in the House of Representatives the past couple of years, the Speaker of the House told me when I was first elected to go down to the well and do something, I looked at him kind of funny and he said, “Go down to the well and introduce a ball team and congratulate somebody. That way you won’t be nervous when you have to go down and argue a Bill or your point or fight or block something.” I took his advice and I went down and did a little benign something, but it never did stop my tension coming into this sacred place. I often went there and it is meaningful.

 I would like to say that I am very proud and honored to serve Senate District Five. It is in northern Greenville County and northern Spartanburg County. As a matter of fact, Mr. PRESIDENT, when I was recognized as a Senator from Greenville -- I cover part of Spartanburg -- maybe we should have said the Senator from the upcountry or something.

 Anyway I would like to recognize some of the people who came down for this special occasion. I have my fifteen year old twin sons with me, William and Elliott, would you please stand up? They are the light of my life and the reason there is not much hair left on my head. Thank you, boys. My wife of twenty years, Leigh Ann, would you please stand up? And my mother and father, Barbie and Gail Corbin, came down to see me. Today is also a very special day for my wife and me as twenty years ago we got married and today is our anniversary.

 I look forward to serving the people of South Carolina from this great institution and I thank God that I have the ability and that he gave me the strength to do so and may we go forward together as a body for the betterment of South Carolina.

Thank you so much.

**Remarks by Senator HEMBREE**

 Mr. PRESIDENT and fellow members of the Senate, distinguished guests, on behalf of the citizens of Horry and Dillon Counties, I bring you greetings.

 At a time like this, it is appropriate to say “thank you,” and first I want to offer thanks to our heavenly Father who gave us this opportunity to do good work for the citizens of this State.

 Secondly, I want to offer thanks to my wife Renee and to my family. I will introduce her. She is seated right back here in a blue suit: Renee, our oldest daughter, Nora, and her husband, James, our youngest daughter, Ellen, and our son, John. Our exchange student from France, Martin, is here and has now become part of the American political experiment, and my brother-in-law, Robbie. Some of y’all in the Freshman Caucus know about my brother-in-law. So, you know what I am talking about. It is appropriate that I give thanks to my family, because they are the ones who have given me the unconditional love, and unconditional support and have stood with me and given me the encouragement, and mostly have made me better than I would have been without them. I give them thanks.

 Finally, I give thanks to the citizens of Horry and Dillon Counties, for they are the ones who have hired me for this job. I am fortunate to be here and I take it seriously. I do not take that for granted. It is an honor to serve with the men and women in this body. I know this -- every single person here is fully committed to building a better State and changing lives for the better. What an opportunity to have -- to join with other warriors to make this a better place. It is a great battle we are joined in, and I am proud to be in the army with you. It is my prayer that God will guide and direct all our actions and decisions in this Chamber, and that He continues to bless the people of South Carolina.

 I look forward to it.

 Thank you.

**Remarks by Senator JOHNSON**

 Mr. PRESIDENT, members of the Senate and visitors.

 It is absolutely an honor to stand here as a new Senator from District 36 which consists of Clarendon, Darlington, Florence and Sumter Counties. I felt through the campaign and I feel now it will be very hard to fill Senator JOHN LAND’s shoes, but I intend to work hard on behalf of the citizens of District 36 and of South Carolina.

 I intend to show my thanks for this strong support by doing a great job. As a member of the House of Representatives, I was naive enough to think that the two positions are very similar. However, during my short tenure as a Senator, I have found that they are much different. I would like to thank the Clerk and his staff for helping me get acclimated to my new position.

 I would like to introduce my family who is here and I am proud to have them here today.

**Remarks by Senator McELVEEN**

 Members of the Senate and friends behind the rail and in the Gallery, it is a pleasure to be here today and I think it is finally sinking in. I would be lying to you today if I told you there weren’t some butterflies, but after a long campaign it is great to be here.

 I am humbled and honored and excited to serve with so many of you. Many of you I have looked up to for years and years. Just to be here to serve with you, I am looking forward to the privilege and looking forward to the challenge. I want to thank the citizens of Sumter, Kershaw, Richland and Lee counties for sending me here. I will absolutely hold that trust up as high as I possibly can.

 I’ve got some very special people here today. First of all my wife, Bronwyn, who is standing behind the rail. We’ve been married sixteen months tomorrow, and we started campaigning about five months into our marriage. I would not recommend that for any newlyweds out there, but we got through it and she was a rock for me and I love you and I thank you so much.

 I also want to recognize my parents, who I am very proud of -- Cathy and Joe McElveen. Many of you remember my dad, who served honorably in the House of Representatives from 1986 to 1996. He is probably a little bit grayer, a little bit balder than he was back then, but we are proud of him. He has been the Mayor of Sumter for twelve years. I want to thank them so much for being here.

 Also, to friends in the gallery -- I see my friend Chris Sumter up there, and want to thank you for coming also. I am looking forward to the challenges and looking forward to working with each and every one of you as we work hard to move this State forward.

 Thank y’all so much.

**Remarks by Senator SHEALY**

 First I want to say thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a reality. I want to thank my friends, my family and all of those who took a leap of faith to help me go through this political process, even when it seemed impossible. Some of my family members are here with me today, and I’d like to introduce them to you. My husband, Jimmy Shealy; three daughters: Rhonda Williams, Stephanie Shealy, and Erica Armstrong; and my two grandsons Taylor and Thomas, two cute little boys who are probably swinging from the rails somewhere. My brother Eddie Frye, my sister Sheryl Jeffords, and my sister-in-law, Lisa Tyson are also here. They worked so hard to help me and without them I wouldn’t be here today. And forever I will be grateful to them.

 Sometimes in life you don’t get to define who you are. Fortunately, I’m getting that opportunity to stand before you today. For several years now I’m sure several of you have heard about me from one of your former colleagues. I’m sure that his portrayal of me was a little less than flattering. So I want to tell you who I really am.

 I’m a wife, I’m a mother, I’m a grandmother *--* most importantly I’m a Christian. I believe in South Carolina. I love Lexington County, and I’m here to serve the people of Lexington County and the *S*tate of South Carolina. I’ve always believed in the old saying that we have two ears and one mouth for a reason, and that’s so we can listen. And I want to listen and learn from all of you.

 I enjoy working on tough issues in order to come up with good, common sense solutions. I’m a team player and I want to work with all of you as a team to get things done. I love my community and I will always do whatever I think will benefit Lexington County first.

 I would be remiss if I did not say that it is an honor and a privilege to serve in such an esteemed body. I know that many of you out there have a level of expertise in so many things that I don’t know about, so I’ll look to you for guidance. And I’m looking forward to working with each you of you in the coming years. Thank you. God bless South Carolina, and God bless this Senate.

**Remarks by Senator THURMOND**

 Mr. PRESIDENT and fellow members of the Senate.

 I was sitting in my seat thinking to myself, “Wow, this is pretty amazing.” I wanted to take a second to introduce my wife, and one of my children. My wife, Katie, and I will have been married nine years tomorrow. My son, Fletch, our middle child. He is five; behaving himself appropriately. If we had brought our other two children -- the older one is pretty good, but our 17-month old -- you guys would get the wrong impression of me pretty quickly because he is quite active. Also present today, is my mom, Nancy Thurmond, and my brother, Strom, and some friends, Bill Weeks and Rob Smith. They are in the gallery. A couple of my law partners are here -- Mike Timbes and Matt Yelverton. I appreciate you all making it.

 I thought that I would, especially as quickly as everyone is going -- I had not really anticipated that. I thought we would have some long speeches given that there are a lot of public servants here. And I thought I would go over the full election process that I went through, I know everybody is very interested in that. I know Chief Justice Toal was here, and I am sure she could tell you a little about it as well. But, what an amazing process.

 And I am truly honored to be here. I am very appreciative to the people of District 41 that have given me that opportunity. And the question is, “What do you do with it?” And I will tell you, I do not mind working. I believe in honesty. I believe in being consistent. And I hope you will call me out, if I am not consistent. Because I think that is really important for the people to know that you have got a set principle, a set belief. I have got a lot of things to do in my mind. I think your constituents would agree that there are a lot of great challenges for the State.

 And I look forward to working with everyone of you all and to listening to you. I appreciate what the Senator from Lexington just mentioned in regard to two ears and one mouth. That certainly is the way I think about it as well. But, I am truly honored to be here, and I would be remiss to not mention the lineage that I am so fortunate to come from. I hope that does not create a stereotype for you. I hope it gives you an opportunity to hear me out whether it’s positive or negative. I have stood on two feet. But, I am very, very proud of what my father accomplished. And I am very proud of all the hard work that the Senator from Richland did in that regard. And I look forward to working to reach those expectation that not only the people who elected me, but also, you all might have.

 So thank you again for the opportunity to be here.

**Remarks by Senator TURNER**

 Thank you Mr. PRESIDENT.

 I’m probably one of the few people in here that does not get paid by the minute so I don’t speak a lot. I do agree with the statement of “two ears and one mouth,” but I also agree that sometimes it’s best to leave your mouth shut and let them think you’re a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

 I am honored today obviously to be here and honored even more to have a lot of family and friends. In fact, I think half the balcony is mine. In the back here are my parents, Clarence and Ann Turner. The great thing about that is I’ve got “up country” representation and my mom is from the “low country.” So, I love the whole State of South Carolina. My wife, Julie, and I will have been married 23 years next month. My daughter, Kerri, is down here. She’s in the 10th grade at J. O. Mann High School in Greenville. My son, Clay, is a freshman at Clemson following his granddad’s and dad’s footsteps. My other daughter’s the one who is standing up and waving. As y’all can tell the third child is never ever bashful. Ellis is in 6th grade at Bank Middle School. I also have my in-laws, my brother-in-law, my sister, everybody, my nieces and nephews. So, thank y’all for being here.

 I look forward to serving in this body. I look forward to making sure that South Carolina is not only the best State to us but the best State to the rest of the country. And I look forward to that opportunity.

 Thank you.

**Remarks by Senator YOUNG**

 Mr. PRESIDENT and members of the Senate.

 Like my freshman colleagues, I also have several folks that I want to thank.

 The first thing I want to do is to thank God for the opportunity that I have to be here to represent the people of Aiken County in District 24. The second thing I want to do is to thank the people of District 24 for giving me the chance to be here to represent them in this great body with all of you. I also want to thank the people in District 81 in the South Carolina House of Representatives for giving me the opportunity to represent them for the past four years in the House of Representatives. Serving there was an honor for which I will always be very grateful to all my neighbors and friends in Aiken County.

 I want to thank my family. My wife and children are here -- Heather and I have been married for eleven years. We have two daughters, Hailey who is ten and is in the fourth grade, and, Ashley who is six and is in the first grade in Aiken. My parents, Tom and Delly Young, are here. I would not be here today if it were not for my family and how much they have loved and supported me throughout my life and I very much appreciate that.

 Also, I want to thank the family of Senator STROM THURMOND because twenty-five years ago this fall, Senator THURMOND gave me the opportunity to work in Washington which instilled in me a desire to enter public service and to serve the people of this State.

 I want to thank Senator JOHN COURSON because when I was a student at Carolina he gave me the chance to be a page in this body for four years and I very much appreciate it. It has always been a dream of mine to serve in this body and to serve this institution and today that dream becomes a reality. I am very grateful for that opportunity.

 I look forward to working with each of you because we have many challenges that face our State -- whether it’s in education or dealing with our road and bridge infrastructure and the deficiencies we have there or whether it is addressing the medicaid issues that we have before us in the coming Session.

 I know that we can work together and that we will work together to make South Carolina a better place for our children and our grandchildren. We cannot do any less.

 Thank you very much.

 On motion of Senator SETZLER, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senators ALLEN, BENNETT, CORBIN, HEMBREE, JOHNSON, McELVEEN, SHEALY, THURMOND, TURNER and YOUNG were ordered printed in the Journal.

**RECESS**

 At 12:57 P.M., on motion of Senator CROMER, the Senate receded from business not to exceed five minutes.

 At 1:10 P.M., the Senate resumed.

 Pursuant to Article III, Section 12 the Senate would take up consideration of the Rules Resolution.

**CONSIDERATION OF AND THE ADOPTION OF RULES**

**INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION**

 The following was introduced:

 S. 1 -- Senator Cromer: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12, ARTICLE III OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSITITUTION.

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 Be it resolved by the Senate that the Rules of the Senate are as follows:

**RULE 1.**

**Time of Daily Meeting**

**A.**

 The Senate, on the first day of each annual session, shall convene at 12 o’clock noon. Thereafter, the Senate shall meet each legislative day at 12 o’clock noon every Tuesday, 2 o’clock p.m. every Wednesday, and 11 o’clock a.m. every Thursday for statewide matters and on Friday for local matters and uncontested matters which have previously received unanimous consent to be taken up unless otherwise ordered by the Senate. A motion to change the time of daily meeting may be made at any time when a quorum of the Senate is present or not present and must be voted on after no more than five (5) minutes of debate, two and a half (2½) for and two and a half (2½) against. The Senate shall stand adjourned Saturday through Monday unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present in statewide session.

**B.**

 At various times as he or she deems necessary during the session, the President Pro Tempore is authorized to make a motion to provide for the convening of the Senate in statewide session for the exclusive purpose of the introduction and referral of bills, receipt of communications and committee reports and the reading and passage of local legislation to which all members of an affected delegation have given their consent for the bill to be taken up, and to adjourn immediately thereafter. Any such motion shall provide the specific dates during which the motion shall apply and shall provide that the Senate must convene at 11:00 a.m. and adjourn not later than 12:30 p.m. on each such day and such motion must be made at least two (2) days prior to the beginning of the period for which it applies.

**C.**

 The President Pro Tempore or his designee, when, in his opinion, it is impractical or dangerous to hold a regularly scheduled session(s) of the Senate, may declare the body adjourned to some other time. Such actions are to be taken only in times of great emergency including, but not limited to, natural disasters, severe weather, and acts of God.

**RULE 2.**

**Quorum**

 A majority of the total number of Senators qualified shall constitute a quorum.

**Quorum Call of the Senate**

 If at any time during the daily session of the Senate it is ascertained that there is not a quorum present, no business shall be in order except a call of the Senate, an order to send for absentees (as provided for in Rule 3B), a motion to recede for a fixed period of time or to a time certain, or a motion to adjourn. Each of the foregoing motions shall be of equal standing and none shall have priority over the others.

**RULE 3.**

**Attendance, Duties and Obligations of Senators**

**A.**

 Any member or officer of the Senate who shall absent himself or herself from the service of the Senate, without leave of the Senate first obtained, shall forfeit his or her subsistence while so absent. The Clerk shall maintain a record of those members present on each statewide legislative day.

**B.**

 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other Rule of the Senate, at any time during a session when the presence of absent members is required, the Senate, by majority vote of those present and voting shall authorize the Sergeant‑at‑Arms to send for the absent members. In case a less number than a quorum of the Senate shall convene, the members present are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant‑at‑Arms or any person or persons by them authorized for any or all absent members, as the majority of such members present shall agree. This Rule shall apply to the first convention of the Senate each year at the legal time of meeting and to each day of the session after the hour to which the Senate stood adjourned has arrived. When provisions of this Rule are invoked then the outer doors of the antechamber shall be secured and any member within the confines of the chamber shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum. A motion to invoke or repeal Rule 3B may be made at any time when a quorum of the Senate is present or not present and must be voted on after no more than five (5) minutes of debate, two and a half (2 ½) for and two and a half (2 ½) against.

**RULE 4.**

**Majority and Minority Party: Seating**

**A.**

 Prior to the commencement of the session, the members of the Senate in each party shall select a leader of their respective party. The leader of each respective party shall serve as either the Majority or Minority Leader of the Senate. For purposes of these Rules, the majority party shall be the party at the opening of the session who has at least fifty (50) percent of the vote in the Senate plus one. In the event that the membership of the Senate is equally divided, the party affiliation of the President will decide the majority party. The majority party shall be determined at the opening of the session and shall remain the majority party for the duration of these Rules.

 Except for meetings to elect the Majority Leader or Minority Leader or to take any other formal action, meetings of party caucuses are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

**B.**

 During the opening session after the election of Senators or, in the case of a special election, at a session designated by the President Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader shall pick his seat in the Chamber first. The Minority Leader shall then pick his seat in the Chamber on the opposite side. The reading clerk shall then call the roll of the Senate by seniority and each member shall then select a seat in the Chamber. The front two rows on the side of the Chamber selected by the majority leader are reserved for the majority party members; the front two rows on the side of the Chamber selected by the minority leader are reserved for the minority party members.

**RULE 5**

**Journal of the Senate**

 The Journal of the Senate shall be prepared and printed daily by the Clerk. Any Senator shall have the right to demand the reading of that portion of the Journal of the previous day containing an error or omission and to move to correct any such errors or omissions after debate of no more than five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. The Clerk must annually compile and publish a permanent Journal of the proceedings of the Senate.

**RULE 6.**

**Which Senator Entitled to Floor**

**A.**

 When a Senator desires to speak, he or she shall rise from his or her seat and address the President, and may not proceed until he or she is recognized. When two or more Senators rise from their seats to speak at the same time, the Senator who first addresses the President as determined by the President shall have the floor and the President shall so announce it.

**B.**

 When a Senator raises a question of order, as provided for in Rule 7, the President shall stop all other debate and allow the Senator raising the question to explain the point of order subject only to a superior question of order.

**C.**

 Every Senator, when speaking, shall address the President, standing in his or her place and when finished shall take his or her seat. Senators, when addressing the Senate, may stand at their desk or may go to the podium in the center aisle.

 Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of the Senate, no Senator may interrupt the Senator who has been granted the floor without his or her consent. To obtain consent, he or she shall first address the President. If a member wishes to present a question to the Senator who has been granted the floor, he or she shall address the President and gain recognition. Once recognized, the member shall ask the President, “Does the Senator yield for a question?” The President shall inquire of the member granted the floor “Does the Senator yield?” If the Senator who holds the floor agrees to yield, the President shall so instruct the Senator who wishes to present the question.

**RULE 7**

**A.**

**Question of Order**

**Appeal from President’s Decision**

 If a Senator in speaking, or otherwise, violates the Rules of the Senate, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, by raising a point of order, call him to order; and when a member is called to order by the President or under a point of order, he or she shall sit down and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, unless the President takes the point of order under advisement. The President may call for the Sense of the Senate on any question of order. Every question of order must be decided by the President, without debate, and Senators shall have the right to appeal the decisions of the President to the full Senate. When the decision of the President is appealed, the President Pro Tempore or his or her designee shall preside and the President shall retire from the chamber during the pendency of the appeal and the Senate’s debate and action on the motion to appeal. The question before the Senate shall be “Shall the ruling of the President be overridden?” and after not more than thirty (30) minutes, fifteen (15) minutes for and fifteen (15) minutes against, of debate it shall be decided by a majority vote of the membership.

**B.**

**Introduction of Visitors and Guests**

 When a member wishes to introduce a visitor, guest or family member, he or she shall first gain recognition from the President and shall limit his or her introduction and associated remarks to not more than two minutes.

 If a visitor or guest in the Chamber or in the gallery engages in a demonstration of approval or disapproval or creates a disturbance which affects the decorum of the Senate, the Clerk and Sergeant‑at‑Arms shall take those measures necessary to enforce order.

**C.**

**Decorum in the Senate**

 The presiding officer shall maintain proper decorum in the Senate at all times. Members of the Senate are prohibited from eliciting responses of any kind from visitors in the Senate gallery.

 The use of cellular phones ~~and pagers~~ is prohibited in the Senate Chamber. Other silent electronic devices may be used only in a manner as not to be disruptive to the Senate. This rule shall be enforced in a manner prescribed by the Operations and Management Committee.

**Rule 8.**

**May Speak Twice in One Debate**

 No Senator shall speak more than twice in any one debate, on the same day, without leave of the Senate.

 Any Senator, who absents himself or herself for three (3) hours or more from the Senate Chamber after due notice that Rule 3(B) has been invoked, or is not present for two quorum roll calls which are called more than two hours apart, forfeits his or her right to speak for more than one hour on any matter pertaining to the Bill being debated on that legislative day, unless granted leave by the Senate to speak for a longer period, or unless such member obtains a leave of absence from the Senate either before or after invocation of the Rule.

**RULE 9.**

**Endorsement of Papers**

 No Senator shall present any Bill, amendment or other paper, without having first affixed his or her name to such Bill, amendment or other paper. A member who is granted leave to place material on the desks of other members, and who is not the author of or who has not signed the material, shall affix his or her name to a copy of the material and forward that copy to the Clerk prior to distribution of the material. No notice shall be required of a member of his or her intention to introduce a Bill or Resolution. Any member may introduce Bills or Resolutions which shall be received by the Senate staff whether or not the Senate is in session. A member may co‑sponsor any Bill or Resolution with the permission of the primary sponsor. After introduction, a member may, with permission of the primary sponsor, co‑sponsor any Bill or Resolution that is in the possession of the Senate by notifying the Clerk. Bills and Resolutions so received shall be periodically referred by the President of the Senate to the appropriate committee or committees which may then consider them at such times as the committee meets. Any matter acted upon favorably by any committee may be reported out by the committee when the Senate reconvenes and need not thereafter be sent to any committee but shall then be ready, upon compliance with other Rules of the Senate, for second reading consideration.

 The Clerk of the Senate shall establish procedures to notify the Senate membership on a monthly basis of Bills and Resolutions introduced during periods when the Journal is not printed.

 All Bills received prior to the first day of the convening or reconvening of the General Assembly shall receive first reading on the first day of the session.

**RULE 10.**

**Committee Reports, How Made**

 Reports must be separately made on each Bill or Resolution and shall be signed by the Chairman or such Senator as the Chairman may designate.

 No Bill or Joint Resolution may be polled out of a Standing Committee until all of the committee members present are notified and polled and a majority of the entire membership of the committee votes in favor of polling the legislation out. The poll results must be certified by the Committee Chairman who must certify that each member of the committee was notified and given an opportunity to vote and a written copy of the results must be given to the Clerk to be published in the Journal.

 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 33 and unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, when the annual General Appropriation Bill or any reapportionment bill or any Resolution affecting the sine die adjournment date is received by the Senate to be placed on the calendar, it shall be placed in a position under the masthead of the calendar as the first order of business to be taken up each day immediately following the conclusion of the call of the Uncontested Local and Statewide Calendar.

 Not later than the first Tuesday in March, the Senate Finance Committee should report to the full Senate the annual Proviso Codification Bill. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 24, the Proviso Codification Bill must be composed only of those items that permanently codify a temporary proviso that has been included in the final version of a previous General Appropriations Bill.

**RULE 11.**

**Writing and Withdrawal of Motions**

 When a motion is made, with the exception of motions made under Rule 14, if requested by any member, it must be reduced to writing, delivered at the desk, and read before the same is voted up or down; provided, however, that the request to have a motion reduced to writing shall not cause the mover of such motion to lose the floor. Any motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time prior to being put before the body. Thereafter, it may be withdrawn only with the unanimous consent of the Senate. No motion may be made concerning a matter which has gone out of the possession of the Senate except a motion to recall, and if the same should prevail, the Clerk shall send an appropriate message requesting a return of the matter, and when returned shall be placed in the box.

**RULE 12.**

**Motion to Reconsider**

 No motion for the reconsideration of any vote shall be in order unless the matter is in the possession of the Senate, nor shall any motion to reconsider be in order unless made within the next two statewide legislative days of the actual session of the Senate thereafter, and by a Senator voting with the prevailing side. Except for procedural motions, a motion to reconsider may be made immediately after the act or motion to which it applies has occurred, during the motion period, during the time between the call of orders of business after the introduction and reference of new Bills and Resolutions, or during the time the bill or resolution is being debated.

**RULE 13.**

**Points of Personal Privilege**

**and Expressions of Personal Interest**

 Any member may rise to a point of personal privilege provided that a point of personal privilege shall be defined as questions affecting the rights, reputation and conduct of members of the body in their representative capacity.

 A point of personal privilege must relate to persons as members of the body or relate to charges against the character of a member which charges, if true, would affect the rights of membership.

 A member rising to a point of personal privilege must confine his or her remarks to those matters which concern the member personally and has only the right to defend himself or herself and no other persons.

 All other remarks made by a member shall be regarded as an expression of personal interest. ~~and when a member is recognized for an expression of personal interest,~~ A member may only be recognized for an expression of personal interest between the call of orders of business and such remarks shall in all cases be limited to not more than five (5) minutes.

**RULE 14.**

**Privileged Motions**

 When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained, unless otherwise provided for in the Rules, but

 1. To adjourn

 2. To adjourn to a date and time certain

 3. To recede for a fixed period of time or to a time certain

 4. To appeal a decision of the Chair

 5. To go into Executive Session

 6. To take up order of the day

 7. To continue

 8. To lay on the table

 9. To adjourn debate to a certain day or to adjourn

 debate

 10. To carry over

 11. To strike out the enacting clause

 12. To commit or recommit

 13. To reconsider

 14. To amend

which several motions may only be made by the Senator having the floor and shall have precedence in the order in which they are above arranged, and the first ten (10) of which shall be determined without debate. A motion to lay an amendment on the table being agreed to shall not have the effect of disposing of the main question.

 Provided, however, when a Bill or any other matter is under debate, a motion to carry over may be made by the Senator having the floor, with such Senator retaining the floor on that Bill or any other matter upon an affirmative vote of twenty‑six (26) members of the Senate. Provided, that when a Bill or any other matter is under debate and a motion to carry over is made pursuant to a majority vote of the Rules Committee for a carry over motion, the Senator having the floor shall retain the floor on that Bill or other matter upon a majority vote of those members present and voting. The Rules Committee vote requirement can be fulfilled either at a duly called meeting of the Rules Committee or the Committee may be polled in accordance with Rule 10. A motion to carry over, with the Senator retaining the floor, may be made by the President Pro Tempore at any time.

 No motion to carry over, either by the Senator who has the floor, the President Pro Tempore, or by the Rules Committee as provided herein, shall be in order for any Bill in the status of Interrupted Debate for less than ~~twenty‑four (24) hours~~ one legislative day. The failure of a motion to carry over by an individual Senator, the President Pro Tempore, or by the Rules Committee shall not cause the member who has the floor to lose the floor.

 When a motion to adjourn debate is passed, the Bill to which it applies is subject to consideration on the next legislative day that the Senate reaches that order of business. When a motion to adjourn debate to a date certain is passed, the Bill to which it applies is not subject to consideration until the date so specified, if the Senate reaches that order of business. If the Senate does not reach that order of business, the Bill remains in adjourned debate status.

 A motion to ratify acts may be made by any Committee Chairman at any time and must receive a majority vote of the membership of the Senate.

 At any time and with the Senator who has the floor retaining the floor, the President Pro Tempore or his designee may make a motion to recede for a fixed period of time or to a time certain.

 Whenever a member who has been recognized and properly holds the floor makes a motion relating to any business, matter or other question before the Senate, such motion shall require a majority vote of those present and voting unless otherwise provided. If a request is made to repeat or restate any such motion, it shall only be repeated or restated by the member originally making the motion.

**RULE 15.**

**A.**

**Fixing a Time Certain to Vote**

 Except for any Reapportionment Bill, the debate on the question of third reading of a Bill or Resolution may be brought to a close by the lesser of twenty‑six (26) Senators or three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting, if such Bill or Resolution has been under debate for two (2) hours on the current legislative day. The debate on any other matter pending before the Senate, except as otherwise provided in these Rules, may be brought to a close by a majority of the membership of the Senate after one (1) hour of debate on the current legislative day.

 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other rule, such motion may be made after the time period provided for herein has elapsed and may be made by any member and shall not be subject to amendment or debate. Such motion shall include a fixed time for the vote. Any Senator may request a call of the Senate prior to the vote being ordered.

 However, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14, during the final three (3) statewide legislative days prior to the date set for sine die adjournment, the time periods provided above may be waived by three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting.

 Except as otherwise provided by a motion adopted under the provisions of Section C of this rule, when the time for a vote arrives, as set under this rule, the Senate shall proceed to a consideration (seriatim) of the amendments on the desk and upon disposition of all amendments, proceed immediately to a vote on the main question. Opponents and proponents of an amendment shall be granted an equal amount of time in the discretion of the presiding officer, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes.

 Except as otherwise provided by a motion adopted under the provisions of Section C of this rule, when a motion to fix a date or time certain has been agreed to, the Clerk of the Senate, at that time, is prohibited from receiving any future or further amendments to the pending matter unless the Clerk certifies that an amendment is necessary to correct some technical error or omission or conform the language of an amendment to an action of the Senate taken previous to the consideration of the amendment.

**B.**

 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14 or any other Rule of the Senate, when any Reapportionment Bill has been under debate for two statewide legislative days, the President shall immediately recognize any Senator for the purpose of a motion to bring the debate to a close. Upon being made, the President shall at once state the motion and submit to the Senate by a yea and no vote the question:

 “Is it the Sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?”

 And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by the lesser of twenty‑six (26) Senators or three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting, then said measure pending before the Senate, or unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business of the Senate to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of.

 Thereafter, no Senator shall be entitled to speak in all, more than one hour on the measure, pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, the amendments thereto, and the motions affecting the same, and it shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to keep the time of each Senator who speaks. After no more than forty‑six hours of consideration of the measure, motion, or other matter on which cloture has been invoked, the Senate shall proceed, without further debate on any question, to vote on the final disposition thereof to the exclusion of all other matters.

**C.**

 Except for any reapportionment Bill and notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 14, the President Pro Tempore or his or her designee shall have the right to make a motion to establish a schedule for a future date and time for the vote on any Bill or Resolution, which is in the status of Interrupted Debate, Adjourned Debate or Special Order. The motion shall also establish the time when no further amendments may be placed on the desk and the limitations on consideration and debate of amendments and the main questions. Any such motion shall not be subject to amendment or debate and must be adopted by the lesser of twenty‑six (26) Senators or three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting and if adopted, then the Bill or Resolution shall be the business of the Senate on the date and time set, to the exclusion of all other matters.

**RULE 16.**

**Vote by Ayes and Noes**

**Senators Present Must Vote**

 Except as otherwise provided, the decision of the Senate on any question other than unanimous consent shall be taken by all members voting ‘viva voce’ or electronically when a roll call is required, if an electronic voting system is available. Votes on the following matters shall be taken by roll call and the names of the Senators voting shall be recorded in the Journal:

 (1) Second reading of Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Carolina Constitution and third reading of such Joint Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading;

 (2) The question on any act returned from the Governor with his or her objections;

 (3) Second reading of Bills and Resolutions having the force and effect of law and third reading of such Bills and Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading;

 (4) Adoption of reports of conference committees and free conference committees and the granting of free conference powers;

 (5) The question on concurrence or the adoption of a substantive amendment proposed to Bills or Resolutions returned from the House of Representatives; and

 (6) Any vote on the main question of an amendment for which there is a request for a roll call by three (3) Senators and the vote on any other motion for which there is a request for a roll call by five (5) Senators.

 Prior to third reading of the annual general appropriations bill, each section of Part IA with the corresponding provisos must be considered individually and receive a roll call vote.

 Upon a call of the Senate and unless a division is ordered, the Senators present shall vote alphabetically, unless voting electronically, when a roll call is required and every Senator present must give his or her vote as aye, no, or abstain unless excused by the Senate.

 No Senator who is absent when the vote is taken and the result announced by the President shall be allowed to vote without leave of the Senate. A Senator who is absent from a vote may not be recorded as voting on that matter.

**RULE 17.**

**President to Vote When There is a Tie**

 When the Senate is equally divided on any question, the Clerk shall take the decision of the President, who may assign the reason of his or her vote.

**RULE 18.**

**A Question May Be Divided**

 If a question in debate contains several points, any Senator may move to have the same divided and shall state how the division is to be made. Such motion shall be decided by a majority of the Senators present and voting after not more than five (5) minutes of debate. On a motion to strike out and insert it shall not be in order to move for a division of the question; but a rejection of a motion to strike out and insert one proposition shall not prevent a motion to strike out and insert a different proposition, nor prevent a subsequent motion simply to strike out; nor shall the rejection of a motion to simply strike out prevent a subsequent motion to strike out and insert.

**RULE 19.**

**A.**

**Standing Committees of the Senate**

 The Standing Committees of the Senate shall be as follows and shall have jurisdiction over legislation, appointments and other matters which fall within the title or titles of the Code of Laws as are herein below enumerated for each of the Committees:

Agriculture and Natural Resources ‑ Titles 39 (agricultural and food products), 46, 47, 48 (land resources, soil and water conservation, mining, oil and gas, and wetlands), and 49

Banking and Insurance ‑ Titles 29, 34, 35, 37, and 38

Corrections and Penology ‑ Titles 2 (community corrections) and 24

Education ‑ Titles 51, 59, and 60 (school governance and structure at all levels)

Ethics

Finance ‑ Titles 1 (State Budget and Control Board), 4 through 6 (bonding authority, taxation, finances), 8 (employment standards, retirement, deferred compensation), 9, 10, 11, and 12

Fish, Game and Forestry ‑ Titles 48 (forestry and fire protection), 49, 50, and 51

General Committee ‑ Titles 25, 39 (blind persons), 43, 45, and 52

Invitations

Judiciary ‑ Constitution, Titles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 through 8, 14 through 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36, 39 (business and corporate matters), 42, 44 (drug related offenses), 53, 56 (criminal offenses), 58, 61, 62 and 63

Labor, Commerce and Industry ‑ Titles 6, 13, 31, 39 (chemicals and industrial products), 40 and 41

Medical Affairs ‑ Titles 39 (drug products), 40 (health care professionals), 43, 44, and 48 (pollution control, waste management, water and sewer)

Rules ‑ Senate Rules, Joint Rules

Transportation ‑ Titles 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58 (Regional Transportation Authorities and railroads)

 Matters shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee with jurisdiction over the primary subject matter addressed by the Bill or Resolution. If there is any objection to the referral of any bill or resolution to any Standing Committee, the Rules Committee shall hear the same, resolve the issue and report to the Senate within one (1) legislative day its decision which decision may be overruled by a vote of twenty‑nine (29) Senators.

 The several committees shall have such powers and duties as provided for in these rules. It shall not be in order for any committee to consider any proposed committee amendment (other than a technical, clerical, or conforming amendment) which contains any significant matter not within the jurisdiction of the committee proposing such amendment.

**B.**

**Committee Composition**

 The membership of the above listed committees shall be as follows: The Committees on Judiciary and Finance shall each have twenty‑three (23) members. All other standing Committees except the Committee on Ethics and the Committee on Invitations shall have seventeen (17) members. The Committee on Ethics shall be composed of ten (10) members. Of the ten (10) members selecting a seat, five (5) shall be members of the majority party and five (5) shall be members of the minority party. The Committee on Invitations shall be limited to not more than eleven (11) members. The total membership of each Standing Committee shall be composed of members of the two major political ~~parties~~ party caucuses in proportion to the number of Senators of each of such political ~~parties~~ party caucuses as nearly as possible and ensuring that the majority party as defined in these Rules contains a majority of the membership within each Standing Committee. For purposes of determining committee composition, percentages shall be rounded as follows: percentages of .49 or below shall be rounded down and percentages of .50 and above shall be rounded up.

 Membership on the Judiciary Committee excludes membership on the Finance Committee and vice versa.

 Committee seniority shall be determined by tenure within the committee rather than tenure within the Senate. When members with seniority transfer to a new committee, their seniority will be counted ahead of newly‑elected Senators.

 Where two or more Standing Committees are combined, initial membership on such committee shall be based on tenure within the Senate.

**C.**

**Special Committees**

 In addition to the above listed Standing Committees, there shall be two (2) Special Committees to be known as the Committee on Interstate Cooperation which shall be composed of five (5) members and the Operations and Management Committee selected by the President Pro Tempore. The Chairman of the Interstate Cooperation Committee and the Operations and Management Committee shall in all cases be the most senior senator of the majority party serving thereon or in his or her absence the next most senior Senator of the majority party serving thereon.

**D.**

**Committee Selections**

 Members of the Senate shall make their committee selections at the commencement of the session following the election of Senators or in the case of a special election, at such session designated for that purpose by the President Pro Tempore. In the case of a special election, the President Pro Tempore must call a session for the purpose of committee selections within three statewide days after a Senator elected in a special election has taken the oath of office.

 Members of the Senate may not select more than five (5) Standing Committees. The Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Invitations, the Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and the Operations and Management Committee are not included in this limitation.

 For the members to make their Standing Committee selections, the Clerk of the Senate (or if the Clerk has not been elected, the Clerk of the Senate during the preceding General Assembly or an assistant clerk) shall prepare a roll of the Senate listing the members in the order of length of continuous service, beginning with the longest continuous service. Where two or more members have equal continuous service they shall be listed in alphabetical order. The Clerk of the Senate shall also prepare a list of each Standing Committee and the number of seats available to members of each party. The Clerk of the Senate shall then call the roll twice in order of continuous service. Each member, upon his or her name being called during the first call of the roll, shall select four (4) unfilled Standing Committees on which he or she wishes to serve (and shall also select at this same time a seat on any or all of the Ethics, Invitations and Interstate Cooperation Committees so long as a vacancy exists). Each member must select either the Finance or Judiciary Committee during the first call of the roll.

 When the prescribed number of seats provided for a particular party within a Standing Committee has been filled, the President shall announce that the seats available for either the Majority or Minority party are filled. When the roll is called for the second time, it shall be called in reverse order of continuous service and each member upon his or her name being called, may select one additional unfilled Standing Committee on which he or she wishes to serve.

 In the event any member is unable to be present for selection of Standing Committees, that member may authorize in writing any member of the Senate to make selections in his or her behalf. This procedure shall be followed on the first day of the session following the election of Senators and at any other session where a newly elected member(s) is seated and the President Pro Tempore has made the designation within the timeframe hereinabove provided. Any Senator who served on a Standing Committee in the session immediately past shall have the right to select such committee, regardless of the Senator’s seniority in the Senate, unless the Senator shall elect to be removed from such committee by the choices made by the member during the first round of selection of committees or unless the number of seats available to his respective party have already been filled.

 Except as otherwise provided herein, in the selection by members of a seat on a Senate Standing Committee, the seniority system from the previous session shall be retained so as to become a part of these rules.

**E.**

**Chairmen of the Standing Committees**

 In the selection of the Chairman of the Standing Committees, the senior member of the Committee from the majority party, in terms of seniority within the Committee, shall be the Chairman of the Standing Committee. The Chairman of the Standing Committee shall serve for the quadrennium concurring with the term of the Senators adopting these Rules. If a vacancy occurs in the Chairmanship of a Standing Committee, then the next most senior member of the majority party shall become Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the original term. However, a Senator shall serve as Chairman of only one of the Standing Committees, but may chair a Standing Committee and a Special Committee concurrently.

 Should any Senator, during his term of office, cease to be a member of the political party of which he was a member at the time of his election, he shall not be deemed, thereby, to have forfeited all Committee memberships to which he may have been elected and shall not waive all seniority within each of the committees of which he or she was member if a majority of the caucus to which the member switches consents to that Senator retaining his seniority within the Committees to which he was a member at the time of his switch. No Senator elected as a Chairman of a Standing Committee at the opening of a session shall lose that Chairmanship even if a Senator switches parties and because of that switch becomes the senior member of the majority party on that Committee.

 Each Committee Chairman shall have necessary staff to oversee the operation of the committee and its staff appointed by the Committee Chairman and such Committee counsel, staff assistants, and pages as the Chair of the Committee may deem necessary. The number of positions and salaries of personnel selected pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the approval of the Operations and Management Committee.

 The Chair of any Committee may appoint subcommittees to consider a particular bill or resolution or to consider matters relative to a portion of work of the Committee. Such subcommittees shall make recommendations to the Committee. The Chair of the full Committee shall name the chairman of the subcommittee who need not be the senior member appointed to the subcommittee. The total membership of a subcommittee shall be composed of members of the two major political parties if practicable. The Chair of the full Committee shall be an ex officio member of all subcommittees and entitled to vote, but shall not be counted as a member for purposes of a quorum.

**F.**

**Operations and Management Committee**

 The Operations and Management Committee, through the Clerk of the Senate and subject to the Committee’s approval, shall oversee the day‑to‑day operation of the Senate including the allocation of office space between members. The Sergeant‑at‑Arms shall appoint such number of employees as Deputy Sergeant‑at‑Arms, subject to the approval of the Operations and Management Committee, as are necessary for the proper transaction of the business of the Senate.

 Each Senator, who is not a Committee Chairman, shall hire such number of pages and other employees as is necessary for the proper transaction of their legislative business. The Operations and Management Committee shall determine the number and salary ranges for these positions. All staffing decisions, including the hiring and firing of all staff, unless otherwise provided herein, shall be the sole responsibility of the affected Senator who must ensure that his or her employees follow the policies and procedures of the Operations and Management Committee, which shall be enforced by the Operations and Management Committee. However, if an employee works for more than one Senator, then the decision to hire and fire must be made by both of the affected Senators. If an agreement cannot be reached regarding the hiring and firing of an employee who works for more than one Senator, then the Operations and Management Committee shall arbitrate the dispute and render a decision which decision shall be final.

 The Operations and Management Committee shall also oversee the Office of Senate Research which shall provide assistance as requested by Senate members and committees of the Senate. The Operations and Management Committee shall appoint a majority and minority research director and such other research counsel and staff assistants as is necessary for the proper transaction of its business.

**G.**

**Committees of Conference and Free Conference**

 Committees of conference and free conference between the two Houses shall be comprised of three members. The chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over the Bill which is the subject of the request for appointment of conference committee shall select one member; the Majority Leader of the Senate shall select one member; and the President Pro Tempore shall select one member. In all cases, the chairman of the committee of conference or free conference shall be chosen by a majority of the appointed conferees.

**H.**

**Committee Meetings**

 The following schedule shall be the regular meeting times for Standing Committees when the General Assembly is in session. Any additional or special meeting may be called only by individual Committee Chairmen subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Every Tuesday

 3:00 p.m. ‑ Finance and Judiciary

1st and 3rd Wednesday

 10:00 a.m. ‑ Fish, Game and Forestry

 11:00 a.m. ‑ Transportation

2nd and 4th Wednesday

 9:00 a.m. ‑ General

 10:00 a.m. ‑ Education

 ~~Agriculture and Natural Resources~~

 11:00 a.m. ‑ Banking and Insurance

1st and 3rd Thursday

 9:00 a.m. ‑ Corrections and Penology~~,~~

 10:00 a.m. ‑ Medical Affairs

2nd and 4th Thursday

 9:00 a.m. ‑ Labor, Commerce and Industry

 9:30 a.m. ‑ Agriculture and Natural Resources

 The Rules Committee, Ethics Committee, Interstate Cooperation Committee, and the Invitations Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit the Chairman of a Standing Committee from canceling a committee meeting. No committee, except the Rules Committee, shall hold a meeting while the Senate is in session without first being granted leave by the Senate.

 The above listed dates refer to calendar weeks as opposed to session weeks. The date, time and place of any called meetings shall be reported to the Clerk of the Senate who shall post such information in the lobby of the Gressette Senate Office Building and the State House. Notice of regular scheduled meetings, as well as called meetings, shall be posted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

 Each Standing Committee is responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings of the full committee. The vote total on any matter before the committee shall be recorded in the minutes and a roll call vote must be recorded upon request of five Senators.

**RULE 20.**

**Priority of Business not Debatable**

 All questions relating to the priority of business to be acted upon shall be settled without debate.

**RULE 21.**

**Bills May Be Recommitted**

 After commitment and report of a Bill to the Senate, or at any time before its passage it may be recommitted by a motion to recommit which can only be made when the matter is under debate or by unanimous consent or when the Senate is in the Motion Period and such question shall be decided after not more than ten (10) minutes of debate.

**RULE 22.**

**All Bills Referred to Committees, and to Provide**

**for Recalling Bills From Committees**

 All Bills or Joint Resolutions when first read shall be referred to the appropriate committees. After the expiration of five legislative days from the date of reference, any Bill, or Joint or Concurrent Resolution, except the General Appropriation Bill may be recalled from any committee by a majority vote of the Senators present and voting; before the expiration of five days from the date of reference, any Bill, or Joint or Concurrent Resolution may be recalled from committee by the vote of three‑fourths (3/4) of the Senators present and voting.

 All Concurrent Resolutions which invite persons to address the General Assembly in joint session shall be referred to the Invitations Committee and shall only be voted on by the Senate after they have been approved by a majority of the members of such committee or the invitation discharged from the Committee by a majority vote. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to Concurrent Resolutions which invite, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Invitations Committee, persons of national prominence to address the General Assembly. However, such an invitation must be approved by a majority vote of the Senate. The Clerk is authorized to endorse Resolutions expressing congratulatory messages or sympathy without a reading.

**RULE 23.**

**Printing**

 All Bills and Resolutions when placed on the Calendar shall be printed and made available to the Senators.

**RULE 24.**

**A.**

**Clauses in Bill Must Be Germane**

 No clause shall be inserted in a Bill or Resolution unless the same is germane to the Bill or Resolution. In order to be germane, ~~an~~ amendment must be a natural and logical change or expansion directly related to the specific subject of the Bill or Resolution, as defined in the Bill or Resolution, and must not raise any new or independent matter different from the specific subject of the Bill or Resolution. Any perfecting amendment must be germane to both the amendment to be perfected and the underlying Bill or Resolution and must not offer a new proposition or substantially alter the main amendment.

 Matter which is germane to the subject of the General Appropriation Bill and any Supplemental Appropriation Bill shall be defined as those things which reasonably, specifically, and inherently directly relate to the raising or spending of revenue for or in the fiscal year for which the bill applies and do not temporarily or permanently add, amend, or repeal a portion of the general permanent laws of South Carolina. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits the temporary suspension of any permanent law.

 The provisions of this rule must be strictly construed.

**B.**

**Vote Requirement for General Permanent Laws Included in**

**Reports of Conference Committees on Appropriation Bills**

 Any part, section, or division of a general or supplemental appropriation bill which reasonably, specifically, and inherently directly relate to the raising and spending of revenue for or in the fiscal year which the bill applies or any future years, and which amends, adds, or repeals a portion of the general permanent laws of South Carolina that is not otherwise prohibited by the South Carolina Code of Laws may only be included in any conference report or concurred in as a House amendment by a vote of three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting.

**RULE 25.**

**Bill by Committee**

 No Bill or Resolution shall be introduced in the name of a Committee except with the approval of two‑thirds (2/3) of the members thereof at a duly called meeting of the Committee; and the Chairman of the Committee shall certify thereon that this rule has been complied with.

**RULE 26.**

**A.**

**Second ~~and Third~~ Reading of Bills, Recommittal**

**and Amendments on Third Reading**

 After a bill has been called for second reading, the President shall recognize the Bill’s primary sponsor and/or the committee or subcommittee chairman with jurisdiction over the bill for brief explanatory comments on the bill. These explanatory comments shall not be counted for the purposes of the time limits specified in Rule 15A. Upon conclusion of the explanatory comments, the Senate immediately shall begin consideration of any amendments on the desk.

 If a motion under Rule 15A has been adopted and all amendments on the desk have been considered, the Senate will proceed to a vote on the main question after one (1) hour of debate with thirty (30) minutes for and thirty (30) minutes against.

 The final question upon the second reading of every Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment (or motion originating in the Senate), and requiring three readings previous to being passed, shall be, “Shall it pass and be ordered to a third reading?”

**B.**

**Amendments on Third Reading**

 No amendment shall be received on third reading of a Bill or Resolution, unless three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting give leave for the amendment to be received. The primary sponsor of an amendment offered on third reading may be recognized for up to three (3) minutes to explain the amendment prior to the vote required under this provision being taken. Any amendment offered pursuant to this provision must be in conformance with Rule 24.

**C.**

**Amendments on Third Reading Debatable**

 Whenever an amendment is received, pursuant to Rule 26B, on a third reading of any Bill, Resolution, or amendment, the same shall be debatable.

**D.**

**Motion to Commit Always in Order**

 It shall at all times be in order before the final passage of any such Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment, or motion, to move its commitment. Any such motion shall be decided after no more than ten (10) minutes debate, five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. Should such commitment take place and amendment be reported by the Committee, the said Bill, Resolution, Constitutional Amendment, or motion shall be again considered and read a second time.

**E.**

**Fiscal Estimate Required Prior to Second Reading**

 Any Bill or Resolution affecting the expenditure of money by the State shall, prior to receiving second reading, have attached to it in writing such comment of the State Budget Office as may appear appropriate regarding its effect on the finances of the State.

 Any Bill or Resolution affecting the expenditure of money by any county, municipality, school district, or special purpose district within the State shall, prior to receiving second reading, have attached to it in writing a statement by the Committee Chairman that the passage of such Bill or Resolution may affect the revenue of counties, municipalities, school districts, or special purpose districts.

 Failure to comply with the provisions of this rule does not limit debate on such a Bill or Resolution prior to the question of second reading.

 The provisions of this section shall not apply where the exact amount of money to be spent or expended is clearly set out in the Bill or Resolution.

**RULE 27.**

**Presentation of Papers**

 Senators, when presenting petitions, memorials or reports, or introducing Bills or Resolutions, may make a brief statement, not exceeding three (3) minutes, on the subject matter of such report, Bill or Resolution ~~as the President in his or her discretion shall deem appropriate~~, or send it to the President, when it shall be read by the Reading Clerk, unless otherwise ordered.

**RULE 28.**

**Message to the House**

 All messages to the House of Representatives shall be sent by the Clerk, as required by the actions of the Senate.

**RULE 29.**

**The Clerk Charged with Printing**

 The Clerk shall be charged with the duty of having executed, in a proper and accurate manner, the printing ordered by the Senate or provided in the Rules; provided, however, that notwithstanding any other rule to the contrary, any Resolution which expresses sympathy, congratulations or commendation shall be printed in the Senate Journal by title only unless a member requests that the full text of the Resolution be printed in the Journal.

**RULE 30.**

**All Papers to Be Delivered to Clerk at Close of Session**

 At the close of every bi‑annual session the members of the Senate shall be required to hand in to the Clerk all petitions not reported on, and all papers in any way appertaining to the legislative business of the Senate, that the same may be regularly filed in his or her office.

**RULE 31.**

**Executive Sessions**

 When considering confidential or executive business the Senate shall be cleared of all persons except the President, the Senators, the Clerk of the Senate, the Reading Clerk, and the Assistant Clerk designated by the Clerk of the Senate, the Sergeant‑at‑Arms of the Senate and such Deputy Sergeants‑at‑Arms required to ensure the security of the Executive Session.

 All appointments made by the Governor and delivered to the Senate shall be referred to such committee of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19 which are applicable to the reference of bills. Such appointment shall be considered at the next meeting of such committee or such other time as the committee may determine. No report may be made on an appointment unless and until the committee has held a screening hearing and given the appointee an opportunity to appear before the committee. A screening hearing or any portion of a screening hearing, may be held in Executive Session only if allowed pursuant to applicable provisions of law and upon the vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the members of the committee. Any information or material provided to or developed by the committee in an Executive Session and any communications between a Committee Chairman and the appointing authority must be held confidential and only reported to the full Senate in Executive Session. If a committee fails to make a report on an appointment to the full Senate within two (2) weeks after a screening hearing, then the Senate may recall the appointment in Executive Session. Executive Sessions must be held on committee reports on appointments pursuant to applicable provisions of law, unless the Senate agrees to take up any such report in open session.

 Before going into Executive Session, the Senate shall vote in open session on the question of whether to go into Executive Session and the reason therefore. When a motion to go into Executive Session is agreed to, the President shall announce publicly the purpose or purposes of the Executive Session as specified by the member making the motion. No final action may be taken by the Senate in the Executive Session on appointments. For the purpose of this Rule, “final action” means a decision by the Senate which constitutes a dispositive act regarding the consideration of an appointment. No vote may be taken on a final action in Executive Session, and the confirmation of appointments must be voted on in open session.

 When the Senate is in Executive Session, any member may make a motion to bring the debate to a close in the Executive Session or to rise from the Executive Session and such motions must be decided without debate by a majority of the Senators present and voting. When the Senate rises from an Executive Session and the report of an Executive Session is received by the Senate, the final question on every appointment shall be: “Will the Senate advise and consent to this appointment?” Confirmation of statewide appointments shall be by roll call vote unless otherwise agreed to by unanimous consent.

 Messages containing appointments may be published in the Journal when received as other messages, and the fact that an appointment has been made or that it has been confirmed or rejected shall not be regarded as a secret. When considering appointments in Executive Session, all information communicated, or remarks made by a Senator concerning the character or qualifications of the person appointed and any action or failure to act on any appointment(s) required to be kept confidential by applicable provisions of law shall be kept secret.

 Other messages from the Governor pertaining to confidential matters shall be subject to such secrecy or publication as the Senate, in each instance, may order.

 Any Member or Officer of the Senate who violates the secrecy provisions of this rule shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 44 of the Senate and Article 5 of Chapter 13 of Title 8 of the Code of Laws.

**RULE 32**

**A.**

**Order of Business**

 1. Called to Order by the President

 2. Prayer by the Chaplain

 3. Pledge of Allegiance

 4. Receipt of Communications

 5. Introduction and reference of new Bills and Resolutions

 6. Call of the Uncontested local Third Reading Calendar

 7. Call of the Uncontested local Second Reading Calendar

 8. Call of the Uncontested Statewide Third Reading

 Calendar

 9. Call of the Uncontested Statewide Second Reading

 Calendar

 10. Motion Period

 11. Acts returned by the Governor

 12. Reports of Committees of Conference and Free Conference

 13. Bills and Resolutions returned from the House of

 Representatives

 14. Interrupted Debate

 15. Adjourned Debate

 16. Special Order

 17. Call of the contested Statewide Third Reading Calendar

 18. Call of the contested Statewide Second Reading Calendar

 19. Call of the contested local Calendar

 The order of business above provided for may be varied by vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting and any order or business already completed may be reverted to in any legislative day by the vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting. A motion to vary the order of the day shall be in order, prior to, or at the completion of, any orders enumerated above or during the motion period and any such motion shall be decided without debate.

 For the order of business designated as Interrupted Debate there shall not be more than one (1) Bill in this status at any one time provided however, that this limitation shall not apply to the General Appropriation Bill. For the order of business designated as Adjourned Debate there shall not be more than two (2) Bills in this status at any one time. For the order of business designated as Special Order there shall not be more than three (3) Bills on second reading and three (3) Bills on third reading in this status at any one time. Provided that of the Special Order slots, one (1) shall be reserved exclusively for Bills which are the subject of motions authorized by the Rules Committee and made by the Chairman of the Rules Committee or his or her designee, and provided only one bill may be in this status on any reading at any one time. The Bill~~s~~ occupying the slot reserved for ~~Bills made Special Order on motion of~~ the Rules Committee shall have a unique notation to call such status to the Senate’s attention.

 When a Bill or Resolution is returned from the House of Representatives or an Act or Joint Resolution is returned by the Governor with his or her objections, the message shall be read and the matter placed on the Calendar for consideration the next legislative day. However, in the final two (2) weeks before the date set for sine die adjournment, this requirement may be waived upon a motion adopted at the time the message is read in which case the matter will be considered when the Senate reaches that order of business. Such motion shall be decided without debate.

**B.**

**Contested Calendar**

 On any legislative day, a Senator may move no more than three Bills or Resolutions from the Uncontested Statewide Calendar to the Contested Statewide Calendar.

 During the motion period, a motion may be made by the Chairman of the Rules Committee to call any Bill or Resolution, which has been on the calendar for a minimum of six (6) statewide legislative days, from the Contested Calendar. Except for explanatory remarks, such motions shall be determined without debate and by a majority of the Senators present and voting. If agreed to, the Bill or Resolution shall be considered in the ordinary course of business after Special Orders.

 However, in the final two (2) weeks before sine die adjournment, a Bill or Resolution which is on the calendar, may be called from the Contested Calendar by the Rules Committee upon majority vote of the committee and shall be considered in the ordinary course of business after Special Orders.

**C.**

**Bills and Resolutions Returned from the House of Representatives**

 If a Bill or Resolution is returned from the House of Representatives with amendments that add subject matter that is not germane to the Bill as passed by the Senate pursuant to Rule 24 or that is substantially similar to a bill on the Senate Calendar or in a standing committee of the Senate or a subcommittee thereof, the President must, upon recommendation of the President Pro Tempore or his designee, refer the matter to the Standing Committee with jurisdiction over the bill. After which, the Bill or Resolution may be reported to the full Senate to be considered when the Senate next reaches that order of business. All bills returned from the House of Representatives shall be subject to debate as provided for bills on third reading in Rule 15A. The referral required under this provision may be waived by three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting upon motion of any Senator at the time of referral and the debate on any such motion is limited to no more than twenty (20) minutes, ten (10) minutes for and ten (10) minutes against.

**D.**

**Reports of Committees of Conference and Free Conference**

 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 32A, during the final three (3) statewide legislative days prior to the date set for Sine Die adjournment, reports of committees of conference and free conference and Sine Die Resolutions shall be in order at any time except when a question of order has been raised, when the Senate is voting on any matter, while ascertaining a quorum, or when a Senator who has been recognized prior thereto makes a motion to adjourn.

**RULE 33.**

**Motion Period and Special Orders**

**A.**

 During the motion period, any motion pertaining to the business of the Senate may be made. When a motion is made to set a Bill for Special Order, time shall be given to one proponent and one opponent to speak on the motion. Such remarks shall be limited in the discretion of the presiding officer provided, that no Bill may be taken up during the motion period for the purpose of debating the merits of the Bill or for the purpose of giving the Bill a reading. Procedural motions shall be decided without debate; provided, that procedural motions which present a main question, such as a motion to recall, are subject to not more than ten minutes of debate, five (5) minutes for and five (5) minutes against. The motion period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes unless extended by a majority of Senators present and voting.

 At any time, the President Pro Tempore, after consultation with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader, may make any motion pertaining to the business of the Senate and such motion shall be adopted upon approval of three‑fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate.

**B.**

 During the motion period, all motions to set a Bill or Resolution for Special Order on a subsequent legislative day shall be in order irrespective of whether the Bill or Resolution was given a reading on the legislative day the motion is made. Said motions shall be considered in the priority established by the recognition of the Senators making said motions. Each such motion shall relate to a separate Bill or Resolution. Except for explanatory remarks authorized in subsection A, such motions shall be determined without debate and by two‑thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting. Provided, that, when authorized in writing by a majority of the members of the Rules Committee and delivered to the desk, a motion to set a bill for Special Order, shall require a vote of a majority of the members present and voting. At no time may the Special Order calendar have more than one Bill which is set for Special Order by a motion authorized by the Rules Committee. During the motion period, no Bill or Resolution can be made a Special Order ahead of Bills or Resolutions which have already been placed in the status of Adjourned Debate.

 If a Bill is set for Special Order on a date and/or time certain, such Bill is not subject to consideration at the specified date and/or time unless the Senate reaches that order of business or unless by unanimous consent the Senate has agreed that consideration of the Bill will be to the exclusion of all other matters pending before the Senate at such time.

 If a Bill or Resolution is set for Special Order for second reading and subsequently receives such reading, the Bill or Resolution shall remain on Special Order unless otherwise agreed to by three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting.

**RULE 34.**

**Calendar of Continued Bills**

 When a Bill or other matter is under debate, a Senator may move to continue it as provided for in Rule 14, to the 2nd, or any special session of the same General Assembly, and if the Senate agrees thereto, the matter shall be continued only to the next regular session unless otherwise specified in the motion. However, if a Bill or other matter has been under extended debate on three (3) consecutive legislative days or has been under debate for five (5) hours on any one legislative day, then any Senator may move to continue the matter to the 2nd, or any special session of the same General Assembly.

 The Clerk of the Senate shall make up a Calendar of all matters so continued, placing the same thereon in the order in which they have been continued. At the ensuing session the continued matters shall be taken up and considered in the same stage in which they were when so continued. Matters ordered to be placed in the General Orders at the said ensuing session shall be placed there in turn and have priority according to the last order for consideration made upon them, and the Calendar shall be proceeded in as hereinbefore provided.

**RULE 35.**

**Admission to the Floor of Senate**

**Granting the Privilege of the Floor**

**A.**

 No person shall be admitted to the floor of the Senate to that area behind the rail while the Senate is in session or in recess during a session, except as follows: immediate family members of a Senator; Members of the House of Representatives and their Clerk and Sergeant‑at‑Arms; former members of the Senate and House of Representatives unless such former member is a lobbyist registered pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 2 of the Code of Laws, a candidate or acting on behalf of a candidate for an office elected by the General Assembly or confirmed or elected by either the House or Senate, or a member of the governing body or employee of any state agency or department; the Governor and one member of his or her staff; Constitutional Officers; Justices of the Supreme Court; President and Vice‑President of the United States; Members of Congress; Governors of States and Territories; and such Senate staff, Senators' staff, no more than one member of the staff of each Senate Caucus, and Lieutenant Governor’s staff, as the President of the Senate or any Member or Officer of the Senate may see fit to invite to a seat behind the rail. ~~Members of a Senator’s immediate family,~~ Members of the House of Representatives and former Members of the General Assembly, not subject to the foregoing limitations, shall be allowed on the floor of the Senate inside the rail. Members of a Senator’s immediate family shall be allowed inside the rail only for the purposes of introductions.

 Not less than two hours prior to the daily convening of the Senate and while the Senate is in session or in recess during a session no person, except those hereinabove enumerated, shall be allowed beyond the outer doors of the Senate antechamber. Persons not hereinabove enumerated may be admitted only to the antechamber when accompanying a Senator, but any such person is required to leave immediately upon conclusion of their business.

 The Senate Cloakroom is reserved for the exclusive use of the Members of the Senate and their guests.

**B.**

 Any member who wishes to have the privilege of the area of the floor behind the rail granted to a guest shall make such request, in writing, to the Chairman of the Senate Invitations Committee not less than two weeks prior to the date for which the request is made. Upon affirmative vote of three‑fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Invitations Committee, the Chairman of the Committee is authorized to grant access to the area behind the rail for a limited period of time and with such conditions and limitations as the Chairman and/or the Committee deems appropriate. If the number of guests involved exceeds more than half of the maximum seating capacity in the area behind the rail, then the committee shall direct that these guests be seated in the balcony. No exceptions to this Rule may be made.

 Guests who are granted the privilege of the chamber behind the rail may not approach the podium unless the written request so specifies and the committee approves the request. A motion to grant the privilege of the floor within the rail may only be made by the Chairman or Vice Chair of the Invitations Committee.

 Any request to grant the privilege of the floor to address the body from the podium must be made in writing to the Chairman of the Invitations Committee two weeks prior to the date for which the request is made. Upon an affirmative vote of three‑fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Invitations Committee to grant such a request, the committee must introduce a Senate Resolution to that effect. The Senate must adopt this Resolution by majority vote of the entire membership.

**C.**

 The use of the Senate Chamber is restricted to statewide sessions of the Senate or such other meetings of the Senate or its committees as the Senate may, by Resolution, authorize. The use of the Senate Chamber for meetings by outside groups or individuals is limited to normal business hours on Monday through Friday and is prohibited unless authorized by a vote of the Senate upon a favorable recommendation of the Senate Invitations Committee. Incidental use or visitation by individuals or group tours may be authorized by the Clerk of the Senate.

**RULE 36.**

**Places Assigned to Reporters**

 Reporters of public journals, upon application to the Clerk of the Senate, shall be assigned such places for the execution of their duties as shall not interfere with the convenience of the Senate. Any reporter for whom such application is made shall, in addition to the assigned places, be allowed free access to the Senate Antechamber during the time the Senate convenes and adjourns each legislative day. Reporters of the public journals shall be allowed in the area behind the rail in specific locations as designated by the Clerk of the Senate with the approval of the Operations and Management Committee and are strictly prohibited from conducting interviews whether or not initiated by a member of the media or a member of the Senate. Still photographers, upon application to the Clerk of the Senate, shall be granted access to the floor, behind the rail, for the exclusive purpose of taking photographs and upon completion of their assignment shall retire from the floor.

**RULE 37.**

**Bills Shall Receive Three Readings‑‑Resolutions**

**and Committee Reports to Lie on Table One Day**

 Every Bill shall receive three different readings, on three different days prior to its being passed, and the President shall give notice of each, whether it be the first, second, or third reading. All Resolutions to which the approval and signature of the Governor may be requisite, or which may grant money out of the contingent or any other fund, shall be treated in all respects, as to introduction and form of proceedings on them in the Senate, as Bills. All other Resolutions and Reports of standing, special, conference and free conference Committees shall lie on the table one statewide legislative day for consideration provided, however, that during the six (6) statewide legislative days preceding the date set for sine die adjournment the one day requirement as to a specific Resolution or report of a committee may be suspended by a vote of three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators present and voting. The provisions of this Rule do not apply to amendments to sine die Resolutions that have been previously approved by the Senate.

**First and Third Readings by Title**

The first and third readings of each Bill shall be by its title only; provided, that on each second reading the Bill shall be read in full on the motion of any Senator which shall be decided without debate.

**RULE 38.**

**Precedence of Motion to Refer**

 A motion to refer to a Standing Committee shall take precedence over a motion to refer to a Special Committee.

**RULE 39.**

**Printed Bills to Be on Desk One Day Before**

**Second Reading**

 No Bill or Joint Resolution shall receive a second reading unless printed and made available to the members at least one day previous to such reading.

**RULE 40.**

**Title to Bills to Amend or Repeal Acts**

 Every Bill or Joint Resolution which shall propose the amendment or repeal of any Section, Chapter or Title of the General Statutes, or of any Act of Assembly or Joint Resolution, shall in its title express the subject matter of such Section, Chapter, Title, Act or Joint Resolution so sought to be amended or repealed. Every Bill or Joint Resolution proposing to amend any Section or Sections of any Chapter of the General Statutes, or of any Act or Joint Resolution, shall give the full text of the said Section or Sections, as it or they would read with such amendment or amendments inserted therein.

**RULE 41.**

**Broadcasts by Television and Radio**

 Broadcast media shall be allowed in the area behind the rail in specific locations as designated by the Clerk of the Senate with the approval of the Operations and Management Committee and are strictly prohibited from conducting interviews whether or not initiated by a member of the media or a member of the Senate.

 The Operations and Management Committee shall have full authority to regulate, supervise and fix times of broadcasts of the proceedings of the Senate by radio or television.

**RULE 42.**

**Jefferson’s Manual to Govern Other Cases**

 In all cases not embraced by the foregoing Rules, the Senate shall be governed by such rules as are laid down in the 1801 version of Jefferson’s Manual of Parliamentary Practice.

**RULE 43.**

**Suspending and Amending Rules**

 Any Rule of the Senate or severable portion of a rule of the Senate may be suspended by unanimous consent of the Senate. Without unanimous consent one day’s previous notice shall be given of a motion to suspend any of the rules or severable portion thereof. A motion to suspend shall require a vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate.

 Any permanent amendment, rescission, or repeal of any of the Senate rules shall require a two‑thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate.

 The Clerk of the Senate shall have these rules recorded in a permanent book which shall be kept at all times in the Senate Chamber. All permanent changes in the rules after they have been adopted shall be recorded in a Permanent Rule Book and certified by the Clerk of the Senate. These rules shall remain in full force and effect until the conclusion of the terms for Senators or until the Rules are amended, suspended, or repealed by a vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate prior thereto.

**RULE 44.**

**Ethics Committee Duties**

**A.**

 In the Senate there shall be a Committee on Ethics, consisting of ten (10) members. The committee has the following powers and duties:

 (1) To receive complaints or charges concerning conduct alleged to be unethical from any citizen of this State or member of the Senate against Senate:

 (a) members;

 (b) former members, provided the allegations are related to the former member’s service in the Senate;

 (c) candidates;

 (d) former candidates, provided the allegations are related to the former candidate’s bid for Senate;

 (e) officers and employees;

 (f) staff and independent contractors of a legislative caucus committee.

Only sworn written complaints or charges may be considered.

 (2) To file a complaint upon concurrence of at least six members of the Senate Ethics Committee when alleged violations are identified. Unethical conduct may include, but is not limited to, a:

 (a) violation of Chapter 13 of Title 8;

 (b) violation of Chapter 17 of Title 2; or

 (c) breach of this Rule by a person designated in (1) above or as designated by statute.

 (3) To investigate such complaints and charges and, if warranted, to report the results of such investigation to the Senate with recommendations for further appropriate action as authorized by law.

 (4) Upon request of any member, officer, or employee of the Senate to render advisory opinions with regard to legislative ethics when, in their judgment, such opinions would serve the public interest, and to act as an advisory body to the Senate and to individual members of or candidates for the Senate on questions pertaining to the disclosure and filing requirements.

 (5) To make available annually to the Senate a compilation of the principles set forth in advisory opinions rendered.

 (6) To administer or recommend appropriate sanctions or dismiss charges.

 (7) To ascertain whether a person has failed to comply fully and accurately with the disclosure requirements of Chapter 13 of Title 8 and promptly notify the person to file the necessary notices and reports to satisfy the requirements.

 (8) To recommend any rule or statutory change relating to ethics as the committee deems appropriate.

**B.**

 All papers, documents, complaints, charges, requests for advisory opinions, and any other material required to be filed with or received by the committee shall be strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause, or a waiver of confidentiality by the respondent. No persons involved with a complaint before the committee, including complainant, respondent, counsel, counsel’s secretaries, committee members and staff, and investigators shall mention the existence of any such proceeding nor disclose any information pertaining thereto, unless otherwise permitted by the Rules. Disclosure of confidential information must be punished in a manner provided by the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act. If the Senate Ethics Committee finds that a person has violated the provisions of this item, it must report its findings to the Attorney General.

**C.**

 Information that must be made public following a finding of probable cause or waiver of confidentiality by the respondent are: the complaint; the response by the respondent; any exhibits introduced at a public hearing, subject to redaction of information of a personal nature where public disclosure would constitute unreasonable invasion of personal privacy; and the final order issued by the committee.

**RULE 44.1**

**Ethics Committee Procedures**

**A.**

**Complaint**

 All investigations, inquiries, hearings and accompanying documents must remain strictly confidential until a finding of probable cause, unless the respondent waives the right to confidentiality. However, the committee may vote before a finding of probable cause to disclose certain confidential information to the membership of the Senate in Executive Session and the committee must only disclose in Executive Session any action of the committee as is necessary for the members to make a fully informed decision on any matter before the Senate. In addition, the committee may vote before a finding of probable cause to disclose certain confidential information to the membership of the Senate if a member or former member of the Senate is appointed to an office which is subject to confirmation by the Senate and an ethics complaint has been filed and is pending against such member or former member. The Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee must notify any Standing Committee with jurisdiction over the appointment, in Executive Session, of the existence and nature of the pending complaint if the committee, after a preliminary investigation, finds evidence to support an alleged violation. If the appointment is then brought before the Senate, the Senate may not consider the appointment until the Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee notifies the Senate, in Executive Session, of the existence and nature of the pending complaint.

 A certified copy of the sworn statement of charges against the respondent must be given to him or her within ten days of the time the statement of charges is received by the Chairman of the Ethics Committee. The respondent has the right to file a response to the complaint within fifteen calendar days after receipt of the complaint and to face and cross‑examine his or her accusers and the witnesses against him or her at any hearing called by the Ethics Committee. All hearings following a finding of probable cause must be conducted in open session. The Ethics Committee must call a hearing if a majority of the membership of the Ethics Committee feels that the charges have merit or if the respondent formally requests a hearing.

 No complaint may be accepted by the Ethics Committee concerning a member of or candidate for the Senate during the fifty‑day period before an election in which the member or candidate is participating. During this fifty‑day time period, a person may petition the court of common pleas alleging the violations complained of pursuant to the provisions of Section 8‑13‑530. Action on a complaint filed against a member or candidate which was received more than fifty days before the election but which cannot be disposed of or dismissed by the Ethics Committee at least thirty days before the election must be postponed until after the election.

 If the Ethics Committee determines the complaint does not allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation, the complaint must be dismissed and the complainant and respondent notified. If the Ethics Committee finds that the complaining party willfully filed a groundless complaint, the finding must be reported to the Attorney General. If the Ethics Committee determines the complaint alleges facts sufficient to constitute a violation, it shall promptly investigate the alleged violation and may compel by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of pertinent books and papers. The subpoena must be signed by the Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee.

 No complaint shall be accepted which is filed later than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred.

**B.**

**Findings of Probable Cause and Subsequent Actions**

 All ethics committee investigations and records relating to the preliminary investigation are confidential unless otherwise permitted by the Rules.

 If the Ethics Committee finds that probable cause exists to support an alleged violation after a preliminary investigation, it shall, as appropriate:

 (1) render an advisory opinion to the respondent and require the respondent’s compliance within a reasonable time; or

 (2) convene a formal hearing on the matter.

 If the Ethics Committee renders an advisory opinion and the respondent fails to comply, the committee must convene a formal hearing on the matter within thirty days of the respondent’s failure to comply.

 If a hearing is to be held, the respondent must be allowed to examine and make copies of all evidence in the Ethics Committee’s possession relating to the charges. The Committee must establish procedures which afford respondents appropriate due process protections, including the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross‑examine opposing witnesses. All hearings must be conducted in open session.

 After the hearing, the Ethics Committee shall determine its findings of fact. If the Committee, based on competent and substantial evidence, finds the respondent has violated Chapter 13, Title 8, or Chapter 17, Title 2, or violated this Rule, it shall:

 (1) administer a public reprimand;

 (2) require the respondent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand dollars for each non‑technical violation that is unrelated to the late filing of a required statement or report or failure to file a required statement or report;

 (3) require the forfeiture of gifts, receipts, or profits, or the value thereof, obtained in violation of Chapter 13, Title 8 or Chapter 17, Title 2;

 (4) recommend expulsion of the member;

 (5) in the case of an alleged criminal violation, refer the matter to the Attorney General for investigation; or

 (6) require a combination of items (1) through (5), as necessary and appropriate.

 If the Ethics Committee finds the respondent has not violated a statutory provision or Rule or engaged in unethical behavior, it shall dismiss the charges.

 The Ethics Committee shall report its findings in writing to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. If the Committee finds a violation of a statutory provision or Rule or finds unethical behavior, the report must be accompanied by an order of punishment that is supported and signed by a majority of the Ethics Committee members.

 The respondent has ten calendar days from the date of the notification of the Ethics Committee’s action to appeal the action to the full Senate.

 No Ethics Committee member may participate in any matter in which he is involved as a respondent.

 Upon receipt of a recommendation of expulsion or an appeal from an order of the Ethics Committee, the President Pro Tempore shall call the Senate into open session at a time to be determined at his discretion to consider the action of the Ethics Committee. The Senate shall either sustain or overrule the Ethics Committee’s action or order other action consistent with these Rules as otherwise permitted by statute. The consideration and results of a Senate Ethics Committee report are a matter of public record.

 No member may vote on the question of his or her expulsion from the Senate.

 Failure to fully comply with a final ethics order is a separate violation that may be considered by the ethics Committee.

**C.**

**Penalty for Failure to File Statements or Reports as Required**

 If the Senate Ethics Committee finds the respondent has failed to file or was late in filing a required statement of economic interest or campaign disclosure report, the Senate Ethics Committee must order the respondent to pay a fine according to the provisions in Section 8‑13‑1510.

**D.**

**Technical Violations**

 The Senate Ethics Committee may, in its discretion, determine that errors or omissions on statements of economic interests and campaign disclosure reports are inadvertent and unintentional and not an effort to violate a requirement of Chapter 13, Title 8 and may be handled as technical violations not subject to the provisions of Chapter 13, Title 8 pertaining to ethical violations. The Senate Ethics Committee may assess a penalty for technical violations not exceeding fifty dollars.

**E.**

**Receipt of Documents**

 In conjunction with the proceedings specified in Rule 44.2, the President Pro Tempore, and the Senate Ethics Committee on behalf of the entire Senate, may receive:

 (1) certified copies of any indictment or information for a felony or offense against the election laws filed or returned against any member of the Senate;

 (2) certified copies of any plea of guilty or nolo contendere to the felony entered by any member of the Senate;

 (3) certified copies of any conviction of a member for the felony; and

 (4) certified copies of any opinion, order, or judgment of any court, state or federal, trial or appellate, relating to any of the aforementioned matters.

**RULE 44.2**

**Rules Governing Actions Taken Against a Member**

 (a) If an indictment, information on a felony, or a warrant for the offenses provided in Sections 7‑ 13‑1920, 7‑25‑20, 7‑25‑40, 7‑25‑50, 7‑25‑60, 7‑25‑110, 7‑25‑120 and 7‑25‑150 of the Code of Laws, is filed, returned, or issued against a member of the Senate, the member indicted, charged or informed against may request the President Pro Tempore to excuse the member, without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate and the President Pro Tempore shall comply with the request.

 If the indictment, charge or information is either nol prossed or dismissed, or if the member is found not guilty of the offense or offenses charged or of lesser included offenses, the member may immediately return to active Senate duties and shall be paid all back pay and be restored to all other benefits and privileges retroactive to the date the member was excused.

 (b) A member who enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense listed in subsection (a) must be suspended by the President Pro Tempore immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate through the remainder of that member’s term. In addition, the Senate Ethics Committee shall recommend expulsion of such member to the Senate and the Senate shall vote on the expulsion of such member in accordance with Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution of this State.

 (c) A member convicted of any offense listed in subsection (a) must be suspended by the President Pro Tempore immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the Senate pending final appellate action or the end of that member’s term, whichever occurs first. If no appeal is taken by the member convicted, or if his or her appeal is denied, or if the final appellate decision is to sustain the conviction and the member’s resignation is not forthcoming, the Senate Ethics Committee shall recommend expulsion of such member to the Senate, and the Senate shall vote on the member’s expulsion in accordance with Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution of this State.

 If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and there is a retrial or rehearing, the member is subject to the provisions of subsection (a). If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and no charges for any offense listed in subsection (a) remain against the member, the member is entitled to restitution of back pay and restoration of all other benefits and privileges of membership of the Senate retroactive to the date of suspension.

 (d) The action provided for in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this rule is in addition to other action authorized pursuant to Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution or other Senate rule. Pursuant to the Constitution and except as provided herein, a member may not be disciplined, suspended, or expelled without a vote of the Senate.

 If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and there is a retrial or rehearing, the member is subject to the provisions of subsection (a). If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and no charges for any offense listed in subsection (a) remain against the member, the member is entitled to restitution of back pay and restoration of all other benefits and privileges of membership of the Senate retroactive to the date of suspension.

 (d) The action provided for in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this rule is in addition to other action authorized pursuant to Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution or other Senate rule. Pursuant to the Constitution and except as provided herein, a member may not be disciplined, suspended, or expelled without a vote of the Senate.

**RULE 45**

**Selection of Senate Members for Committee to**

**Consider Qualifications of Candidates for**

**Offices Filled by Election by the**

**General Assembly**

 Whenever an election in Joint Assembly is to be held by the General Assembly to fill offices which require election by the General Assembly, the President of the Senate shall notify the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Senate which would be most concerned with the office or offices to be filled by the election, which Chairman shall thereupon appoint four Senators from his or her committee to serve on the Joint Senate‑House Committee to consider qualifications of candidates to be elected. The total membership of such a Committee shall be composed of members of the two major political parties in proportion to the number of Senators of each of such political parties as nearly as practicable. All appointments to such joint committees shall be recorded in the Senate Journal.

**RULE 46.**

**Recorded Floor Proceedings**

 The Clerk may record the following proceedings on the floor of the Senate:

 (1) Congratulatory remarks;

 (2) Speeches;

 (3) Points of Order and Rulings of the Chair regarding such points and such other proceedings as the Clerk determines necessary.

**RULE 47.**

**Final Date House Legislation May Be Considered**

 Bills received after May 1 shall be received, read and referred to the appropriate committee but are not eligible to be taken up until the next regular session unless upon the report of such a bill by a committee it receives a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present and voting to be placed on the calendar. Any bill failing to receive the required vote shall be returned to the committee. The committee report on any such bill received after the May 1 deadline shall clearly indicate that the bill had been received after May 1 and is subject to this rule.

 A Point of Order to enforce the provisions of this rule shall be valid until the Bill which is the subject of the Point of Order is printed and has been laid on the desks of the members in compliance with Rule 39.

**RULE 48.**

**Invitations**

 All invitations which are extended to the entire membership of the Senate must be referred to the Committee on Invitations for its consideration. The Senate may not accept any invitations to attend functions (social or otherwise) which are to be held at a club or organization which does not admit as members persons of all races, religions, colors, sexes, or national origins. The committee has the duty of determining whether or not the function is to be held at a club or organization which does not admit as members persons of all races, religions, colors, sexes, or national origins. Individual Senators may attend functions at any club without being censored or prejudiced in any manner.

 The Invitations Committee shall adopt such procedures and requirements as it deems necessary to ensure that persons or organizations who extend invitations to the Senate have fully complied with the provisions of Act 248 of 1991 (The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991, as amended). The committee shall make copies of any such procedure available upon request.

**RULE 49.**

**Condemnatory Resolution**

 No Resolution of a condemnatory nature shall be considered by the Senate unless it has been sent to the appropriate committee at least twenty‑four (24) hours prior to such consideration.

**RULE 50.**

**Vote Requirements**

 The question of granting of free conference powers and the question of adoption of a free conference report shall require an affirmative vote of two‑thirds (2/3) of the membership of the Senate.

 On the question of an act returned from the Governor with his or her objections, the presiding officer shall submit the following question to the Senate:

“Shall the act become law, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?”

 And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by two‑thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting, then the Governor’s veto is overridden.

**RULE 51.**

**Local Matters**

**A.**

 The Clerk of the Senate shall prepare a list for each county of the State the percentage of the population of that county that a Senator represents. For general bills with local application, a Senator’s vote shall be weighted based upon the percentage of the population of the county that the Senator represents. The provisions of Rule 16 do not apply to local matters.

**B.**

 No general bill with local application shall be introduced unless personally signed by a Senator representing the county. No general bill with local application may be moved from the local uncontested calendar to the local contested calendar unless approved by a vote of three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators who represent the county as determined by their weighted voting percentages.

**C.**

 When a general bill of local application is on the uncontested calendar, no further debate shall be allowed on the bill after no more than thirty (30) minutes of debate, fifteen (15) minutes for and fifteen (15) minutes against.

**D.**

 For purposes of this Rule, when a general bill of local application affects consolidation of school districts or municipalities within a county, then that bill cannot be moved from the local uncontested calendar to the local contested calendar unless approved by a vote of three‑fifths (3/5) of the Senators of at least one of the affected school districts or municipalities. Upon motion, the Clerk of the Senate shall prepare a list for each affected school district or municipality the percentage of the population of that school district or municipality that a Senator represents.

**E.**

 Unless all of the affected Senators of a county have agreed to an alternative method, candidates for gubernatorial appointment to local offices shall be considered for confirmation as described below:

 Once received by the Senate, local appointments shall be referred to the appropriate county senatorial delegation. The delegation then may report the appointment to the Senate for consideration (1) if the Senators whose combined weighted vote is sixty‑five percent or more favor such report or (2) if seventy‑five percent of the members of the delegation favor such report.

**RULE 52.**

**Personal Attacks on Senators not Permitted; Executive Session**

**A.**

 No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

**B.**

 If any Senator, in speaking or otherwise, in the opinion of the President transgresses this Rule the President shall, either on his own motion or at the request of any other Senator, call him to order; and when a Senator shall be called to order he shall immediately take his seat, and may not proceed without leave of the Senate, which if granted, shall be upon motion that he be allowed to proceed in order, which motion shall be determined without debate.

**C.**

 Any Senator directed by the President to take his seat, and any Senator requesting the President to require a Senator to take his seat, may appeal from the ruling of the Chair, which appeal shall be open to debate but only after the Senate has proceeded to Executive Session.

**RULE 53.**

**Seventy‑Two Hour Budget Review**

 Except for explanatory remarks by the chairman and subcommittee chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate may not consider the General Appropriation Bill, any Supplemental Appropriation Bill, any Joint Resolution appropriating revenues from the state’s reserve funds, any bond bill, or any revenue raising measure as described in Section 11‑11‑440 until the Bill or Joint Resolution and any Committee Report on the Bill or Joint Resolution have been made publicly available in a conspicuous location on the General Assembly’s website for seventy‑two (72) hours.

 The time periods provided above may be waived by agreement of two‑thirds (2/3) of the Senators present and voting.

**RULE 54**

**Prohibition on Noncandidate Committees**

 Notwithstanding Section 8‑13‑1340, a member of the Senate shall not, directly or indirectly, establish, finance, maintain, or control a noncandidate committee as defined in Section 8‑13‑1300. A noncandidate committee does not include a candidate committee or a legislative caucus committee.

 Senator CROMER spoke on the Resolution.

 The question then was the adoption of the Resolution.

**Motion Adopted**

 At 1:35 P.M., Senator LARRY MARTIN moved the previous question to vote on the entire matter of S. 1.

 Having received the necessary vote, the motion was adopted.

**Amendment No. 2**

 Senator BRIGHT proposed the following Amendment No. 2 (1R015.LB), which was not adopted:

 Amend the Senate Resolution, as and if amended, by deleting Rule 54.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator LARRY MARTIN asked unanimous consent to make a motion that proponents and opponents would have five minutes each for discussion, totaling 10 minutes, on each amendment.

 There was no objection.

 Senator BRIGHT argued in favor of the adoption of the amendment and Senator SHEHEEN argued contra.

 The amendment was not adopted.

**Amendment No. 5**

 Senator BRIGHT proposed the following Amendment No. 5 (1R016.LB), which was not adopted:

 Amend the Senate resolution, as and if amended, by striking Rule 16 and insterting:

 / RULE 16.

 Vote by Ayes and Noes

 Senators Present Must Vote

 Except as otherwise provided, the decision of the Senate on any question other than unanimous consent shall be taken by all members voting ‘viva voce’ or electronically when a roll call is required, if an electronic voting system is available. Votes on the following matters shall be taken by roll call and the names of the Senators voting shall be recorded in the Journal:

 (1) Second reading of Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the South Carolina Constitution and third reading of such Joint Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading;

 (2) The question on any act returned from the Governor with his or her objections;

 (3) Second reading of Bills and Resolutions having the force and effect of law and third reading of such Bills and Resolutions that are substantively amended on third reading;

 (4) Adoption of reports of conference committees and free conference committees and the granting of free conference powers;

 (5) The question on concurrence or the adoption of a substantive amendment proposed to Bills or Resolutions returned from the House of Representatives; and

 (6) Any vote on the main question of an amendment for which there is a request for a roll call by three (3) Senators and the vote on any other motion for which there is a request for a roll call by five (5) Senators.

 Prior to third reading of the annual general appropriations bill, each section of Part IA with the corresponding provisos must be considered individually and receive a roll call vote.

 Upon a call of the Senate and unless a division is ordered, the Senators present shall vote alphabetically, unless voting electronically, when a roll call is required and every Senator present must give his or her vote as aye, no, or abstain unless excused by the Senate.

 No Senator who is absent when the vote is taken and the result announced by the President shall be allowed to vote without leave of the Senate. A Senator who is absent from a vote may not be recorded as voting on that matter.

 The chairman of every subcommitee and committee shall ensure that every vote on the main question of a bill or an amendment is recorded, by individual member, in the minutes of every meeting. /

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Senator BRIGHT argued in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

 The amendment was not adopted.

 The question then was the adoption of the Resolution.

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

**Ayes 44; Nays 1**

**AYES**

Alexander Allen Bennett

Bryant Campbell Campsen

Cleary Coleman Corbin

Courson Cromer Davis

Fair Ford Gregory

Grooms Hayes Hembree

Hutto Jackson Johnson

Leatherman Lourie Malloy

*Martin, Larry* Massey Matthews

McElveen McGill Nicholson

O'Dell Peeler Pinckney

Rankin Reese Scott

Setzler Shealy Sheheen

Thurmond Turner Verdin

Williams Young

**Total--44**

**NAYS**

Bright

**Total--1**

 The Resolution was adopted.

**SELECTION OF COMMITTEES**

 The Senate proceeded to the selection of committees as follows:

 **STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE**

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Verdin, Daniel B., Chairman

Matthews, John W., Jr.

McGill, J. Yancey

Grooms, Larry K.

Bryant, Kevin

Williams, Kent M.

Campbell, Paul G., Jr.

Sheheen, Vincent A.

Gregory, Chauncey K. “Greg”

Massey, A. Shane

Coleman, Creighton

Corbin, Tom

Hembree, Greg

Johnson, Kevin

McElveen, Thomas

Shealy, Katrina

Young, Tom

**BANKING AND INSURANCE**

Hayes, Robert W., Jr., Chairman

Setzler, Nikki

Courson, John E.

Matthews, John W., Jr.

Reese, Glenn G.

Jackson, Darrell

Martin, Larry A.

Rankin, Luke

Alexander, Thomas C.

Cromer, Ronnie W.

Pinckney, Clementa C.

Malloy, Gerald

O’Dell, William

Davis, Thomas C.

Lourie, Joel

Bright, Lee

Bennett, Sean

**CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY**

Fair, Michael L., Chairman

Pinckney, Clementa C.

Williams, Kent M.

Campbell, Paul G., Jr.

Massey, A. Shane

Martin, Shane R.

Nicholson, Floyd

Gregory, Chauncey K. “Greg”

Matthews, John

Davis, Tom

Allen, Karl

Johnson, Kevin

McElveen, Thomas

Shealy, Katrina

Thurmond, Paul

Turner, Ross

Young, Tom

**EDUCATION**

Courson, John E., Chairman

Setzler, Nikki

Matthews, John W., Jr.

Hayes, Robert W., Jr.

Rankin, Luke A.

Fair, Michael L.

Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.

Jackson, Darrell

Grooms, Larry K.

Martin, Larry A.

Malloy, Gerald

Hutto, Brad

Pinckney, Clementa

Sheheen, Vincent A.

Cleary, Ray

Hembree, Greg

Thurmond, Paul

**ETHICS**

Rankin, Luke, Chairman

Leatherman, Hugh K.

Courson, John E.

Hayes, Robert W., Jr.

McGill, J. Yancey

Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.

Reese, Glenn G.

Hutto, Brad

Matthews, John

Jackson, Darrell

**FINANCE**

Leatherman, Hugh K., Chairman

Setzler, Nikki

Peeler, Harvey S., Jr.

McGill, J. Yancey

Courson, John E.

Matthews, John W., Jr.

O’Dell, William H.

Reese, Glenn G.

Hayes, Robert W., Jr.

Alexander, Thomas C.

Grooms, Larry K.

Pinckney, Clementa C.

Fair, Michael L.

Verdin, Daniel B.

Cromer, Ronnie W.

Bryant, Kevin

Jackson, Darrell

Ford, Robert

Cleary, Ray

Lourie, Joel

Williams, Kent

Campbell, Paul G., Jr.

Davis, Tom

**FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY**

Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III, Chairman

McGill, J. Yancey

Hutto, C. Bradley

Cromer, Ronnie W.

Williams, Kent

Sheheen, Vincent

Coleman, Creighton B.

Gregory, Chauncey K. “Greg”

Bennett, Sean

Corbin, Tom

Hembree, Greg

Johnson, Kevin

McElveen, Thomas

Shealy, Katrina

Thurmond, Paul

Turner, Ross

Young, Tom

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

O’Dell, William H., Chairman

Ford, Robert

Sheheen, Vincent A.

Reese, Glenn G.

Lourie, Joel

Bryant, Kevin

Jackson, Darrell

Cromer, Ronnie

Cleary, Raymond E., III

Bright, Lee

McGill, Yancey

Verdin, Danny

Campbell, Paul G., Jr.

Martin, Shane

Allen, Karl

Shealy, Katrina

Young, Tom

**INTERSTATE COOPERATION**

Leatherman, Hugh K., Chairman

Setzler, Nikki

Peeler, Harvey S.

Matthews, John

O’Dell, William H.

**INVITATIONS**

Bryant, Kevin, Chairman

Alexander, Thomas C.

McGill, J. Yancey

Reese, Glenn G.

Ford, Robert

Verdin, Daniel B.

Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III

Cromer, Ronnie W.

Malloy, Gerald

Cleary, Ray

Johnson, Kevin

**JUDICIARY**

Martin, Larry A., Chairman

Rankin, Luke

Hutto, C. Bradley

Malloy, Gerald

Sheheen, Vincent A.

Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III

Massey, A. Shane

Bright, Lee

Coleman, Creighton B.

Martin, Shane R.

Nicholson, Floyd

Scott, John L., Jr.

Gregory, Chauncey K. “Greg”

Allen, Karl

Bennett, Sean

Corbin, Tom

Hembree, Greg

Johnson, Kevin

McElveen, Thomas

Shealy, Katrina

Thurmond, Paul

Turner, Ross

Young, Tom

**LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

Alexander, Thomas C., Chairman

Setzler, Nikki

O’Dell, William H.

Reese, Glenn G.

Ford, Robert

Leatherman, Hugh K.

Bryant, Kevin

Williams, Kent

Massey, A. Shane

Bright, Lee

Nicholson, Floyd

Davis, Tom

Scott, John

Bennett, Sean

Corbin, Tom

Johnson, Kevin

Turner, Ross

**MEDICAL AFFAIRS**

Peeler, Harvey S., Jr., Chairman

Courson, John E.

Hayes, Robert W., Jr.

Jackson, Darrell

Fair, Michael L.

Hutto, C. Bradley

Pinckney, Clementa C.

Verdin, Daniel B.

Cleary, Raymond E., III

Lourie, Joel

Martin, Shane R.

Nicholson, Floyd

Scott, John L., Jr.

Ford, Robert

Alexander, Thomas

Bright, Lee

Davis, Tom

**RULES**

Cromer, Ronnie W., Chairman

Martin, Larry A.

Reese, Glenn G.

Hutto, C. Bradley

Malloy, Gerald

Leatherman, Hugh

Massey, A. Shane

Martin, Shane R.

Nicholson, Floyd

Gregory, Chauncey K. “Greg”

Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III

Scott, John L., Jr.

Allen, Karl B.

Corbin, Tom

McElveen, Thomas

Thurmond, Paul

Turner, Ross

**TRANSPORTATION**

Grooms, Larry K., Chairman

Leatherman, Hugh K.

McGill, J. Yancey

Rankin, Luke

Verdin, Daniel B.

Malloy, Gerald

Campsen, George E. “Chip”, III

Cleary, Raymond E., III

Peeler, Harvey

Campbell, Paul

Ford, Robert

Lourie, Joel

Coleman, Creighton

Scott, John L., Jr.

Allen, Karl B.

Bennett, Sean

Hembree, Greg

**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**OF THE SENATE**

ALEXANDER, THOMAS C.

Banking and Insurance

Finance

Invitations

Labor, Commerce and Industry, Chairman

Medical Affairs

ALLEN, KARL

Corrections and Penology

General

Judiciary

Rules

Transportation

BENNETT, SEAN

Banking and Insurance

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Transportation

BRIGHT, LEE

Banking and Insurance

General

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

BRYANT, KEVIN

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Finance

General

Invitations, Chairman

Labor, Commerce and Industry

CAMPBELL, PAUL G., JR.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Finance

General

Transportation

CAMPSEN, GEORGE E. “CHIP”, III

Fish, Game and Forestry, Chairman

Invitations

Judiciary

Rules

Transportation

CLEARY, RAYMOND E., III

Education

Finance

General

Invitations

Medical Affairs

Transportation

­COLEMAN, CREIGHTON

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Transportation

CORBIN, TOM

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Rules

COURSON, JOHN E.

Banking and Insurance

Education, Chairman

Ethics

Finance

Medical Affairs

CROMER, RONNIE W.

Banking and Insurance

Finance

Fish, Game and Forestry

General

Invitations

Rules, Chairman

DAVIS, THOMAS C.

Banking and Insurance

Corrections and Penology

Finance

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

FAIR, MICHAEL L.

Corrections and Penology, Chairman

Education

Finance

Medical Affairs

FORD, ROBERT

Finance

General

Invitations

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

Transportation

GREGORY, CHAUNCEY K. “GREG”

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Rules

GROOMS, LARRY K.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Education

Finance

Transportation, Chairman

HAYES, ROBERT W., JR.

Banking and Insurance, Chairman

Education

Ethics

Finance

Medical Affairs

HEMBREE, GREG

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Education

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Transportation

HUTTO, C. BRADLEY

Education

Ethics

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Medical Affairs

Rules

JACKSON, DARRELL

Banking and Insurance

Education

Ethics

Finance

General

Medical Affairs

JOHNSON, KEVIN

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

Invitations

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

LEATHERMAN, HUGH K.

Ethics

Finance, Chairman

Interstate Cooperation, Chairman

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Rules

Transportation

LOURIE, JOEL

Banking and Insurance

Finance

General

Medical Affairs

Transportation

MALLOY, GERALD

Banking and Insurance

Education

Invitations

Judiciary

Rules

Transportation

MARTIN, LARRY A.

Banking and Insurance

Education

Judiciary, Chairman

Rules

MARTIN, SHANE

Corrections and Penology

General

Judiciary

Medical Affairs

Rules

MASSEY, A. SHANE

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Rules

MATTHEWS, JOHN W., JR.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Banking and Insurance

Corrections and Penology

Education

Ethics

Finance

Interstate Cooperation

McELVEEN, THOMAS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Rules

McGILL, J. YANCEY

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Ethics

Finance

Fish, Game and Forestry

General

Invitations

Transportation

NICHOLSON, FLOYD

Corrections and Penology

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

Rules

O’DELL, WILLIAM H.

Banking and Insurance

Finance

General, Chairman

Invitations

Labor, Commerce and Industry

PEELER, HARVEY S., JR.

Education

Ethics

Finance

Interstate Cooperation

Medical Affairs, Chairman

Transportation

PINCKNEY, CLEMENTA C.

Banking and Insurance

Corrections and Penology

Education

Finance

Medical Affairs

RANKIN, LUKE

Banking and Insurance

Education

Ethics, Chairman

Judiciary

Transportation

REESE, GLENN G.

Banking and Insurance

Ethics

Finance

General

Invitations

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Rules

SCOTT, JOHN L., JR.

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

Rules

Transportation

SETZLER, NIKKI

Banking and Insurance

Education

Finance

Interstate Cooperation

Labor, Commerce and Industry

SHEALY, KATRINA

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

General

Judiciary

SHEHEEN, VINCENT A.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Education

Fish, Game and Forestry

General

Judiciary

THURMOND, PAUL

Corrections and Penology

Education

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Rules

TURNER, ROSS

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Rules

VERDIN, DANIEL B.

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chairman

Finance

General

Invitations

Medical Affairs

Transportation

WILLIAMS, KENT M.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Finance

Fish, Game and Forestry

Labor, Commerce and Industry

YOUNG, TOM

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Corrections and Penology

Fish, Game and Forestry

General

Judiciary

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

 Pursuant to Rule 19E, the following members are designated as Standing Committee Chairmen:

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

 Senator Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III

BANKING AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

 Senator Robert W. “Wes” Hayes, Jr.

CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY COMMITTEE

 Senator Michael L. Fair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

 Senator John E. Courson

ETHICS COMMITTEE

 Senator Luke Rankin

FINANCE COMMITTEE

 Senator Hugh K. Leatherman

FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

 Senator George E. “Chip” Campsen III

GENERAL COMMITTEE

 Senator William H. O’Dell

INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMITTEE

 Senator Hugh K. Leatherman

INVITATIONS COMMITTEE

 Senator Kevin L. Bryant

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

 Senator Larry A. Martin

LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

 Senator Thomas C. Alexander

MEDICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

 Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.

RULES COMMITTEE

 Senator Ronnie W. Cromer

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

 Senator Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms

**SEATING SELECTIONS**

 Pursuant to the Rules, the Senate proceeded to the selection of seats.

 The Reading Clerk called the seniority roll for the purpose of seating selections as follows:

Seat 1 Sen. Courson

Seat 2 Sen. Peeler

Seat 3 Sen. Leatherman

Seat 4 Sen. O’Dell

Seat 5 Sen. Cromer

Seat 6 Sen. Hayes

Seat 7 Sen. Larry Martin

Seat 8 Sen. Fair

Seat 9 Sen. Alexander

Seat 10 Sen. Campsen

Seat 11 Sen. Cleary

Seat 12 Sen. Campbell

Seat 13 Sen. Grooms

Seat 14 Sen. Verdin

Seat 15 Sen. Bright

Seat 16 Sen. Bryant

Seat 17 Sen. Gregory

Seat 18 Sen. Hembree

Seat 19 Sen. Bennett

Seat 20 Sen. Shane Martin

Seat 21 Sen. Davis

Seat 22 Sen. Corbin

Seat 23 Sen. Shealy

Seat 24 Sen. McGill

Seat 25 Sen. Setzler

Seat 26 Sen. Matthews

Seat 27 Sen. Scott

Seat 28 Sen. Nicholson

Seat 29 Sen. Reese

Seat 30 Sen. Williams

Seat 31 Sen. Ford

Seat 32 Sen. Jackson

Seat 33 Sen. Rankin

Seat 34 Sen. Hutto

Seat 35 Sen. Coleman

Seat 36 Sen. Allen

Seat 37 Sen. Johnson

Seat 38 Sen. McElveen

Seat 39 Sen. Thurmond

Seat 40 Sen. Pinckney

Seat 41 Sen. Turner

Seat 42 Sen. Young

Seat 43 Sen. Malloy

Seat 44 Sen. Sheheen

Seat 45 Sen. Lourie

Seat 46 Sen. Massey

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator COURSON, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Rear Admiral Renato Gastone Terreni, Italian Navy (Ret.) of Columbia, S.C. Born in Tripoli, Libya, he was the sone of Alfonso and Maria Terreni. A graduate of the Military School of Naples and the Italian Naval Academy (corso Uragano), he served in the Italian Navy for 34 years and had wartime service with the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean theater. He married Anne Shand Adams, who predeceased him, and during their marriage they lived in Italy, Egypt, the United States and Belgium. He retired to Columbia in 1983 and he earned a Degree in International Studies from the University of South Carolina in 1979. He became a United States citizen in 1983. He was the beloved father of Charles and daughter-in-law Patricia and the devoted grandfather of Charles, Jr., Robert and Yole.

and

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator NICHOLSON, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of former Representative Marion Carnell, 84, of Ware Shoals, S.C.. who served in the House of Representatives from District 14 for over 40 years (1957-2002). He was the beloved husband of Sara and devoted father of Marion and doting grandfather of four and great‑grandfather of six.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 At 3:27 P.M., on motion of Senator COURSON, the Senate adjourned to meet on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 12:00 Noon.

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