**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 95**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Campsen, Senn, Verdin, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Gustafson, Young, Grooms, Fanning, Loftis, Garrett and Rice

Companion/Similar bill(s): 4143

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Introduced in the Senate on January 10, 2023

Introduced in the House on March 28, 2024

Last Amended on March 26, 2024

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

Summary: Constitutional amendment proposed, Comptroller General

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

11/30/2022 Senate Prefiled

11/30/2022 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/10/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 57](h:\sj\20230110.docx))

1/10/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 57](h:\sj\20230110.docx))

3/17/2023 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Campsen (ch), Senn,
Verdin, M.Johnson, Kimbrell, Gustafson, Young

3/29/2023 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](h:\sj\20230329.docx))

3/31/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

4/6/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

4/12/2023 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 13](h:\sj\20230412.docx))

3/20/2024 Senate Special order, set for March 20, 2024

3/26/2024 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 19](h:\sj\20240326.docx))

3/26/2024 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 19](h:\sj\20240326.docx))

3/26/2024 Senate Roll call Ayes-42 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 19](h:\sj\20240326.docx))

3/27/2024 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 30](h:\sj\20240327.docx))

3/28/2024 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 13](h:\hj\20240328.docx))

3/28/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 13](h:\hj\20240328.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=95&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/01/2022](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20221201.docx)

[03/29/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20230329.docx)

[03/31/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20230331.docx)

[04/06/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20230406.docx)

[04/12/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20230412.docx)

[03/26/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/95_20240326.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

March 26, 2024

S. 95

Introduced by Senators Campsen, Senn, Verdin, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Gustafson, Young, Grooms, Fanning, Loftis, Garrett and Rice

S. Printed 03/26/24--S.

Read the first time January 10, 2023

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A joint Resolution

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7, ARTICLE VI OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS OF THIS STATE, SO As TO DELETE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL FROM THE LIST OF STATE OFFICERS WHICH THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES TO BE ELECTED AND PROVIDE THAT THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE FOR A TERM COTERMINOUS WITH THE GOVERNOR UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL SERVING IN OFFICE ON THE DATE OF THE RATIFICATION OF THIS PROVISION.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1.A. It is proposed that Section 7, Article VI of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

Section 7. There shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State a Secretary of State, an Attorney General, a Treasurer, a Superintendent of Education, Comptroller General, Commissioner of Agriculture, and an Adjutant General who shall hold their respective offices for a term of four years, coterminous with that of the Governor. The duties and compensation of such offices shall be prescribed by law and their compensation shall be neither increased nor diminished during the period for which they shall have been elected.

Beginning upon the expiration of the term of the Adjutant General serving in office on the date of the ratification of the provisions of this paragraph, the Adjutant General must be appointed by the Governor, upon the advice and consent of the Senate. The appointed Adjutant General shall serve for a term not coterminous with the Governor and may be removed only for cause. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the term, duties, compensation, and qualifications for office, the procedures by which the appointment is made, and the procedures by which the Adjutant General may be removed from office.

Beginning sixty days after the ratification of the provisions of this paragraph, the state constitutional office of the Comptroller General is abolished. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the duties and responsibilities held by the Comptroller General.

B. It is proposed that Section 12, Article IV of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

Section 12. (1) Whenever the Governor transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Lieutenant Governor as acting Governor.

(2) Whenever a majority of the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Comptroller General, and the State Treasurer, or of such other body as the General Assembly may provide, transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written declaration that the Governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Lieutenant Governor shall forthwith assume the powers and duties of the office as acting Governor.

Thereafter, if the Governor transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no such inability exists, he shall forthwith resume the powers and duties of his office unless a majority of the above members or of such other body, whichever the case may be, transmits within four days to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the Governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon, the General Assembly shall forthwith consider and decide the issue, and if not in session, it shall assemble within forty-eight hours for the sole purpose of deciding such issue. If the General Assembly, within twenty-one days, excluding Sundays, after the first day it meets to decide the issue, determines by two-thirds vote of each House that the Governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Lieutenant Governor shall continue to discharge the same as acting Governor; otherwise, the Governor shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

C. It is proposed that Section 13, Article X of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

Section 13. (1) Subject to the conditions and limitations in this section, the State shall have power to incur indebtedness in the following categories and in no others: (a) general obligation debt; and (b) indebtedness payable only from a revenue-producing project or from a special source as provided in subsection (9) hereof.

(2) “General obligation debt” shall mean any indebtedness of the State which shall be secured in whole or in part by a pledge of the full faith, credit and taxing power of the State.

(3) General obligation debt may not be incurred except for a public purpose and all general obligation debt shall mature not later than thirty years from the time such indebtedness shall be incurred.

(4) In each act authorizing the incurring of general obligation debt the General Assembly shall allocate on an annual basis sufficient tax revenues to provide for the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on such general obligation debt. If at any time any payment due as the principal of or interest on any general obligation debt shall not be paid as and when the same become due and payable, the State Comptroller General Governor shall forthwith levy and the State Treasurer shall collect an ad valorem tax without limit as to rate or amount upon all taxable property in the State sufficient to meet the payment of the principal and interest of such general obligation debt then due.

(5) If general obligation debt be authorized by (a) two-thirds of the members of each House of the General Assembly; or (b) by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the State voting in a referendum called by the General Assembly there shall be no conditions or restrictions limiting the incurring of such indebtedness except (i) those restrictions and limitations imposed in the authorization to incur such indebtedness, and (ii) the provisions of subsection (3) hereof.

(6) General obligation debt may be also incurred on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may by law prescribe under the following limitations:

(a) General obligation bonds for highway purposes (highway bonds) may be issued if such bonds shall be additionally secured by a pledge of the revenues derived from the “sources of revenue” as such term is defined in this subsection; provided, that the maximum annual debt service on all highway bonds so additionally secured which shall thereafter be outstanding shall not exceed fifteen percent of the proceeds received from the sources of revenue for the fiscal year next preceding.

For the purpose of this subsection, the term “sources of revenue” shall mean so much of the revenues as may be made applicable by the General Assembly for state highway purposes from any and all taxes or licenses imposed upon individuals or vehicles for the privilege of using the public highways of the State.

(b) General obligation bonds for any state institution of higher learning designated by the General Assembly (state institution bonds) may be issued, if such bonds shall be additionally secured by a pledge of the revenues derived from the tuition fees received by the particular institution of higher learning for which such state institution bonds are issued; provided, that the maximum annual debt service on all state institution bonds so additionally secured issued for such state institution thereafter to be outstanding shall not exceed ninety percent of the sums received by such state institution of higher learning from tuition fees for the fiscal year next preceding.

(c) General obligation bonds for any public purpose including those purposes set forth in (a) and (b) may be issued; provided, that the maximum annual debt service on all general obligation bonds of the State thereafter to be outstanding (excluding highway bonds, state institution bonds, tax anticipation notes, and bond anticipation notes) must not exceed five percent of the general revenues of the State for the fiscal year next preceding (excluding revenues which are authorized to be pledged for state highway bonds and state institution bonds).

Upon implementation of the provisions of this item by law, the percentage rate of general revenues may be reduced to four or increased to seven percent by legislative enactment passed by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Senate and a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the House of Representatives.

During the regular session of the General Assembly in 1990 and during every fifth annual regular session thereafter, the General Assembly shall conduct and complete a review of the law implementing this item. Unless during such session that review results in an amendment to or repeal of the law implementing this item, which must be accomplished by legislative enactment passed by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Senate and a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the House of Representatives.

(7) General obligation indebtedness may be incurred in anticipation of state tax collections (tax anticipation notes) under such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may prescribe by law. Such tax anticipation notes shall be secured by a pledge of such taxes and by a pledge of the full faith, credit and taxing power of the State. All tax anticipation notes shall be expressed to mature not later than ninety days from the end of the fiscal year in which such notes are issued.

(8) General obligation notes may be issued in anticipation of the proceeds of general obligation bonds which may be lawfully issued (bond anticipation notes) under terms and conditions which the General Assembly may prescribe by law. Such bond anticipation notes shall be secured by a pledge of the proceeds of the bonds in anticipation of which such bond anticipation notes are issued and by a pledge of the full faith, credit and taxing power of the State.

Bond anticipation notes shall be expressed to mature not later than one year following the date of issuance, but if the General Assembly shall so authorize by law, bond anticipation notes may be refunded or renewed.

(9) The General Assembly may authorize the State or any of its agencies, authorities, or institutions to incur indebtedness for any public purpose payable solely from a revenue-producing project or from a special source, which source does not involve revenues from any tax but may include fees paid for the use of any toll bridge, toll road, or tunnel. Such indebtedness may be incurred upon such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may prescribe by law. All indebtedness incurred pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall contain a statement on the face thereof specifying the sources from which payment is to be made.

SECTION 2. The proposed amendment in SECTION 1 must be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election for representatives. Ballots must be provided at the various voting precincts with the following words printed or written on the ballot:

“Must Section 7, Article VI of the Constitution of this State relating to state constitutional officers be amended so as to delete the Comptroller General from the list of state officers that the Constitution requires to be elected, provide that sixty days after the ratification of this provision the office is abolished, and authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the duties and responsibilities held by the Comptroller General; and must Section 12, Article IV be amended so as to delete the Comptroller General’s name from the list of elected state constitutional officers a majority of which may submit a written declaration that the Governor is unable to discharge his duties; and must Section 13, Article X be amended so as to provide if the principal of or interest on any general obligation debt is not paid when due, that instead of the Comptroller General, the Governor shall levy an ad valorem tax to meet the payment?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

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