**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO PUNISHMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE SUPERVISION OF ETHICAL CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY TO DISCIPLINE OR PUNISH MEMBERS, EXCEPT FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EXPULSION, IS VESTED IN THE STATE AGENCY CHARGED BY LAW WITH INVESTIGATING, ENFORCING, AND ADJUDICATING ALLEGATIONS OF ETHICAL MISCONDUCT FOR ALL OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

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

SECTION 1. It is proposed that Section 12, Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended to read:

“Section 12. Each house shall choose its own officers, determine its rules of procedure, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two‑thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause. The supervision of ethical conduct by members of the General Assembly, including the authority to punish or discipline members, is vested in the state agency charged by law with investigating, enforcing, and adjudicating allegations of ethical misconduct for all other public officials, including members of the General Assembly. However, only the house to which a member belongs may expel the member in the manner permitted above.”

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 following words:

“Must Section 12, Article III of the South Carolina Constitution, relating to punishment of members of the General Assembly, be amended so as to provide that the supervision of ethical conduct by members of the General Assembly, including the authority to discipline or punish members, except for the punishment of expulsion, be vested in the state agency charged by law with investigating, enforcing, and adjudicating allegations of ethical misconduct for all other public officials?

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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