**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**S. 1004**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Young, Turner and Sheheen

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 3979, 4517

Introduced in the Senate on January 19, 2016

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

Summary: Judicial Merit Screening Commission

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/19/2016 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\01-19-16.docx))

1/19/2016 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\01-19-16.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=1004&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/19/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\1004_20160119.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 2‑19‑80 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE NAMES OF EACH QUALIFIED CANDIDATE, RATHER THAN THE NAMES OF THE THREE CANDIDATES THE COMMISSION DEEMS BEST QUALIFIED, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2‑19‑80(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 2‑19‑80. (A) The commission shall make nominations to the General Assembly of candidates and their qualifications for election to the Supreme Court, court of appeals, circuit court, family court, and the administrative law j~~udge division~~ court. It shall review the qualifications of all applicants for a judicial office and ~~select therefrom and~~ submit to the General Assembly the names and qualifications of ~~the three~~ ~~candidates whom it considers best~~ each qualified candidate for the judicial office under consideration. ~~If fewer than three persons apply to fill a vacancy or if the commission concludes there are fewer than three candidates qualified for a vacancy, it shall submit to the General Assembly only the names and qualifications of those who are considered to be qualified, with a written explanation for submitting fewer than three names.~~”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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