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Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Passes Session Shortening Bill...for the 10th Time

Cutting two months from one of the longest legislative sessions in the country will save taxpayers more than \$400,000/year

****Note: PDF of Roll Call on H. 3340 attached

(Columbia, SC) - Today, for the 10th time, the SC House of Representatives passed a bill to shorten the legislative session. The constitutional amendment (H. 3340) to shorten the annual session by two months was approved by a 91-9 vote, well exceeding the required 2/3 majority. The amendment cuts one month from the beginning and one month from the end of the constitutionally prescribed annual session calendar, and by doing so, will save taxpayers more than \$400,000 a year.

Running from January to June, South Carolina has one of the longest legislative sessions in the country. Although nine such session shortening measures have previously passed the House, none have emerged from the Senate to become law.

House Speaker Bobby Harrell issued this statement about the 10th session shortening bill to pass the SC House:

"The House has long believed that we can accomplish the people's work in less time, and by doing so, save taxpayers more than \$400,000 a year. We have seen time and time again at the State House that the work fills the time. Much as a student who waits until right before test day to cram for midterms, so does the General Assembly cram much of its work into the last part of the session. We will be able to do the same amount of work, just in less time and with less taxpayer money.

"In South Carolina, we have a part-time citizen Legislature. However, lasting nearly half a year, many citizens who would like to serve our state are deterred from running for office because of our long session calendar. By shortening the session we will better empower a true citizen-led Legislature, save taxpayers money and allow lawmakers to spend more time in the communities they represent."

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