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Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Approves Restructuring Reform to let Governor Appoint SC's Adjutant General

Adds accountability; takes politics out of top Military post

(Columbia, SC) - After last November's election, where voters overwhelmingly approved a House-led plan to [change the way our state's Lt. Governor is chosen](#), the House is advancing another major government restructuring reform. Today, the SC House passed a plan that will allow the Governor to appoint a qualified candidate to become our state's Adjutant General upon Senate confirmation.

"Our state's top Military post should be filled by the most qualified candidate, not by the most politically successful one," [House Speaker Bobby Harrell](#) said. "This government restructuring reform will protect the integrity of this important position by replacing political qualifiers with benchmarks of Military leadership and experience. Currently, our state's highest Military Officer can be duly filled by someone with absolutely no Military experience - that needs to change."

Under current law, with no substantive qualifying guidelines required, our state's Adjutant General is elected by voters statewide every four years. The House's restructuring reform ([H. 3541](#) & [H. 3540](#)) adds necessary qualifications that Adjutant General candidates must meet and, in an effort to further remove the issue of politics, it makes the position a staggered Gubernatorial appointment overlapping a Governor's four-year term.

"[Adjutant General Livingston](#), a distinguished Military officer who is more than qualified to hold this important statewide office, acknowledged the need for this change in his recommendations that became the framework of this plan," Speaker Harrell stated. "General Livingston should be applauded for putting our state's best interests ahead of any political ambitions by helping to ensure that we will continue to have capable Military leaders serving in this position."

This restructuring change comes in the form of two pieces of legislation. The first ([H. 3540](#)), [passed by a 110 to 2 vote](#), legislatively adds qualifications. The second ([H. 3541](#)), [passed by a 108 to 4 vote](#), is a proposed amendment to our state's constitution. If also approved by a 2/3 majority in the Senate, the amendment will be decided upon by a majority of our state's voters in the next statewide election.

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