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Subject: Leg Update: House Rules Ad Hoc Committee Meeting September 23, 2014

Members present: Chair Murrell Smith, Ballentine, Bannister, Bedingfield, Bernstein, Clemmons, Clyburn, K. Crawford, Gambrell, Mack, Mitchell, Rutherford (arrived late and left early), J. Smith, Sottile, Weeks, Wood. Powers Norrell was absent, out of the country

Speaker Lucas opened the meeting with 10 recommendations to the committee. Have asked for complete list. Topics he addressed include: create a committee to address legislative oversight requirements of Restructuring Act, the one subject rule/bobtailing legislation, eliminating leadership PACs, create a separate entity, outside of the speaker, to manage hiring/salary of staff, term limits for the speaker, create new requirement to have legislation explained on floor by the committee chairman, his designee, or a sponsor prior to second reading with at least 10 minutes of questions/debate, and create new requirement to require quorum present before making motion to have a bill go without reference.

Public Testimony:

The committee opened the floor to speakers prior to the meeting. 4 individuals signed up to address the committee: Lynn Teague, League of Women Voters, echoed Speaker Lucas' remarks and said need fresh eyes approach to make real change.

John Crangle, Common Cause, made recommendations regarding use of campaign funds and local government issues. He also submitted recommendations from former Sen. Rose that were not read to the committee.

Jamie Murguia, Director of Research for the South Carolina Policy Council, made several recommendations including requiring roll call voting in committee meetings and define in the rules the term "presiding officer" in reference to the confusion that arose when former Speaker Harrell suspended himself. Also that members use existing rules they have in place, such as the "budget rule" to permit open hearing with both bodies after the Governor's budget has been presented, more to increase efficiency.

Bob Sheheen, former Speaker (1986-1994), also spoke regarding how the chamber operated during his tenure and the overall recommendation that each member feel as if they have a voice in the body and to treat all members the same.

Next meeting:

Chairman Smith will be calling for recommendations from all members of the House regarding the rules. They will start addressing the 10 suggestions from Speaker Lucas. Clerk Reid will work with LSA to provide an avenue to email suggestions for the committee from the public that will be available online. The committee plans to reconvene in the next few weeks.

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