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House Votes to Move Forward with Debate on Confederate Flag

Passes amendment to Sine Die resolution allowing for discussion

(Columbia, SC) – Earlier today, the South Carolina House of Representatives passed an amendment to the Sine Die resolution that allows debate regarding the placement of the confederate flag that flies on the State House grounds. The General Assembly is currently in an extended session and can only legally consider budgetary items and vetoes. The adoption of this amendment by both the House and Senate allows for the introduction and consideration of bills relating to the confederate flag. Several bills have been received and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

[House Speaker Jay Lucas](#) (District 65-Darlington), [Majority Leader Bruce Bannister](#) (District 24-Greenville), [Minority Leader Todd Rutherford](#) (District 74-Richland), and [Representative Carl Anderson](#) (District 103-Georgetown) introduced the measure that passed by a vote of 103-10.

Speaker Lucas delivered the following remarks from the Well of the House Chamber:

“Last week's terrorizing act of violence shook the very core of every South Carolinian. Since that time, I could not be more proud of our state and the testament we have shown that during times of adversity, our love and support for each other knows no bounds. The forgiveness offered by the nine innocent victims' families is proof that evil will not prevail or divide us.

“I have spoken with and heard from almost every single one of you in this Chamber. It is clear that a majority believes a conversation should begin and the General Assembly should debate the placement of the confederate soldier flag on the State House grounds.

“I stand before you today with an amendment to our Sine Die resolution. This piece of legislation does not take any deliberate action on the confederate flag, but is the first necessary step to begin the debate process. This sensitive issue has an extremely long and

complicated history in our state. My wish today is that as we consider this amendment, we be respectful of the victims' families who are waiting to bury their loved ones who were viciously taken from us by an absolute single act of evil.

“The current special session in which we are operating gives House and Senate leadership the authority to call their respective Chamber back into session. Once the Senate has passed this amendment to the Sine Die resolution, bills may be introduced and I will refer them to the Judiciary Committee where they will go through the appropriate process. I expect the House to act swiftly and make a decision so that we can resolve this issue in a way that makes our state proud.”

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