

From: Godfrey, Rob
To:
Date: 3/21/2011 10:08:17 AM
Subject: ICYMI: Editorial boards hail Senate approval of on-the-record voting

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

From *The (Charleston) Post and Courier*: “**The Senate's approval of a roll-call voting bill recognizes that the citizens of South Carolina have a right to know, by law, how their legislators vote. It's a simple, straightforward acknowledgement of the accountability required of a popularly elected representative body....** The Senate vote follows a similar action in the House to require recorded votes on legislative matters. **It is the successful conclusion of a reform measure undertaken two years ago by then-Rep. Nikki Haley.** On Thursday, now-Gov. Haley hailed the roll-call votes as ‘a huge step forward.’ ‘We have long said rules protect legislators; laws protect the people. By passing this bill, the House and Senate clarify that we believe the people, not elected officials, are in charge,’ she said. **Now that this measure has finally passed, it's time for the Senate to take up some of the important restructuring reforms already adopted by the House.**”

From *The Beaufort Gazette*: “At the state level, we've seen some progress toward greater openness. The House and Senate have passed a bill requiring more recorded votes. Gov. Nikki Haley, who made such a law a cornerstone of her campaign for governor, praised their doing so. The House had quickly and unanimously passed the bill requiring roll call votes on second readings of bills and resolutions and on amendments to bills made by the other body. The Senate approved a rules change that required a recorded vote on every bill that has the force of law and on every section of the budget. Senate leaders had argued a law requiring recorded votes would violate the state constitution, which specifies that each chamber must set its own rules and procedures. But the case for a more permanent fix, helped by public pressure, finally won out.”

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