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**Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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House Continues its Leadership on Advancing Ethics Reform

*Speaker Pro Tempore Lucas appoints Special Ethics Reform Committee to review &
strengthen legislation for next session*

(Columbia, SC) – This past June, a landmark Ethics Reform bill was set to make its way to the Governor’s Desk to be signed into law. However, on the very last day of the 2014 legislative session, it died in the Senate without receiving the necessary final vote.

“Last session, we came incredibly close to passing into law landmark reforms to our state’s decades-old Ethics Act,” said Speaker Pro Tempore Jay Lucas. “Following through on this agenda item is still very much a priority for the House. In the months leading up to the 2015 legislative session, the House will focus on maintaining the momentum driving ethics reform and will work to identify additional areas we can address to further strengthen our reform efforts.”

A newly appointed Committee – created by [House Speaker Pro Tempore Jay Lucas](#) under his authority as Acting House Speaker – plans to take up work on the bill right where things left off last session. The House Ethics Reform Ad Hoc Committee will hold public meetings to review last year's legislation and explore additional items to include in the comprehensive reform package the House plans to advance as a priority for the 2015 legislative session.

Speaker Pro Tempore Lucas continued, “This comprehensive reform effort is bigger than any single issue or any single lawmaker. At the end of the day, true ethics reform should ensure all elected officials are held accountable and instill an unshakeable public trust in our system of government.”

[Rep. Derham Cole](#), who was appointed Chairman of the bipartisan 22-member House Ethics Reform Committee, said at least 3 Subcommittees will be created to address specific areas: Campaign Finance, Enforcement & Investigation and the Freedom Of Information Act.

“We have an opportunity to build upon last year’s legislation and propose the most comprehensive ethics reform package our state has seen in decades,” Chairman Cole stated. “There is a lot for us to consider and dividing that work among Subcommittees will allow us to more effectively address these complex issues. By reviewing our past work product and identifying additional areas of concern, the House is continuing to show the kind of leadership it will take to advance true Ethics Reform in our state.”

Appointees to The S.C. House Ethics Reform Ad Hoc Committee

[Rep. J. Derham Cole, Jr.](#), **Chairman** (District 32 – Spartanburg)

[Rep. Carl L. Anderson](#) (District 103 – Georgetown)

[Rep. Jimmy C. Bales](#) (District 80 – Richland)

[Rep. Grady A. Brown](#) (District 50 – Lee)

[Rep. Robert L. Brown](#) (District 116 – Charleston)

[Rep. Kirkman Finlay, III](#) (District 75 – Richland)

[Rep. Laurie Slade Funderburk](#) (District 52 – Kershaw)

[Rep. Christopher R. “Chris” Hart](#) (District 73 – Richland)

[Rep. Patsy G. Knight](#) (District 97 – Dorchester)

[Rep. Christopher J. “Chris” Murphy](#) (District 98 – Dorchester)

[Rep. Wm. Weston J. Newton](#) (District 120 – Beaufort)

[Rep. Ralph W. Norman](#) (District 48 – York)

[Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell](#) (District 44 – Lancaster)

[Rep. Thomas E. “Tommy” Pope](#) (District 47 – York)

[Rep. Samuel Rivers, Jr.](#) (District 15 – Berkeley)

[Rep. Edward L. Southard](#) (District 100 – Berkeley)

[Rep. L. Kit Spires](#) (District 96 – Lexington)

[Rep. Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon, Sr.](#) (District 33 – Spartanburg)

[Rep. Bill Taylor](#) (District 86 – Aiken)

[Rep. Don L. Wells](#) (District 81 – Aiken)

[Rep. Robert Q. Williams](#) (District 62 – Darlington)

[Rep. Mark N. Willis](#) (District 16 – Greenville)

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