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Rep. Bannister appointed to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Columbia, SC – January 30, 2013– Speaker of the House Robert W. Harrell, Jr., today announced that he has appointed Greenville Representative Bruce W. Bannister to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

According to Speaker Harrell, "The process of selecting our judges is of great importance in our state. The Commission has very capably reviewed all judicial candidates for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court, Master-in-Equity, and Administrative Law Court since 1997. Rep. Bannister's legal experience, leadership, and work ethic make him an ideal choice to serve as a member of the Commission."

Since its creation in 1997, the Commission's role is to screen candidates for state judgeships, determine their qualifications, and recommend candidates to the General Assembly for a vote. South Carolina's judicial vetting system is one of only two states that have this modern hybrid system of merit selection and legislative election.

"As a practicing attorney and citizen of this state, I believe that the selection of judges is a very vital duty performed by the legislature because these individuals will preside over the resolution of some of the most difficult events in our citizens' lives," Bannister said. "I am honored that Speaker Harrell has entrusted me with this responsibility and leadership role ."

Bannister fills the vacancy left by Rep. F. Gregory "Greg" Delleney, Jr., who was appointed to the Commission in 1997.