



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

May 20, 2026

The Honorable G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House, Second Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-179, H. 3558, which seeks to establish a framework for how commissioners to an Article V convention would be selected and removed, along with related regulations.

The Constitution of the United States is one of the world's great documents, and amending it is a significant decision. I agree that South Carolina—not the federal government—should determine who will represent the State at a convention and the instructions that those commissioners would receive. But now is not the time to make decisions about those commissioners.

Although virtually all States have issued at least one call over the many years on differing subjects for a convention under Article V, no such convention has been held in American history. Scattered calls began shortly after the Constitution was ratified, followed by efforts in the 1830s, the late 1800s and early 1900s, and more recently in the sixties, seventies and eighties. Open questions remain about how a convention would actually function, and we cannot predict today the ultimate impetus and circumstances for a convention when and if Congress eventually calls one at the States' request. I believe we should not create a framework for our future commissioners in such a vacuum. The best time to make decisions about commissioners is if and when the convention is called.

For that reason, I am respectfully vetoing R-179, H. 3558 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry D. McMaster".

Henry Dargan McMaster