**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW, STUDY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE NEED TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICROENTERPRISES IN THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY COMMITTEE’S MEMBERSHIP, AND TO REQUIRE THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NO LATER THAN JANUARY 20, 2011, AT WHICH TIME THE STUDY COMMITTEE IS ABOLISHED.

Whereas, small enterprise is the backbone of our economy and vital to our collective prosperity, and microenterprises in particular provide incomes, goods, and services to many who otherwise might be deprived of them; and

Whereas, in addition to providing incomes, goods, and services to those in need, microenterprises are critical to recovery for the disabled, often providing them with flexible work schedules, a greater sense of self worth, and access to networking avenues in the community that differ greatly from the medical or treatment mode to which they may have become confined due to their disability; and

Whereas, critical to microenterprise creation is the availability of start‑up capital, which is frequently difficult to obtain because potential microenterprises typically lack sufficient access to the commercial banking sector. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. For the purposes of this joint resolution, “Microenterprise” or “Microbusiness” means a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation that has fewer than five employees and generally lacks access to conventional loans, equity, or other banking services.

SECTION 2. There is established a study committee to review, study, and make recommendations concerning the need to foster the development of microenterprises in this State.

SECTION 3. (A) The study committee must be composed of the following nine members:

(1) two members appointed by the Governor;

(2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(4) one member appointed by the South Carolina Women’s Business Center;

(5) one member appointed by the South Carolina Business Initiative; and

(6) one member appointed by the Advisory Coordinating Council for Economic Development.

(B) Members of the committee shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and vacancies must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner of original appointment.

(C) Members of the study committee shall serve without pay.

SECTION 4. The study committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 20, 2011, at which time the study committee must be abolished.

SECTION 5. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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