**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑121‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE CITADEL, SO AS TO REVISE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ELECTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE SELECTED, AND FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THEIR TERMS OF OFFICE AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE BOARD.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑121‑20 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑121‑20. (A) One member of the board of visitors elected by the General Assembly must be elected from each congressional district of this State and in addition to all other qualifications must be a resident of that congressional district. One member of the board of visitors elected by the General Assembly must be elected from the State at large. All members elected by the General Assembly shall serve terms of six years each and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided that of the members first elected as provided in this subsection, the members elected from the first and sixth congressional districts shall serve initial terms of two years each, the members elected from the second and fifth congressional districts shall serve initial terms of four years each, and the members elected from the third and fourth congressional districts and the at‑large member shall serve initial terms of six years each. Vacancies in these offices elected by the General Assembly shall be filled in the manner of original election for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(B) The terms of the seven present members of the board of visitors elected by the General Assembly shall expire on June thirtieth of the year in which this subsection takes effect, at which time their successors elected in the manner provided by subsection (A) shall take office.

(C) ~~The regular terms of office of the elected members in office on April 18, 1947, who are still in office shall end on the last day of June in the years stated in the table in Act 108 of the regular session of 1947 (Acts 1947, p. 144).~~ The ~~regular~~ terms of office of ~~the elected members who were not in office on that date and of~~ all other elected members ~~hereafter elected~~ also shall be six years~~; provided, that the third member authorized to be elected by the Association of Citadel Men shall serve an initial term of four years~~. All elected terms shall begin on the first day of July and end on the last day of June~~; provided, however, that each incumbent~~ and other elected members and the member appointed by the Governor shall be entitled to hold office until his successor is duly elected or appointed and qualified. In electing members of the board, the General Assembly shall elect members based on merit regardless of race or economic status and shall strive to assure that the membership of the board is representative of all citizens of the State of Carolina.

The term of office of the at‑large trustee appointed by the Governor shall be effective upon certification to the Secretary of State and shall be six years. Vacancies in these other offices shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of original selection.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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