**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 6‑7‑110, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION AND GEOGRAPHIC GROUPINGS FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR GEORGETOWN COUNTY; TO AMEND ACT 515 OF 1996, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE DEVOLUTION ON THE GOVERNING BODY OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY OF APPOINTMENT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY OF VARIOUS GEORGETOWN COUNTY OFFICES FORMERLY HELD BY THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, SO AS TO RESTORE THE WACCAMAW REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE PROVISIONS; AND TO AMEND ACT 197 OF 1999, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE WACCAMAW REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, SO AS TO CONFORM IT TO THE REVISED PROVISIONS OF ACT 515 OF 1996.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6‑7‑110 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 6‑7‑110. The governing bodies of the counties are authorized to create regional councils of government by means of an agreement approved by the governing bodies of the participating counties and approved by the Governor. The regional councils of government, including more than one county, ~~shall~~must be grouped in accordance with the following geographic areas:

1 ‑ Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg;

2 ‑ Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick and Saluda;

3 ‑ Chester, Lancaster, Union and York;

4 ‑ Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland;

5 ‑ Allendale, Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg;

6 ‑ Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter;

7 ‑ Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion and Marlboro;

8 ‑ Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg;

9 ‑ Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester; and

10 ‑ Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper.

At least two counties within the foregoing geographic groupings ~~shall~~must be necessary participants in order to form such regional councils of government, and no county shall belong to more than one such regional council of government. The governing bodies of municipalities lying within a county ~~which~~that is a part of one of the foregoing geographic areas may participate as a member of such regional council of government, irrespective of whether the county within which such municipality lies is or is not a member, by approval of the agreement creating the regional council of government, and no municipality shall belong to more than one such council of government. In those municipalities which may be bisected by county lines, the municipality shall participate in the geographic grouping, as set forth above, within which the major portion of its population lies.

~~In Georgetown County, appointments made pursuant to this section are governed by the provisions of Act 515 of 1996.~~”

SECTION 2. Section 1 of Act 515 of 1996, as last amended by Act 200 of 2005, is further amended to read:

“Section 1. (A)(1) Except for those instances exempted in subsection (B), in all cases where appointments to offices, boards, and commissions are made by or upon the recommendation of the House Delegation, the Senate Delegation, or the Joint Legislative Delegation of Georgetown County, or by ~~any other~~another member or combination of members of the General Assembly by reason of their representing all or a portion of Georgetown County, all ~~said~~ such appointments must be made by or upon the recommendation of a majority of the members of the governing body of Georgetown County if, and to the extent that, the governing body of Georgetown County by ordinance or resolution agrees to accept the responsibility and the authority for making those appointments and notifies the Code Commissioner and the Secretary of State of its acceptance. All appointments and recommendations must be made without regard to race, religion, color, sex, or national origin.

(2) The application of subsection (A) includes, but is not limited to:

Name Authority

(1) Forestry Board Section 48‑33‑50

(2) Veterans Affairs Section 25‑11‑40

(3) County Department of

Social Services Section 43‑3‑10

(4) Vacant

(5) Department of Disabilities

and Special Needs Section 44‑20‑375

(6) Foster Care Review Board Section 20‑7‑2385

(7) Mental Health Center Board Section 44‑15‑60

(8) Vacant

(9) Economic Opportunity

Commission Section 4‑31‑330

(10) Georgetown Pilotage

Commission Section 54‑15‑10

(11) Murrell’s Inlet ‑

Garden City Fire District Act 876 of 1966

(12) ~~Vacant~~ Waccamaw Regional

Planning Council Section 6‑7‑110

(B) The appointment of magistrates as provided in Section 22‑1‑10 and the appointment of members of the Georgetown Water and Sewer District as provided for in Act 733 of ~~1957~~ 1967 are unaffected by the provisions of this act.”

SECTION 3. As required and in the manner provided by Section 3 of Act 515 of 1996, the governing body of Georgetown County must accept the appointment authority regarding the entity added to Section 1 of Act 515 of 1996 by the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4. Section 2 of Act 197 of 1999 is deleted.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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