**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 43‑25‑10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION OF THE BLIND, SO AS TO INCLUDE IN THE COMMISSION’S MEMBERSHIP THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, TO ELIMINATE THE STATE AT‑LARGE COMMISSION MEMBER, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR THE COMMISSION’S TRANSITION FROM SIX TO SEVEN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MEMBERS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 43‑25‑10 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 43‑25‑10. There is ~~hereby~~ created the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. The Commission shall consist of seven members, one from each of the ~~six~~ seven Congressional Districts ~~and one from the State at large~~, of whom three shall have a visual acuity not to exceed 20/200. The Governor shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint the members of the commission for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. All vacancies ~~shall~~ must be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term only. The members of the commission shall elect one of its members as chairman for a term of two years or until his successor has been elected. The chairman shall preside at the regular meetings of the commission to be held at least once each month. The chairman may call a meeting when he ~~deems~~ considers it necessary to be held at a time to be determined by the commission. The commission shall appoint a commissioner and ~~such~~ other officers as ~~it deems~~ the commission considers necessary, none of whom ~~shall~~ may be a member of the commission, and shall fix the compensation and prescribe the duties of ~~such~~ these appointees. The members of the commission shall receive no salary but ~~shall~~ must be allowed the usual mileage, subsistence and per diem as authorized by law for commissions, committees and boards.”

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a person appointed to serve, or serving, as a member of the Commission for the Blind to represent a congressional district, whose residency is transferred to another district by a change in the composition of the district, may serve, or continue to serve, the term of office for which he was appointed; however, the appointing authority shall appoint an additional member to the commission from the district which loses a resident member on it as a result of the transfer to serve until the term of the transferred member expires. When a vacancy occurs in the district to which a member has been transferred, the vacancy must not be filled until the full term of the transferred member expires.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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