**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑103‑15, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION MISSION AND GOALS FOR ALL PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THIS STATE, SO AS TO INCLUDE IN THE MISSION OF FOUR YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES UNIQUE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT DUPLICATIVE OF ANY RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN THAT REGION, AND TO DEFINE “THAT REGION”.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑103‑15(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B) The General Assembly has determined that the primary mission or focus for each type of institution of higher learning or other post‑secondary school in this State is as follows:

(1) Research institutions

(a) college‑level baccalaureate education, master’s, professional, and doctor of philosophy degrees which lead to continued education or employment;

(b) research through the use of government, corporate, nonprofit‑organization grants, or state resources, or both;

(c) public service to the State and the local community;

(2) Four‑year colleges and universities

(a)(i) college‑level baccalaureate education ~~and~~ with selected master’s and unique doctoral degrees that are not duplicative of any research university doctoral programs in that region, which lead to employment or continued education, or both, except for doctoral degrees currently being offered;

(ii) for purposes of this subitem, ‘that region’ includes the area within a seventy mile radius from the center of a research university main campus;

(b) limited and specialized research;

(c) public service to the State and the local community;

(3) Two‑year institutions ‑ branches of the University of South Carolina

(a) college‑level pre‑baccalaureate education necessary to confer associates’ degrees which lead to continued education at a four‑year or research institution;

(b) public service to the State and the local community;

(4) State technical and comprehensive education system

(a) all post‑secondary vocational, technical, and occupational diploma and associate degree programs leading directly to employment or maintenance of employment and associate degree programs which enable students to gain access to other post‑secondary education;

(b) up‑to‑date and appropriate occupational and technical training for adults;

(c) special school programs that provide training for prospective employees for prospective and existing industry in order to enhance the economic development of South Carolina;

(d) public service to the State and the local community;

(e) continue to remain technical, vocational, or occupational colleges with a mission as stated in item (4) and primarily focused on technical education and the economic development of the State.”

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

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