**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ACT 471 OF 2002, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE TWO MEMBERS FROM THE COUNTY AT-LARGE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF THE TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS, TO PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED TERMS OF THE TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS, AND TO CONFORM THE ADDITION OF TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS TO THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD AND FILLING VACANCIES ON THE BOARD.

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

SECTION 1. Act 471 of 2002 is amended to read:

“SECTION 1. (A)(1) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the terms of the two members of the board of trustees of the~~ The Williamsburg County School District ~~elected at large shall expire on the effective date of this act at which time the membership of the board~~ shall be governed by a board of trustees consisting of ~~consist of the seven~~ nine members, seven of whom shall be elected from the same election districts as are members of the governing body of Williamsburg County and two of whom shall be elected from the county at large.

(2) The members of the board must be elected in nonpartisan elections. A member of the board representing a district must be a resident of the election district from which he is elected. The at-large members must be residents of Williamsburg County. Members shall be elected for four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualify. The terms of all members shall commence on the first day of January following their election.

(3) If a vacancy on the board, due to causes other than the expiration of a term, occurs less than one hundred eighty days before the next general election, the vacancy must be filled by appointment of the Governor, upon the recommendation of a majority of the county legislative delegation, and all other vacancies must be filled by special election and conducted as provided in this act.

(B)(1) The two at-large members of the board shall initially be appointed to the board by the members of the Williamsburg County Legislative Delegation. The appointees shall serve on the board until the next scheduled nonpartisan school district election. Members appointed by the Williamsburg County Legislative Delegation are eligible for election.

(2) One at-large member elected to the board in 2018 shall be elected to a term of two years, and the other member shall be elected to a term of four years. Thereafter, all at-large elections shall be for a four-year term. The members of the Williamsburg County Legislative Delegation shall designate which at-large seat shall be subject to the two-year term following the 2018 election.

(C)(1) School board elections shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November every two years. The Williamsburg County Office of Voter Registration and Elections shall conduct and supervise the elections for members of the board in the manner as for the election of the Williamsburg County Council, subject to the election laws of this State, mutatis mutandis. The Williamsburg County Office of Voter Registration and Elections shall prepare the necessary ballots, appoint managers for the voting precincts, and perform all necessary duties to carry out the elections, including the counting of ballots and declaring the results. The Williamsburg County Office of Voter Registration and Elections shall publish notices of the elections in the same manner as provided by law. The results of the elections must be determined by the nonpartisan plurality method as provided by law.

(2) In the event of a vacancy on the board requiring a special election, the board of trustees shall call the special election to fill the unexpired term. The special election shall be conducted by the Williamsburg County Office of Voter Registration and Elections subject to the election laws of this state, mutatis mutandis.”

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

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