**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑6‑3622 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS FOR A FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM, TO CREATE A STUDY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND THE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 6‑9‑60, RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF CERTAIN BUILDING CODES, TO PROVIDE THAT A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT ADOPT BY REFERENCE A BUILDING CODE FOR RESIDENCES; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 6‑9‑135.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12‑6‑3622 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection at the end to read:

“( ) The General Assembly shall appoint a study committee to develop new strategies to expand the participation in the tax credit program by all local taxing entities, and to review and make recommendations for offering a separate tax credit or incentive program to homeowners of existing residences built before 2000 for the installation of interconnected hard‑wired smoke alarms. The study committee shall make a report of its findings to the General Assembly no later than January 30, 2011.”

SECTION 2. Section 6‑9‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 6‑9‑60. Municipalities and counties may adopt by reference only the latest editions of the following nationally recognized codes and the standards referenced in those codes for regulation of construction within their respective jurisdictions: property maintenance, performance codes for buildings and facilities, existing building, and swimming pool codes as promulgated, published, or made available by the International Code Council, Inc. The appendices of the codes provided in this section may be adopted as needed by a municipality or county, but the specific appendix or appendices must be referenced by name or letter designation in the adopting ordinance. However, the provisions of the codes referenced in this section which concern the qualification, removal, dismissal, duties, responsibilities of, and the administrative procedures for all building officials, deputy building officials, chief inspectors, other inspectors, and assistants do not apply unless they have been adopted by the municipal or county governing body. The ability of a local government to adopt by reference a nationally recognized code or its appendices does not apply to building codes for the construction of new one‑family and two‑family residential homes.”

SECTION 3. Section 6‑9‑135 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 4. Except where otherwise provided, this act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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