**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑101‑45 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF ALL PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF THIS STATE MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERM LENGTH AND COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE SENATE SHALL CONVENE A COMMITTEE TO SCREEN POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE RESPECTIVE BOARDS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 101, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑101‑45. Notwithstanding another provision of law, beginning on July 1, 2010, all members of the boards of trustees of all public colleges and universities of this State must be appointed by the Governor upon the advice and consent of the Senate. The terms of office of all members of boards of trustees who are serving as of the effective date of this act expire on June 30, 2011. Newly appointed members of boards of trustees serve four year terms, which commence on July 1, 2011. The Senate shall convene a committee to screen candidates for the respective boards. The Governor shall make the appointments based on merit regardless of race, color, creed, or gender and shall strive to assure that the membership of each board is representative of all citizens of South Carolina.”

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

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