**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑39‑100 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF UNIFORM DIPLOMAS, TO REQUIRE THE ISSUANCE OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS FOR QUALIFYING VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING A WAR PERIOD AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑39‑100 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( ) Notwithstanding all other eligibility requirements for high school diplomas, upon request, a local board of education shall award a high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces during a War Period as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, who was enrolled in, but did not graduate from, a high school located in South Carolina prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces. The request must be made by the veteran or, in the case of a posthumous request for a deceased veteran, a member of the veteran’s immediate family. The diplomas must be issued in the name of the high school last attended by the veteran prior to his induction into the United States Armed Forces regardless of the current operational status of the high school. The South Carolina Department of Education, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs, shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the procedures for awarding these diplomas.”

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

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