**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 57‑1‑360 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR, TO PROVIDE THAT A CERTIFIED INTERNAL AUDITOR MAY SERVE AS CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR AND TO CLARIFY THAT THE CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING PERSONNEL IN THE CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR’S OFFICE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 57‑1‑370, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION MUST APPROVE CERTAIN PROJECTS BEFORE WORK MAY BEGIN, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY MUST CERTIFY THAT THE PROJECTS MUST BE APPROVED BASED UPON OBJECTIVE AND QUANTIFIABLE FACTORS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY MUST MAKE A MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE APPROVALS HE MAKES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 57‑1‑360(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B)(1) The chief internal auditor shall serve for a term of four years and may be removed by the commission only for malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetency, absenteeism, conflicts of interest, misconduct, persistent neglect of duty in office, or incapacity. The chief internal auditor must be a Certified Public Accountant or a Certified Internal Auditor and possess any other experience the commission may require. ~~The chief internal auditor must establish, implement, and maintain the exclusive internal audit function of all departmental activities.~~ The commission shall set the salary for the chief internal auditor as allowed by statute or applicable law.

(2) The chief internal auditor must:

(a) establish, implement, and maintain the exclusive internal audit function of all departmental activities; and

(b) supervise all professional, administrative, technical, and clerical personnel in his office.

~~(2)~~(3) The audits performed by the chief internal auditor must comply with recognized governmental auditing standards. The department and any entity contracting with the department must fully cooperate with the chief internal auditor in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities and must timely produce all books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records considered necessary in connection with an internal audit. All final audit reports must be submitted to the commission and the chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the House of Representatives Education and Public Works Committee, and the chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee before being made public.

~~(3)~~(4) The commission is vested with the exclusive management and control of the chief internal auditor.”

SECTION 2. Section 57‑1‑370(N) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(N) Any request made for resurfacing, installation of new signals, curb cuts on primary roads, bike lanes, or construction projects under ten million dollars must be reviewed and approved by the ~~commission who certify that the request is needed based upon objective and quantifiable factors before work may proceed~~ secretary who must certify that all work approved pursuant to this section is necessary based upon objective and quantifiable factors before work may proceed. The secretary must make a monthly report to the commission concerning the approvals made pursuant to this section.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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