**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW, STUDY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF DEBT COLLECTION AND RECOVERY AGENCIES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY COMMITTEE’S MEMBERSHIP, AND TO REQUIRE THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NO LATER THAN JANUARY 19, 2010, AT WHICH TIME THE STUDY COMMITTEE IS ABOLISHED.

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

SECTION 1. There is established a study committee to review, study, and make recommendations concerning the need of licensing the practice of debt collection as well as recovery agencies.

SECTION 2. (A) The study committee must be composed of five members and one ad hoc member:

(1) one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(2) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) three members appointed by the Governor. The Governor must appoint one member to represent the South Carolina Collector’s Association, one member to represent the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, and one member to represent the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs; and

(4) one ad hoc member who represents the American Collectors Association International and serves at will.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 8-13-770, members of the General Assembly may be appointed to serve on this study committee.

(C) Members of the study committee shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and vacancies must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

(D) Members of the study committee serve without pay.

SECTION 3. The study committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 19, 2010, at which time the study committee must be abolished. The study committee may make recommendations it considers appropriate including, but not limited to, licensing and regulation of debt collection and recovery agencies.

SECTION 4. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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