**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 1-1-550, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PREFERENCE FOR HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, SO AS TO DELETE PROVISIONS THAT HIRING PREFERNCE SHALL BE GIVEN ONLY WHEN PRACTICABLE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1-1-550 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 1-1-550. Honorably discharged members of the United States Armed Forces who are given employment preference by the United States Government~~, now and hereafter, shall~~must be given preference for appointment and employment in every public department and upon all public works in this State~~insofar as such preference may be practicable;~~. Age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment which does not ~~in fact~~incapacitate ~~shall not be deemed to~~will not disqualify them, provided they possess the capacity of skill and knowledge necessary to discharge the duties of the position involved. ~~Provided, that any~~All public agencies and ~~department~~departments operating on a merit system shall give preferences similar to those given by the United States Government to eligible members discharged from the Armed Forces~~insofar as such preferences may be practicable~~.”

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

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