**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 2‑1‑250 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSING COMMISSION TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE AND FOSTER THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFE, SOUND, AND AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING FOR EVERY SOUTH CAROLINIAN, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 2‑1‑250. (A) The South Carolina Housing Commission (commission) is hereby established. The purpose of the commission is to provide recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on an annual basis to ensure and foster the availability of safe, sound, and affordable workforce housing for every South Carolinian. The commission also may make recommendations relating to such other housing, real property, and community development issues as it considers desirable.

(B) The commission shall consist of seventeen members. Of these members, seven must be members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; five must be members of the Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and five must be nonlegislative members selected by the other legislative members. All members must be qualified electors of this State.

Legislative members shall serve terms concurrent with their terms of office. Nonlegislative members shall serve for a term of four years each. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, must be for the unexpired terms. Legislative and nonlegislative members may be reappointed for successive terms. Vacancies must be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

The commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman every two years from among its membership, who must be members of the General Assembly.

(C) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members request.

No recommendation of the commission shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the commission vote against the recommendation.

(D) Nonlegislative members of the commission shall receive the usual mileage, subsistenance, and per diem as is paid to members of state boards, commissions, and committees and the legislative members of the commission shall receive such mileage and subsistenance as is provided to members of the General Assembly while on official legislative business. These amounts for nonlegislative members must be paid equally from the approved accounts of both houses.

(E) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) undertake analyses, gather information and data, and pursue such other activities as may be desirable to accomplish its purposes;

(2) report annually on its activities during the preceding year and include a discussion of analyses made and recommendations for administrative or legislative action; and

(3) review newly enacted federal legislation pertaining to mortgage lending and brokering and determine if the federal legislation necessitates amendments to the laws of this State.

(F) The chairman shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual summary of the activity and work of the commission together with its recommendations no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.

(G) Staff for the commission shall be provided from the standing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate with jurisdiction over the subject matter being studied by the commission.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2009.

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