**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 1‑30‑10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR GOVERNANCE, SO AS TO DELETE THE “AT WILL” EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF AGENCY DEPUTY DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY THE AGENCY DIRECTOR; AND TO AMEND SECTION 8‑17‑370, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO EMPLOYEES AND CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYEES EXEMPTED FROM COVERAGE BY THE STATE EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE ACT, SO AS TO DELETE THE EXEMPTION FOR STATE AGENCY DEPUTY DIRECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1‑30‑10(E) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(E) The department director may appoint deputy directors to head the divisions of their department, with each deputy director managing one or more of the divisions; in the case of the Department of Commerce, the Secretary of Commerce may appoint a departmental executive director and also may appoint directors to manage the various divisions of the Department of Commerce. In making appointments race, gender, and other demographic factors should be considered to assure nondiscrimination, inclusion, and representation to the greatest extent possible of all segments of the population of this State; however, consideration of these factors in making an appointment in no way creates a cause of action or basis for an employee grievance for a person appointed or for a person who fails to be appointed. ~~Deputy directors serve at the will and pleasure of the department director.~~ The deputy director of a division is vested with the duty of overseeing, managing, and controlling the operation and administration of the division under the direction and control of the department director and performing such other duties as delegated by the department director.”

SECTION 2. Section 8‑17‑370(12) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(12) ~~deputy directors as defined in Section 8‑17‑320~~ RESERVED;”

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

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