**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59-43-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE POWERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED) DIPLOMA ALLOW CANDIDATES TO BE SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59-43-20 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) The State Board of Education may:

(1) make and enforce regulations for the organization, conduct, and supervision of adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education~~;~~. However, the regulations must allow candidates applying for the state general education development (GED) diploma to be sixteen years of age or older;

(2) determine the qualifications of teachers and issue teaching certificates for teaching adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education classes;

(3) determine the tuition which may be required of persons attending adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education classes;

(4) determine the subjects which may be taught in adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education classes.

(B) The State Board of Education is also responsible for the administration, coordination, and management of adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education for the purpose of facilitating and coordinating adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education programs for South Carolina adults whose level of educational attainment is below high school, as prescribed by state and federal laws and regulations. The State Board of Education and the local school districts are responsible for effective coordination and utilization of literacy councils, the technical education system, the educational television network, nonprofit groups, business and industry representatives, and other state and local agencies and private persons interested in adult basic and adult secondary (GED and high school diploma) education programs to deliver programs to the state’s undereducated adult population.

(C) Any funds distributed by the State Board of Education for local literacy councils or programs must be made available to those councils or programs either in kind or in money.”

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

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