**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 48‑4‑30 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS TO REFLECT THE ADDITION OF THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AND TO DESIGNATE THE AT‑LARGE BOARD MEMBER AS CHAIRMAN.

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

SECTION 1. Section 48‑4‑30 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 48‑4‑30. (A) The department shall be governed by a board consisting of ~~seven~~ eight non‑salaried board members. ~~Board members of the former Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources shall serve as board members for the Department of Natural Resources until their terms expire and their successors are appointed and qualify.~~

(B) All board members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One member shall be appointed from each congressional district of the ~~state~~ State and one shall be appointed from the ~~state at‑large~~ State at large. The member appointed from the State at‑large shall serve as chairman.

(C) 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 the 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. Board members must possess sound moral character, superior knowledge in the fields of wildlife, marine, and natural resource management, and proven administrative ability.

(D) The Governor may remove any board member pursuant to the provisions of Section 1‑3‑240.

(E) Terms of the members shall be for four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. If a vacancy occurs when the General Assembly is not in session, it must be filled by the Governor’s appointment for the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the Senate at the next session of the General Assembly.

(F) Each board member, within thirty days after notice of appointment and before taking office, shall take and file with the Secretary of State the oath of office prescribed by the State Constitution.

~~One of the members of the board shall be designated by the Governor to serve as chairman.~~”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑