**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 24 TO TITLE 2 SO AS TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO CONDUCT A CONTINUING STUDY OF THE LAWS OF THIS STATE AFFECTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO PROVIDE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, AND TO PROVIDE THE STAFFING OF THE COMMITTEE.

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

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

“CHAPTER 24

Joint Committee on Economic Development

Section 2‑24‑10. (A) There is created a permanent joint legislative committee to conduct a continuing study of the laws, policies, and procedures of this State affecting economic development. The committee is composed of seven members appointed as follows:

(1) one member from the Senate Finance Committee appointed by the chairman of that committee;

(2) one member from the House Ways and Means Committee appointed by the chairman of that committee;

(3) two members from the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore;

(4) two members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker; and

(5) one member appointed by the Governor.

(B) At its first meeting the committee shall organize by selecting from its membership a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and other officers the committee may determine. The committee shall meet on the call of the chairman or a majority of the members. A quorum consists of five members. Terms of committee members who are members of the General Assembly are coterminous with their terms of office. The committee shall recommend legislation to the General Assembly relating to economic development in this State.

Section 2‑24‑20. The committee shall make a continuous study and investigation of all facets of the laws, policies, and procedures relating to economic development, including, but not limited to, the imposition of unreasonable penalties and interest charges, and any legal requirements that make it difficult to do business in this State, so as to recommend appropriate modifications. The committee and its subcommittees may hold hearings and act at the times and places within the State the chairman designates and require the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents as provided for in Chapter 69, Title 2.

Section 2‑24‑30. (A) The members of the committee shall receive the usual mileage, per diem, and subsistence as is provided by law for members of state boards, commissions, and committees. The allowed mileage, per diem, and subsistence must be paid from approved accounts of the Senate for the Senate appointees, from approved accounts of the House for the House appointees, and from funds appropriated to the Office of the Governor for gubernatorial appointees.

(B) The staff of the Senate and the House of Representatives must be available to assist the committee in its work. Any other expenses incurred by the committee must be paid equally from each respective house’s approved account subject to the approval of the Senate Operations and Management Committee and the Speaker of the House.”

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

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