**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑7‑710, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION SHALL REPORT THE NAMES OF ALL POLLING PRECINCTS BY COUNTY THAT HAVE MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED REGISTERED ELECTORS AND FOR THE COUNTY REGISTRATION BOARDS TO MAKE ALTERATIONS IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FAILED TO ALTER THE PRECINCTS, SO THAT NO PRECINCT HAS MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED REGISTERED ELECTORS; TO AMEND SECTION 7‑7‑1000 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPALITY POOLED PRECINCTS CANNOT EXCEED A TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED REGISTERED ELECTORS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑7‑710 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7‑7‑710. The State Election Commission shall report the names of all polling precincts by county that have more than ~~one~~ two thousand five hundred registered electors as of January first to the General Assembly not later than the fourth Tuesday of each odd‑numbered year. If, by April first of the same year, the General Assembly has failed to alter the precincts so that no precinct shall have more than ~~one~~ two thousand five hundred qualified electors the State Election Commission shall notify the respective county registration boards which shall make such alterations as necessary to conform all precincts to such limitations. Provided, that precincts isolated by water shall not be required to meet minimum requirements.”

SECTION 2. Section 7‑7‑1000(2) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(2) The total number of registered voters within the municipality in each group of pooled precincts cannot exceed ~~one~~ two thousand five hundred.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon preclearance approval by the United States Department of Justice or approval by a declaratory judgment issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, whichever occurs first.

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