**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑26‑120 SO AS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE CREDENTIALS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL CONSIDER ACCEPTABLE TO QUALIFY A PERSON TO SERVE AS A TEACHER IN A PAROCHIAL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT DEPENDS TO ANY EXTENT ON PRIVATE GRANTS, PUBLIC GRANTS, OR FEDERAL FUNDING, AND TO PROVIDE A PERSON MUST BE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED UPON PRESENTATION OF THESE CREDENTIALS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND MUST NOT BE REQUIRED TO SEEK A WAIVER OF ANY OTHER REQUIRED CREDENTIALS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑26‑120. (A) The Department of Education shall consider a person qualified to serve as a teacher in a parochial school or other private school program that depends to any extent on private grants, public grants, or federal funding if he has:

(1) received a four‑year degree with a major in elementary or early childhood education from an accredited college or university; or

(2) satisfactorily completed a practicum in early childhood education or elementary education required for certification in those fields as provided in Article 3, Chapter 43, South Carolina Code of Regulations; or

(3) satisfactorily completed the PRAXIS‑II subject area exam; or

(4) satisfied any other criteria the department considers appropriate.

(B) The qualifying method provided in subsection (A) is an alternative to any other requirement or option for qualification. A person must be considered fully qualified pursuant to Subsection (A) upon presentation of the credential listed in that subsection on which qualification is based, and must not be required to seek or receive any waiver of other qualification required by statute, regulation, budget proviso, or department rule or policy.”

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

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