**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑39‑360, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO A COUNTY’S AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS IN OR NEAR A HAZARD DUTY ZONE, SO AS TO REQUIRE EACH COUNTY TO ALLOW FOR A DEFERMENT, TO PROVIDE THE DEFERMENT BEGINS ON THE TAX DUE DATE AND ENDS NINETY DAYS AFTER THE LAST DATE OF DEPLOYMENT, AND TO PROVIDE THAT NO INTEREST MAY BE CHARGED DURING THE DEPLOYMENT UNLESS THE TAX IS NOT PAID WITHIN THE NINETY‑DAY GRACE PERIOD.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12‑39‑360 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 12‑39‑360. Upon application from the taxpayer, a county ~~may~~ must extend the date for filing returns and the payment of property taxes for persons serving with the United States Armed Forces or National Guard in or near a hazard duty zone. The deferment begins on the tax due date and ends ninety days after the last date of deployment. The auditor may require the taxpayer to provide proof of deployment. If the tax is paid in full within ninety days after the last date of deployment, no interest may be charged. When the property tax amount is not paid in full within the ninety days, interest may be charged on any unpaid amount at the rate it would have accrued since the original property tax due date.”

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

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