**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 25‑11‑40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER SERVES AT THE WILL OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; AND TO AMEND SECTION 25‑11‑60, RELATING TO A COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER’S SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT THESE REPORTS FIRST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS FOR HIS REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE REPORT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25‑11‑40(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B) Subject to the recommendation of a majority of the Senators representing the county and a majority of the House members representing the county, the Director of the Division of Veterans Affairs shall appoint a county veterans affairs officer for each county in the State, whose term of office shall begin July first of each odd‑numbered year and shall continue for a term of two years and until a successor shall be appointed. A county veterans affairs officer must be a qualified veteran who served on active duty for a period of more than one hundred eighty days and was discharged or released from such active duty with an honorable discharge or, if one hundred eighty days or less, was discharged or released from such active duty because of a service‑connected disability; otherwise, a county veterans affairs officer may be a qualified nonveteran, if any veteran being considered for the post is not as qualified as a nonveteran being considered for the post. Qualifications shall be determined by the county legislative delegation upon a majority vote of the Senators representing the county and a majority of the House members representing the county. A county veterans affairs officer is subject to removal ~~for cause~~ at any time by a majority of the Senators representing the county and a majority of the House members representing the county.”

SECTION 2. Section 25‑11‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) The county veterans affairs officers shall render semiannually a complete report of their acts and doings to the county legislative delegation of their respective counties upon uniform forms to be furnished by the Director of the Division of Veterans’ Affairs.

(B) Before a county veterans affairs officer furnished the semiannual report required pursuant to subsection (A) to his county legislative delegation, the county officer first shall submit the report to the Director of the Division of Veterans Affairs for his review and opportunity to provide feedback regarding the report to the county delegation.

(C) Upon receipt of the semiannual report required pursuant to subsection (A), a county legislative delegation may request feedback from the Director of the Division of Veterans Affairs regarding the sufficiency of the report and his assessment of that county’s veterans affairs officer’s progress with his official duties as defined in Section 25‑11‑50.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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