**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 7‑5‑35 SO AS TO REQUIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS TO PERFORM CERTAIN ACTIONS DURING THE PETITION VERIFICATION PROCESS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO PETITION VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS APPEARING ELSEWHERE IN THE CODE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 4‑9‑30, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE POWERS GRANTED TO COUNTIES, SO AS TO SPECIFY THE PROPER PETITION FORM.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 5, Title 7 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 7‑5‑35. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, whenever a petition is submitted to the county board of voter registration and elections for verification, the petition must be on the SEC FRM 1000‑200910 petition form, and the county board shall ensure:

(1) duplicate signatures are identified distinctly in red ink with written annotations to both the page and line numbers on which the duplicate signatures appear;

(2) signatures are checked against the signatures of the voters on the original applications for registration on file in the board office and the appropriate information is entered in each block of the petition in black ink;

(3) rejected signatures, including associated information appearing on the same signature line number, are redacted fully in black ink;

(4) factual discrepancies between voter information appearing on the petition and that appearing on the voters’ original applications for registration are annotated on the left side bottom of the petition page in black ink, and each change noted must be preceded with the line number on the petition;

(5) all petitions are numbered sequentially; and

(6) a confirmed petition page count with a running total of verified signatures appears in the bottom right corner on each page of the petition.

(B) The requirements imposed by this section are supplemental to petition verification requirements that may appear elsewhere in the 1976 Code.”

SECTION 2. Section 4‑9‑30(5)(a) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 114 of 1991, is further amended to read:

“(5)(a) to assess property and levy ad valorem property taxes and uniform service charges, including the power to tax different areas at different rates related to the nature and level of governmental services provided and make appropriations for functions and operations of the county, including, but not limited to, appropriations for general public works, including roads, drainage, street lighting, and other public works; water treatment and distribution; sewage collection and treatment; courts and criminal justice administration; correctional institutions; public health; social services; transportation; planning; economic development; recreation; public safety, including police and fire protection, disaster preparedness, regulatory code enforcement; hospital and medical care; sanitation, including solid waste collection and disposal; elections; libraries; and to provide for the regulation and enforcement of the above. However, prior to the creation of a special tax district for the purposes enumerated in this item, and if a petition is required, the petition must be on the SEC FRM 1000‑200910 petition form, one of the following procedures is required:”

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

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