**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑40‑50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ENROLLMENT PREFERENCES IN CHARTER SCHOOLS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT STUDENTS WHO SEEK TO MATRICULATE FROM ONE CHARTER SCHOOL TO ANOTHER PURSUANT TO A SPONSOR‑APPROVED ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHARTER SCHOOLS MUST BE GIVEN FIRST ENROLLMENT PRIORITY BY CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT ARE PARTIES TO THE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WHEN LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE STUDENT RESIDES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑40‑50(B)(8) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 29 of 2013, is further amended to read:

“(8) not limit or deny admission or show preference in admission decisions to any individual or group of individuals, except in the case of an application to create a single gender charter school, in which case gender may be the only reason to show preference or deny admission to the school; a charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil currently enrolled and attending, or who, within the last six years, attended the school for at least one complete academic year. A student who seeks to matriculate from one charter school to another pursuant to a sponsor‑approved articulation agreement between the charter schools must be given first enrollment priority by a charter school that is a party to the articulation agreement if that charter school is located in the district in which the student resides. A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year. An enrollment preference for returning students excludes those students from entering into a lottery. A charter school also may give priority to children of a charter school employee and children of the charter committee, if priority enrollment for children of employees and of the charter committee does not constitute more than twenty percent of the enrollment of the charter school. In addition, a charter school located on a federal military installation or base where the appropriate authorities have made buildings, facilities, and grounds on the installation or base available for use by the charter school as its principal location also may give enrollment priority to otherwise eligible students who are dependents of military personnel living in military housing on the base or installation or who are currently stationed at the base or installation not to exceed fifty percent of the total enrollment of the charter school. This priority is in addition to the other priorities provided by this item, but no child may be counted more than once for purposes of determining the percentage makeup of each priority;”

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

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