**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT A STATEWIDE ADVISORY REFERENDUM MUST BE CONDUCTED BY THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, THE MOTOR FUEL USER FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLES GENERALLY AND THE CORRESPONDING ROAD TAX ON MOTOR CARRIERS SHOULD BE, OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD, INCREASED BY A TOTAL OF TEN CENTS PER GALLON WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE INCREASE TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING FUNDING FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING STREETS, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND BRIDGES IN THE STATE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. (A) A statewide advisory referendum must be conducted by the State Election Commission at the same time as the 2018 general election on the question of whether or not, for the next ten years, the motor fuel user fee on motor vehicles generally and the corresponding road tax on motor carriers should be, over a three year period, increased by a total of ten cents per gallon with the proceeds of the increase to supplement, and not supplant, existing funding for the repair and maintenance of and improvements to existing streets, roads, highways, and bridges in the state highway primary system. The state election laws shall apply to the referendum, with the appropriate changes being made. The State Board of Canvassers shall publish the results of the referendum and certify them to the Governor and each house of the General Assembly.

(B) Ballots must be provided to all qualified electors participating in the referendum with the following question printed on the ballot:

“Do you favor increasing the motor fuel user fee on motor vehicles generally and the corresponding road tax on motor carriers for the next ten years by a total of ten cents per gallon, to be phased‑in over three years, with the proceeds of the increase to supplement existing funding for the repair and maintenance of and improvements to existing streets, roads, highways, and bridges in the state highway primary system?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

(C) The cost of the referendum must be paid from funds appropriated to the State Election Commission and the results of the referendum are advisory only.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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