**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 1‑1‑660, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PALMETTO TREE’S DESIGNATION AS THE OFFICIAL TREE OF THIS STATE, SO AS TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR A DESIGN OF THE PALMETTO TREE TO BE PREPARED WHICH, WHEN APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SHALL BE THE APPROVED DESIGN OF THE PALMETTO TREE FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES AND FOR INCLUSION ON THE STATE FLAG.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1‑1‑660 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 1‑1‑660. (A) The palmetto tree is hereby designated and adopted as the official tree of the State.

(B) In order to have a uniform standard design of the palmetto tree for official purposes because current designs now vary widely, the Director of the Department of Administration is directed to cause a design or designs of the palmetto tree to be prepared. In having designs prepared, the director may solicit and accept public input. The director shall select one design and submit it to the General Assembly for approval by concurrent resolution. Upon approval by the General Assembly by concurrent resolution, this design is declared to be the approved design of the palmetto tree for official purposes and is considered to be the approved official design of the palmetto tree for inclusion on the State Flag flown over the State House and used for other public purposes. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the director or the General Assembly to infringe on any trademarked designs of a palmetto tree held by a private party.”

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

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