**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑59‑95 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING IN THE 2020‑2021 SCHOOL YEAR, PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS, SHALL OFFER A HALF‑UNIT CREDIT COURSE DEVOTED TO TOPICS RELATED TO EXPLORING VARIOUS CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREER READINESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS; TO PROVIDE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, SUBJECT TO AN EXCEPTION; AND TO PROVIDE THIS HALF‑UNIT OF CREDIT IS INCLUDED AMONG THE TWENTY‑FOUR UNITS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND MAY NOT BE REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO THOSE TWENTY‑FOUR UNITS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 59, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑59‑95. (A) Beginning in 2020‑2021 School Year, public high schools, including charter schools, shall offer a half‑unit credit course devoted to topics related to exploring various career and educational opportunities and career readiness, and emphasizes the importance of work ethic, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. The course must demonstrate that graduation from a four‑year college is not the only path to success and discuss other pathways.

(B) Successful completion of this course is required to receive a high school diploma, except for students required to complete one career and technology unit pursuant to Section 59‑39‑100(D)

(C) The half‑unit of credit awarded for successful completion of this course is included among the twenty‑four units required to receive a high school diploma under Section 59‑39‑100(D), and may not be required in addition to those twenty‑four units.”

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

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