**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CREATE THE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS STUDY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW STATE LAW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE CIVIL VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE, TO REQUIRE THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING WHICH TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE CIVIL VIOLATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE.

Whereas, all South Carolina traffic violations are criminal violations, unless specifically excepted in the Code of Laws; and

Whereas, many minor traffic violations do not rise to the level of criminal conduct in the eyes of the citizens of South Carolina; and

Whereas, failure to fully address a minor traffic violation can result in the violator acquiring a criminal record; and

Whereas, many South Carolinians desiring to work and seeking employment are denied an opportunity to work because of traffic violations on their criminal records; and

Whereas, many South Carolina employers desiring to hire workers are precluded from hiring applicants with a criminal record; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina has an interest in maximizing the employability of its citizens in the free market economy. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (A) There is created the “Traffic Violations Study Committee” to review state laws regarding traffic violations, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding which traffic violations should be civil violations. The study committee shall review information and testimony provided by, but not limited to, the Department of Public Safety; the Commission on Prosecution Coordination; the Department of Employment and Workforce; the Commission on Indigent Defense; and any other interested state agency. The Study Committee also shall review information and testimony provided by any group interested in this matter, as well as members of the public.

(B) The study committee shall be composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee chairman. Vacancies in the study committee’s membership must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment.

(C) The Chairmen of the Senate and House of Representatives Judiciary Committees shall provide appropriate staffing for the study committee.

(D) The study committee shall make a report of its recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2018, at which time the study committee is dissolved.

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

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