**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑13‑320, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS, SO AS TO ENACT THE “SOUTH CAROLINA TAX RETURNS UNIFORMLY MADE PUBLIC ACT”; TO REQUIRE A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO FILE COPIES OF THE CANDIDATE’S FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING THE YEAR OF THE GENERAL ELECTION AND PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT, IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, FOR THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE CANDIDATE’S FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS.

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the “South Carolina Tax Returns Uniformly Made Public Act”.

SECTION 2. Section 7‑13‑320(C) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 223 of 2006, is further amended to read:

“(C) On the ballot for presidential electors there ~~shall~~ must be printed, under the titles of the offices, the names of the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States nominated by each political party qualified under the provisions of Section 7‑9‑10 and those nominated by petition; however, a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States may not have his name printed on the ballot unless he has complied with the requirements of subsection (G). A separate column ~~shall~~ must be assigned to each political party with candidates and to each separate petition slate of candidates on the ballot and each party and each petition candidate’s columns ~~shall~~ must be separated by distinct black lines. At the head of each column the party or petition name ~~shall~~ must be printed in large type and below it a circle, one‑half inch in diameter, and below the circle the names of the party’s and petition candidates for President and Vice President in that order. On the face of the ballot above the party and petition candidate’s column division the following instruction ~~shall~~ must be printed in heavy black type:

a. To vote this ballot make a cross (X) mark in the circle below the name of the political party or petition column for whose candidates you wish to vote.

b. A vote for the names of a political party’s candidates or petition candidates for President and Vice President is a vote for the electors of that party or petition candidates, the names of whom are on file with the Secretary of State.

On the bottom of the ballot ~~shall~~ must be printed an identified facsimile of the signature of the Executive Director of the State Election Commission.”

SECTION 3. Section 7‑13‑320 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 223 of 2006, is further amended by adding subsection (G) at the end to read:

“(G) The name of a candidate for President or Vice President shall appear on the general election ballot only if no later than fifty days before the date of the general election the candidate has filed with the State Election Commission a copy of the candidate’s federal income tax returns for the ten years preceding the year of the general election and provided written consent, in a form prescribed by the State Election Commission, for the public disclosure of the candidate’s federal income tax returns required by this subsection. The State Election Commission shall make the federal income tax returns submitted under this subsection publicly available on the State Election Commission website within seven days after the income tax returns have been filed; however, before making the income tax returns publicly available, the State Election Commission, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Revenue, or the Director’s designee, shall redact any personal information or other information the Director or the Director’s designee determines must be kept confidential by law. If a candidate for the office of President or Vice President does not timely file with the State Election Commission the federal income tax returns and written consent required by this subsection, the name of the candidate may not be printed on the official general election ballot.”

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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