**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 2‑3‑21 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL RECEIVE COMPENSATION ANNUALLY AS DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY HEAD SALARY COMMISSION BASED ON THE AVERAGE SOUTH CAROLINA SALARY, AND TO REQUIRE A REEVALUATION OF THE COMPENSATION EVERY FOUR YEARS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 2‑3‑21. Beginning with the session of the General Assembly that begins in 2019, the amount of compensation a member of the General Assembly receives annually must be determined by the Agency Head Salary Commission based on the average South Carolina salary according to the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, quarterly census of employment and wages for the most recently available twelve‑month period. By February 1, 2022, and every fourth February first after that, the commission shall reevaluate the compensation amount, with any adjustments first applying to the compensation of members for the next General Assembly. The amount determined by the commission must be included and funded in the annual general appropriations act. For purposes of this section, compensation includes amounts paid to each member of the General Assembly and which is considered taxable wages by the Internal Revenue Code, such as per diem and in‑district expense, but does not include amounts paid as subsistence or other additional amounts pursuant to Section 2‑3‑20.”

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

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