**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 2018 AS “BUILDING SAFETY MONTH” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO JOIN IN WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES IN PARTICIPATION WITH “BUILDING SAFETY MONTH” ACTIVITIES.

Whereas, South Carolina is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depend on the safety and economic value of the homes, buildings, and infrastructure which serve our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster; and

Whereas, our confidence in the structural integrity of these buildings which make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians, including building safety and fire prevention officials; architects; engineers; builders; tradespeople; design professionals; laborers; and others in the construction industry; who work year‑round to ensure the safe construction of buildings; and

Whereas, these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a United States‑based organization, that brings together local, state, and federal officials who are experts in the building environment to create and implement the highest‑quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, and play; and

Whereas, our nation benefits economically and technologically from using the International Codes that are developed by a national, voluntary consensus‑codes and standards‑developing organization. Our government is able to avoid the high cost and complexity of developing and maintaining these codes, which are the most widely‑adopted building‑safety and fire‑prevention codes in the nation. These modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes; and

Whereas, “Building Safety Month” is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities’ largely unknown guardians of public safety, our local code officials, who assure us of safe, efficient, and livable buildings that are essential to keep America great; and

Whereas, “Building Codes Save Lives,” the theme for Building Safety Month 2018, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation; and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2018 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship, and play are safe and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies; and

Whereas, each year, in observance of “Building Safety Month,” Americans are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety and economic investment at home and in the community and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus, and federal agencies in protecting lives and property. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare May 2018 as “Building Safety Month” in the State of South Carolina and encourage citizens to join in with their communities in participation with “Building Safety Month” activities.

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