**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 11-35-1524 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO RESIDENT VENDOR PREFERENCE, TO PROVIDE THAT, PRIOR TO MAKING A FINAL AWARD DETERMINATION, THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE RESIDENT BIDDERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO MATCH THE LOWEST NONRESIDENT BID AND GIVE PREFERENCE TO A RESIDENT BIDDER WHO MATCHES THE LOWEST NONRESIDENT BID PRICE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11-35-1524 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“(F) Prior to making a final award determination, if the lowest bid is from a nonresident bidder, the procurement officer shall provide resident bidders with the opportunity to match the lowest nonresident bidder’s price. In the event a resident bidder matches the lowest nonresident bid, preference shall be given to the resident bidder. If two or more resident bidders match the lowest nonresident bid, the tie must be resolved as provided in Section 11-35-1520(9).”

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

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