**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑111‑80 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE MAY ATTEND CLASSES FOR CREDIT OR NONCREDIT PURPOSES ON A SPACE‑AVAILABLE BASIS WITHOUT THE REQUIRED PAYMENT OF TUITION; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 59‑111‑15 RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR PERMANENT FACULTY AND STAFF.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 111, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑111‑80. (A) An employee of the State may attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes on a space‑available basis without the required payment of tuition at a public institution of higher learning or institution under the jurisdiction of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. The employee shall meet the admission and other standards of the institution and must be a South Carolina resident.

(B) As used in this section ‘tuition’ means the amount charged for registering for a credit hour of instruction and does not include other fees or charges or the costs of textbooks.

(C) The credit hours generated by individuals receiving assistance pursuant to this section may not be used in computing the higher education funding formula and may not have an impact on the level of funding an institution receives.”

SECTION 2. Section 59‑111‑15 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies beginning with the first semester following the effective date of this act.

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