**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 2‑17‑55 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO EMPLOY OR CONTRACT WITH A PERSON WHOSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THOSE RELATED TO LOBBYING AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 17, Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 2‑17‑55. It is unlawful for a state agency, instrumentality, or department to expend public funds in order to employ or contract with a lobbyist as defined in Section 2‑17‑10(13). The provisions of this section do not include:

(1) appearances by the administrative head of a state agency, instrumentality, or department before a public body by specific request;

(2) authorized employees of the General Assembly, Office of the Governor, the Supreme Court, the Budget and Control Board, the Commission on Higher Education, or the Department of Revenue, whose duties are to assess the impact of proposals which affect the administration of state government.”

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

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