**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑7‑10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING PRECINCTS AND VOTING PLACES ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLLING PLACE IN A LOCATION THAT IS GATED, GUARDED, OR WHERE ACCESS IS CONTROLLED BY OTHER THAN A POLLING PLACE MANAGER, AND TO REQUIRE THAT SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MUST CONTAIN A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑7‑10 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 365 of 2000, is further amended to read:

“Section 7‑7‑10. (A) For the purpose of holding any general, primary, or special election in this State, the voting precincts and voting places in the several counties of the State ~~shall~~ must be designated, fixed, and established by the General Assembly. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a county election commission from establishing multiple polling places within a precinct, provided that voters are assigned to these polling places alphabetically or geographically as determined by the county election commission and approved by a majority of that county’s legislative delegation. A voter must be notified in writing of his transfer to a new polling place and the location of the new polling place.

(B) A voting place may not be established in a location that is gated, guarded, or where access is controlled by other than a polling place manager.

(C) All submissions to the United States Justice Department pursuant to the provisions of Title 7 (Voting Rights Act) must contain a statement that the proposed polling place is not within an area restricted to the general public.”

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

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