**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑40‑55 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT DENY A CHARTER SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHER, OR CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT ANYTHING THAT IS OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL, PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, OR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT; TO PROVIDE THAT A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY NOT CHARGE RENT TO A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT WAS CONVERTED FROM AN EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE THAT A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY APPLY FOR GRANTS ON ITS OWN; TO PROVIDE THAT A TEACHER IN A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY BE NOMINATED AND CONSIDERED AS A CANDIDATE FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A STUDENT AT A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY RECEIVE A LAURA BROWN FUND GRANT.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 40, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑40‑55.(A) A local school district may not deny a charter school, charter school teacher, or charter school student anything that is otherwise available to a public school, public school teacher, or public school student including, but not limited to, the provisions of subsection (B).

(B)(1) A local school district may not charge rent to a charter school that was converted from an existing public school.

(2) A charter school may apply for a grant on its own.

(3) A teacher in a charter school may be nominated and considered as a candidate for Teacher of the Year.

(4) A student in a charter school may receive a Laura Brown Fund grant if the student otherwise qualifies for the grant.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑