**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 48‑43‑397 SO AS TO DEFINE THE TERM OFFSHORE DRILLING, TO PROVIDE PORTIONS OF LEASE OR ROYALTY PAYMENTS PAID BY PERSONS PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THAT ACCRUE TO THE BENEFIT OF THIS STATE MUST BE ALLOCATED AND EXPENDED IN A CERTAIN MANNER.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2, Chapter 43, Title 58 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 48‑43‑397. (A) For the purposes of this section, ‘offshore drilling’ means oceanic exploration, drilling, or production of oil and gas.

(B) Portions of lease, royalty, or other payments paid by persons for permission to engage in offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean within the territorial jurisdiction of this State and that accrue to the benefit of this State must be allocated and used as follows:

(1) ninety percent to the South Carolina Department of Transportation for improvements to the State’s transportation infrastructure; and

(2) ten percent to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources exclusively for the preservation and enhancement of the State’s natural resources.

(C) The allocation and expenditure of funds provided in subsection (B) of this section commence on the effective date of this section and continue for a ten‑year period from the date these funds accrue to the benefit of this State. The General Assembly shall appropriate these funds during this ten‑year period only for the purposes and in the percentage amounts required in subsection (B). After this ten‑year period lapses, the General Assembly may use these funds for any purpose it considers appropriate.”

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

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