**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 4‑8‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT CHARTER COMMISSION, SO AS TO CHANGE THE MANNER AND PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A CHARTER COMMISSION BY ACTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES OR BY A PETITION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTOR REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE COUNTY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4‑8‑20(B) of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 319 of 1992, is amended to read:

“(B) If the governing body of ~~any~~ a county creates a commission, it must be created in accordance with the procedures specified in subsection (A) and only upon the request of the governing body of the county and the governing body of the largest municipality in the county, or upon petition of not less than ten percent of the registered electors within the county. The petition must contain the signatures of not ~~less~~ fewer than ~~ten percent of~~ five thousand persons registered to vote in the county if the county has a population greater than three hundred thousand according to the latest official United States Census or twenty‑five hundred persons registered to vote in the county if the county population is fewer than three hundred thousand according to the latest official United States Census. Petitions must be certified as valid or rejected by the county board of registration within thirty days and if certified, must be filed with the governing body which shall create a charter commission within thirty days after certification. If within the thirty‑day period one or more of the municipalities or special purpose districts fails or refuses to appoint their proportionate number of members to the commission, the county governing body shall appoint an additional number of members equal to the number that any such municipality or special purpose district is entitled to appoint. A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the manner of the original appointment.”

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

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