**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑25‑60 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MUST DEVELOP A CLASSROOM TEACHER BONUS PROGRAM TO REWARD EXEMPLARY CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE BONUS MAY NOT EXCEED FIVE PERCENT OF THE TEACHER’S SALARY FOR THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, AND TO REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN A SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR THE FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAM WITH FUNDS DRAWN FROM THE OPERATING ACCOUNT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑25‑60. By July 1, 2010, the State Department of Education must develop a classroom teacher bonus program to reward exemplary classroom teachers for outstanding performance. The bonus may not exceed five percent of the teacher’s salary for the previous fiscal year. Each school district must create a separate account for the funding of this program with funds drawn from the operating account of the school district.”

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

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