**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

A JOINT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO STUDY CERTAIN ISSUES AFFECTING VETERANS AND PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES, THE FILLING OF VACANCIES, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND STAFFING.

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

SECTION 1. There is established a Committee to Study Certain Issues Affecting Veterans. The committee is comprised of three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The members of the committee shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman and shall meet as often and at any locale in the State as the committee considers necessary or expedient for the duration of the committee’s existence as provided by this joint resolution. Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled in the manner of original appointment as provided by this section.

SECTION 2. The committee shall study the following:

(A) the advisability and feasibility of constructing an additional state veterans’ nursing home in South Carolina;

(B) veterans’ access to existing nursing facilities and adult daycare facilities and the availability of these facilities to veterans who may be in need of them;

(C) the ways in which the State should proceed to generate maximum use of state tax revenue for the benefit of veterans;

(D) the projected veteran population in South Carolina during the next twenty years; and

(E) possible improvement projects to existing state nursing facilities for veterans.

When formulating its findings and recommendations, the committee shall consider information and recommendations from the state Office of Veterans Affairs and representatives of the veteran community.

SECTION 3. The committee shall render a written report of its findings and recommendations based upon its study conducted pursuant to Section 2. The report shall be presented to both houses of the General Assembly and to the Governor not later than April 1, 2010. Upon presenting the written report in accordance with the provisions of this section, the committee shall be dissolved and this joint resolution shall expire.

SECTION 4. The committee shall receive clerical and related assistance from the staff of the Senate and the staff of the House of Representatives, as approved and designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively. Committee members and committee staff shall not receive compensation for their duties with respect to the work of the committee but shall be allowed the usual mileage, per diem, and subsistence as provided by law for members of state boards, committees, and commissions, to be paid from the approved accounts of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, in the exercise of their duties and work on behalf of the committee.

SECTION 5. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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