**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑1‑500 SO AS TO CREATE THE VIRTUAL HEAD START COMMITTEE UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, TO REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO COMPILE A SET OF AGE APPROPRIATE INTERNET‑BASED LESSONS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AGED ZERO TO SIX, TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE WEBSITE, TO PROVIDE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE WEBSITE MUST BE FUNDED BY PRIVATE GRANTS AND ADVERTISING, AND TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 59‑7‑70 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE STATE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD AND THE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK TO PROVIDE A WIRELESS CLOUD OVER ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES AND OVER A TEN‑MILE RADIUS SURROUNDING THE FACILITIES USING EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑1‑500. (A) There is created a Virtual Head Start Committee under the administration of the State Department of Education whose purpose it is to establish an Internet library of interactive lessons designed to give caregivers of children aged zero to six an opportunity to practice daily teaching methods intended to focus and improve early childhood education and development. The committee must be composed of the following seven members:

(1) three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) three members appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

(3) one member appointed by the Governor.

(B) At the first meeting of the committee, the members shall elect a chairman from among the committee membership.

(C) A vacancy occurring on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(D) The committee shall compile a set of age appropriate Internet‑based lessons designed to stimulate the development of children of each age. Lessons must be divided by age on the committee’s website to ensure easy access to suitable material. By July 1, 2010, the committee shall fully implement its website for public use.

(E) The committee shall monitor the progress of the program and shall update the website as new lessons become available. By January first of each year, the committee shall report to the General Assembly the success of the program including, but not limited to, the number of hits the website receives each day.

(F) It is intended that the website be funded by private grants and internet advertising. Public funds may not be used for the implementation of this program.

(G) As used in this section, ‘caregivers’ includes, but is not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, private daycare workers, and church nursery workers.”

SECTION 2. Chapter 7, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑7‑70. The State Budget and Control Board Chief Information Officer and the South Carolina Educational Television Network are directed to provide a wireless cloud over all public school facilities and over a ten‑mile radius surrounding the facilities using existing infrastructure.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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