**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 36 TO TITLE 1 SO AS TO CREATE THE “21ST CENTURY GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT”, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DIVISION OF STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DSIT) OF THE STATE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD TO EFFECTUATE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

Whereas, the State of South Carolina must continue to expand the use of technology across agencies and levels of government to provide seamless service to citizens and businesses; and

Whereas, given the current state of the economy, governments in South Carolina must take every action possible to reduce duplication, improve coordination, ensure compatibility and increase communication; and

Whereas, the State also must be in the position of addressing the corresponding issue concerning the increased interest in privacy, security, and integrity of data; and

Whereas, in order for government to operate in the most efficient manner possible and deliver services effectively to all citizens, the State must embrace the innovative use and management of technological resources across the enterprise; and

Whereas, the State must continue to develop and deploy initiatives aimed at increasing accessibility, ensuring privacy, authenticating individuals in the deployment of e‑government initiative and ensuring compatibly across the enterprise; and

Whereas, it is recommended that this legislation be passed into law by the legislature and to serve as the foundation for a 21ST Century Government in South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“CHAPTER 36

21ST Century Government Efficiency Act

Section 1‑36‑10. The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) minimize the paperwork burden for state agencies, individuals, small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, local governments, and other persons;

(2) ensure the greatest possible benefit from and maximize the utility of information created, collected, maintained, used, shared, and disseminated by or for this State;

(3) coordinate, integrate, and to the extent practicable and appropriate, make uniform information resources management policies and practices as a means to improve the productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness of government programs, including the reduction of information collection burdens on the public and the improvement of service delivery to the public;

(4) improve the quality and use of state government information to strengthen decision‑making, accountability, and openness in government;

(5) minimize the cost to state government of the creation, collection, maintenance, use, dissemination, and disposition of information;

(6) strengthen the partnership between state government and local governments by minimizing the burden and maximizing the utility of information created, collected, maintained, used, and disseminated, and retained by or for this State;

(7) provide for the dissemination of public information on a timely basis, on equitable terms, and in a manner that promotes the utility of the information to the public and makes effective use of information technology; and

(8) ensure that information technology is acquired, used, and managed to improve fulfillment of agency mission.

Section 1‑36‑20. (A) The Division of State Information Technology (DSIT) of the State Budget and Control Board shall provide:

(1) direction to the collection of information, including records management activities; and

(2) for the acquisition and use of information technologies that enable electronic submission, maintenance, or disclosure of information as a substitute for paper and for the use and acceptance of electronic signatures.

(B) The authority of DSIT must be exercised consistent with applicable law.

(C) With respect to general information resources management policy, DSIT shall:

(1) foster greater sharing, dissemination, and access to public information, including through the:

(a) use of the electronic document management solution provided by DSIT; and

(b) development and implementation of best practices in information resources management, including training;

(2) advise and assist the South Carolina Department of Archives and History to promote coordination with the information resources management policies, principles, standards, and guidelines established for records management.

Section 1‑36‑30. (A) The head of each state agency is responsible for:

(1) carrying out the agency’s information resources management activities to improve agency productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness; and

(2) complying with the requirements and related policies established by DSIT.

(B) With respect to general information resources management, each agency shall manage information resources to:

(1) increase program efficiency and effectiveness; and

(2) improve the integrity, quality, and utility of information to all users within and outside the agency, including capabilities for ensuring dissemination of public information, public access to government information, and protection for privacy and security.

Section 1‑36‑40. DSIT shall:

(1) keep the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor office fully and currently informed of the major activities of this legislation;

(2) submit a report on the activities to the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually and at times as DSIT determines necessary;

(3) include in the report a description of the extent to which agencies have reduced paperwork burdens on the public.

Section 1‑36‑50. (A) DSIT shall implement a digital signature solution that shall include use by all state agencies, local cities and counties, state universities, community colleges, and local public school systems.

(B) A ‘Policy Authority’ must be established to:

(1) oversee digital signature policies; and

(2) implement, maintain, and modify the Certificate Policy and the Certificate Practice Statement.

(C) The Policy Authority is composed of individuals from local and state governments, along with members of the courts.

Section 1‑36‑60. (A) DSIT shall establish a means to fund the nonrecurring expenses associated with the implementation of an eForms and digital signature solution.

(B) DSIT shall purchase an enterprise eForms solution.

(C) eForms from DSIT master license may be purchased by the courts, cities, counties, university system, community colleges, and local public school systems.

(D) Reasonable fees may be added to the cost of a form to pay for nonrecurring expenses incurred by DSIT.”

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

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