**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 14 TO CHAPTER 52, TITLE 48 SO AS TO ESTABLISH IN THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE THE SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS AND GREEN JOBS MICRO LOAN AND MICRO GRANT PROGRAM, TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LOANS AND GRANTS, TO PROVIDE THE PROGRAM, LOANS, AND GRANTS BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS, TO CREATE AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PROGRAM AND TO DEFINE THE COMMITTEE’S MEMBERSHIP, TO DEFINE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH A GRANT OR LOAN MAY BE MADE BY THE PROGRAM, AND TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE CENTER CONCERNING THE PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the “South Carolina Small Business and Green Jobs Micro Loan and Micro Grant Program Act”.

SECTION 2. Chapter 52, Title 48 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 14

South Carolina Small Business and Green Jobs Micro Loan and Micro Grant Program

Section 48‑52‑1010. (A)(1) There is established in the State Energy Office the South Carolina Small Business and Green Jobs Micro Loan and Micro Grant Program (the program) to facilitate the transition of certain small businesses to a green economy.

(2) There is created in the program a fund to provide loans and grants as provided in this article. This fund only may be financed from fines and fees imposed in Section 48-1-350, based on availability, and must be financed in the following amounts:

(a) two hundred thousand dollars in the fund’s first year of existence; and

(b) five hundred thousand dollars annually in subsequent years.

(3) The program and fund must be administered by the University of South Carolina Small Business Development Center (the center).

(B) For the purposes of this article, ‘green economy’ means efforts undertaken by a business specifically to deliver better returns on natural, human, and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste, and reducing social disparities of its environmental impact.

Section 48‑52‑1020. There is created the South Carolina Small Business and Green Jobs Micro Loan and Micro Grant Program Advisory Committee (the committee) consisting of seven members appointed as follows:

(1) one member appointed by the South Carolina Energy Office of the State Budget and Control Board;

(2) one member appointed by the South Carolina Recycling Manufacturers Development Council of the Department of Commerce;

(3) one member appointed by the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling of the Department of Health and Environmental Control;

(4) one member appointed by the Workforce Division of the Department of Commerce;

(5) one member who is a small business owner and is appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(6) one member who is a small business owner and is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(7) one member who is elected by the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

Section 48‑52‑1030. (A) The program may award grants to:

(1) a workforce development project that focuses on connecting a target population to an eligible energy efficient and renewable industry defined in Section 171(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Workforce Initiative Act administered by the United States Department of Labor, which includes:

(a) an energy‑efficient building, construction, and retrofit industry;

(b) a renewable electric power industry;

(c) an energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry;

(d) a biofuel industry;

(e) a deconstruction and material use industry;

(f) an energy efficient assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and

(g) a manufacturer that produces a sustainable product using environmentally friendly processes and materials; and

(2) an applicant who contributes to the creation of a job that cleans and enhances the environment, including a green cleaning service, a recycling operation, a novel water conservation or treatment initiative, and an ecotourism or land preservation concern.

(B) The program only may make a loan or grant on a one‑time basis and may make no multiyear loan or grant.

Section 48‑52‑1040. Subject to the requirements of Section 48‑52‑930, the center, with consideration of input from its advisory committee, shall:

(1) develop guidelines to create a small business micro loan program and a small business micro grant program to provide funds to individuals who hope to create green businesses and for existing small businesses seeking to expand into green enterprises;

(2) develop an application and selection process to distribute these grants; and

(3) annually report to the General Assembly on the economic and environmental outcomes of the program.”

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

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