**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 40‑22‑35 SO AS TO PROVIDE A REGISTERED ENGINEER OR SURVEYOR ONLY MAY ENTER A CONTRACT FOR A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ON PUBLIC WORK ON THE BASIS OF DIRECT NEGOTIATION, AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 22, Title 40 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 40‑22‑35. A registered engineer or surveyor only may enter a contract for a professional service on public work on the basis of direct negotiation, thereby precluding his participation in a system requiring a comparison of compensation. However, a registered engineer or surveyor may state compensation to a prospective client as part of direct negotiation after he is selected as the most qualified provider and where engineering and surveying services necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare are found.”

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

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