**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑117‑10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SO AS TO ADD TWO MEMBERS TO THE BOARD TO BE ELECTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ONE OF WHOM MUST BE FEMALE AND RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE WOMEN’S CAUCUS, AND ONE OF WHOM MUST BE AFRICAN‑AMERICAN AND RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT BOTH MEMBERS MUST BE FOUND QUALIFIED FOR ELECTION BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE SCREENING COMMITTEE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑117‑10 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑117‑10. The board of trustees of the University of South Carolina ~~shall be~~ is composed of the Governor of the State ~~(~~or his designee~~)~~, the State Superintendent of Education, and the President of the Greater University of South Carolina Alumni Association, which three shall ~~be~~ serve as members ex officio of the board; and ~~seventeen~~ nineteen other members including one member from each of the sixteen judicial circuits to be elected by the general vote of the General Assembly as hereinafter provided, ~~and~~ one at‑large member appointed by the Governor, one member elected by the General Assembly from among three female candidates recommended by the Legislative Women’s Caucus, all of whom have been qualified for election by the Joint Legislative Screening Committee; and one member elected by the General Assembly from among three African‑American candidates recommended by the Legislative Black Caucus, all of whom have been qualified for election by the Joint Legislative Screening Committee. If the Legislative Women’s Caucus or Legislative Black Caucus recommends a person who is found nonqualified by the Joint Legislative Screening Committee, the respective caucus may submit a substitute candidate for screening. The Governor shall make the appointment based on merit regardless of race, color, creed, or gender and shall strive to assure that the membership of the board is representative of all citizens of the State of South Carolina.”

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

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