**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑3‑35 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION SHALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND JURISDICTION OVER ALL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OF THIS STATE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL APPOINT A DIVERSE ADVISORY BOARD OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, AND COACHES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND MINORITY MEMBERS, TO ADVISE HIM IN REGARD TO HIS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS SECTION, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL MAY NOT JOIN OR AFFILIATE WITH ANY JURISDICTIONAL BODY OR ENTITY THAT OPERATES OUTSIDE THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑3‑35. (A) Effective July 1, 2011, the State Superintendent of Education shall have responsibility for and jurisdiction over all interscholastic athletic activities of public high schools in this State, including school classifications and regions, competitions and scheduling, eligibility, and protests and sanctions for violations.

(B) The State Superintendent of Education in performing these duties may delegate a portion of these responsibilities to local school boards of trustees. In addition, the Superintendent shall appoint a diverse advisory board of school superintendents, athletic directors, and coaches, including women and minority members, to advise him in regard to his duties and responsibilities under this section.

(C) A state public high school may not join or affiliate with any jurisdictional body or entity that operates outside the authority of the State Superintendent of Education.”

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

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