**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑43‑40 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A STATE SPONSORED ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH HE RESIDES MAY TAKE THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXAM FREE OF CHARGE UPON MEETING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO THE STATE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 43, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑43‑40. (A) A person who is enrolled in a state sponsored adult education program in the school district in which he resides may take the General Educational Development Exam (GED) free of charge if he meets all requirements of the adult education program, including attendance, and scores at least a 2400 on a practice GED exam.

(B) To the extent necessary to reimburse the State Department of Education for expenses incurred during the administration of the exam, funds must be deducted in a pro rata amount from funds appropriated for the LIFE Scholarship, HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, the Need Based Grants program, and the Tuition Assistance program.”

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

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