**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑59‑30, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT, SO AS TO EXTEND THE DATE BY WHICH THE ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY.

Whereas, in 2005, the South Carolina General Assembly approved Act 88, the Education and Economic Development Act, now called Personal Pathways to Success; and

Whereas, the primary goals of Personal Pathways to Success are to increase high school completion rates, better prepare students for work and college, increase parental involvement, and increase options for students at risk of dropping out of school; and

Whereas, the act created the Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council (EEDCC) and charged this council to: advise the Department of Education on the implementation of the act; review accountability and performance measures for implementation of the act; designate and oversee the coordination and establishment of the Governor, the General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and other appropriate governing boards on the progress, results, and compliance with the provisions of the act; make recommendations to the Department of Education for the development and implementation of a communication and marketing plan to promote statewide awareness of the provisions of the act; and provide input to the State Board of Education and other appropriate governing boards for the promulgation of regulations to carry out the provisions of the act including, but not limited to, enforcement procedures, which may include monitoring and auditing functions, and addressing consequences for noncompliance; and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 59‑59‑30, the EEDCC shall cease to exist on July 1, 2011; and

Whereas, the members of the EEDCC have performed their duties in a spirit of collaboration that has fostered an increased understanding between schools of this State, institutions of higher learning, and the business communities, and all key components mandated in the act have been technically fulfilled; and

Whereas, the budget cuts of 2009 and 2010 have negatively impacted the ability of the EEDCC to implement all facets to the full extent envisioned, and looming 2011 budget cuts threaten to make that task even more difficult; and

Whereas, the challenge of sustaining and building upon the advances that have been made will be more readily met by extending the termination date of the EEDCC to ensure that statewide momentum is not lost. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑59‑30 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 88 of 2005, is amended to read:

“Section 59‑59‑30. This chapter must be implemented fully by July 1, ~~2011~~ 2016, at which time the council created pursuant to Section 59‑59‑170 shall cease to exist. The Department of Education shall provide administrative support and staffing to the council to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.”

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

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