**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 2‑7‑67 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, SHALL APPROPRIATE, OUT OF THE ESTIMATED REVENUE OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH THE APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE, TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO TWO PERCENT OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE LATEST COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS IN REGARD TO THIS REQUIREMENT.

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

SECTION 1. The 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 2‑7‑67. (A) The General Assembly, in the annual general appropriations act, shall appropriate, out of the estimated revenue of the general fund for the fiscal year for which the appropriations are made, to the Judicial Department an amount equal to two percent of the general fund revenue of the latest completed fiscal year.

(B) This appropriation must be contained in the Ways and Means Committee report on the general appropriations bill, the general appropriations bill at the time of third reading in the House of Representatives, the Senate Finance Committee report on the general appropriations bill, the general appropriations bill at the time of a third reading in the Senate, and in any conference report on the general appropriations bill.

(C) This appropriation shall be excluded from the calculation of any across the board agency base reductions mandated by the Budget and Control Board or the General Assembly.

(D) This section may not be amended or repealed except in legislation separate and apart from the general appropriations bill solely for that purpose.”

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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