**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 1, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑1‑490 TO REQUIRE THAT ANY APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FUND ABSTINENCE ONLY EDUCATION MUST INCLUDE A PROVISION THAT PERMITS A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO OPT OUT OF ANY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ABSTINENCE ONLY INSTRUCTION AND TO RECEIVE A PRO RATA SHARE OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED BASED ON THE DISTRICT’S PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL STATE STUDENT POPULATION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑1‑490. Any appropriation by the General Assembly to fund abstinence only education must include a provision that permits a school district to opt out of any obligation to provide abstinence only instruction and to receive a pro rata share of the total amount appropriated for this purpose based on the district’s percentage of the total state student population. If a district chooses to opt out, the district may use its share of the appropriation to fund general operating expenses.”

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

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