**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 6‑4‑13 SO AS TO ALLOW TOURISM PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS, COUNTIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS TAX REVENUES TO USE THEM IN SUPPORT OF WELCOME CENTERS OPERATED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 4, Title 6 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 6‑4‑13. (A) Organizations designated pursuant to Section 6‑4‑10(3) to receive accommodations tax revenues, in addition to other uses allowed by this chapter, may use these funds in support of welcome centers operated by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. This support may be exercised by the following:

(1) grants to the department for upgraded operations at all such centers or for specific purposes and specific centers; and

(2) with the permission of the department, direct assistance to specific centers by means of in-kind contributions of goods and services.

Municipalities and counties may use accommodations tax revenues allocated to them pursuant to Section 6‑4‑10 for these same purposes.

(B) Acceptance by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism of the assistance allowed pursuant to this section must not result in the supplanting of existing state funding of its welcome centers in general or for specific welcome centers.”

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

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