**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑27‑215, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE AIKEN COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION, SO AS TO DEVOLVE APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM THE AIKEN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF AIKEN COUNTY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑27‑215 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 312 of 2008, is amended to read:

“Section 7‑27‑215. (A) There is created the Registration and Elections Commission for Aiken County. There are seven members of the commission who must be appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of a majority of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation, including the senators, who are appointed for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A member who has three consecutive unexcused absences from board meetings is considered to have resigned his office and a vacancy on the board exists, which must filled in the manner provided in subsection (C).

(B) Between the first day of January and the fifteenth day of March of every even‑numbered year, the Governor shall appoint the members of the commission.

(C) A vacancy on the commission may be filled by appointment in the manner of original appointment for the unexpired term only.

(D) The members of the commission, the executive director, and staff receive compensation as may be appropriated by the county council upon the recommendation of the county legislative delegation.

(E) The executive director must be appointed and may be removed by a majority vote of the ~~senators and a majority vote of the members of the House of Representatives representing~~ governing body of Aiken County.

(F) The office of Commissioners of Election and the Registration Board for Aiken County are abolished. The powers and duties of the Commissioners of Election and the Registration Board are devolved upon the Registration and Elections Commission for Aiken County created in subsection (A).

(G) The current members of the Aiken County Election Commission and the Aiken County Registration Board shall act as the governing commission of the new Aiken County Registration and Elections Commission established in this section until such time as the seven members of this commission appointed in the manner ~~provided by~~ pursuant to this section take office. At this time, the terms of these former commissioners of election and registration board members expire.”

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

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