**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑10‑85, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT GRANTS ALSO MAY BE AWARDED TO COUNTIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED WITHIN COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN FORTY THOUSAND.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12‑10‑85(B) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 290 of 2010, is further amended to read:

“(B) Rural Infrastructure Fund grants must be available to benefit counties or municipalities designated as ‘Tier IV’, or ‘Tier III’ as defined in Section 12‑6‑3360 according to guidelines established by the council, as well as to benefit counties with a population of less than forty thousand according to the latest official United States Census, and municipalities located in a county with a population of less than forty thousand according to the latest official United States Census, except that up to twenty‑five percent of the funds annually available in excess of ten million dollars must be set aside for grants to areas of ‘Tier II’ and ‘Tier I’ counties. A governing body of a ‘Tier II’ or ‘Tier I’ county must apply to the council for these set‑aside grants stating the reasons that certain areas of the county qualify for these grants because the conditions in that area of the county are comparable to those conditions qualifying a county as ‘Tier IV’ or ‘Tier III’.”

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

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