**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑27‑335, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE HORRY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION AND THE HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATION, SO AS TO COMBINE THE BODIES INTO A SINGLE ENTITY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑27‑335 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 312 of 2008, is amended to read:

“Section 7‑27‑335. ~~The Horry County Election Commission and the Horry County Board of Registration must have their members appointed and powers of their board and commission as provided by Sections 7‑5‑10 and 7‑13‑70.~~

(A) There is created the Board of Registration and Elections of Horry County. There are ten members of the board who must be appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of a majority of the Horry County Legislative Delegation, including the senators, who are appointed for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Initially, in order to stagger terms, five members must be appointed for terms of two years. At the expiration of these two‑year terms, successors must be appointed for terms of four years. The board shall elect officers as it considers necessary.

(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 board.

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

(D) The members of the board staff receive compensation as may be appropriated by the county council.

(E) Staff may be appointed and may be removed by a majority vote of the members of the Horry County Board of Registration and Elections.

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

(G) The nine members of the Board of Registration and Elections of Horry County serving in office on the effective date of this section constitute the first nine members of the board provided for by this section and one additional member must be appointed as provided in this section. Upon the expiration of the first nine members’ current terms, successors must be appointed in the manner provided in this section.”

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

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