**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑11‑723 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO RETIRES FROM A SOLICITOR’S OFFICE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE COUNTY IN WHICH HE IS EMPLOYED AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT PARTICIPATES IN THESE PLANS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AND TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2012.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 11, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑11‑723. (A) In addition to the employees and retirees and their eligible dependents covered under the state health and dental insurance plans pursuant to Sections 1‑11‑710 and 1‑11‑720, a person who retires from a solicitor’s office may participate in the state health and dental insurance plans regardless of whether the county in which he is employed at the time of his retirement participates in these plans. The benefits provided must be the same benefits provided to state and school district employees. The board shall establish procedures by which the county from which the employee retires is to make an appropriate employer contribution for the retiree’s coverage, and the county shall make this contribution.

(B) The provisions of this section must be interpreted to provide eligibility to the employee, retiree, and their eligible dependents.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and is retroactive to January 1, 2012.

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