**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 11‑43‑185 SO AS TO PROVIDE A FORMULA, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK BASED ON THE BOUNDARIES OF REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 11‑43‑130, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF “ELIGIBLE PROJECT” FOR PURPOSES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK ACT, SO AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THAT ACT; AND TO AMEND ACT 114 OF 2007, RELATING TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SO AS TO DELETE LANGUAGE PROVIDING THAT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EXPIRES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 43, Title 11 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 11‑43‑185. When selecting qualified projects, the bank shall evenly disperse loans and other financial assistance on a per capita basis so that expenditures within the boundaries of each regional council of government (COG), as established pursuant to Section 6‑7‑110, are at least ninety percent of the per capital share for each COG over any ten‑year period beginning July 1, 2014. The calculation of disbursements is retrospective from that date and the requirements of this section with respect to disbursements first apply on and after that date.”

SECTION 2. Section 11‑43‑130(6) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(6) ‘Eligible project’ means a highway, including bridges, or transit project which provides public benefits by either enhancing mobility and safety, promoting economic development, or increasing the quality of life and general welfare of the public. Eligible projects must be selected from the long‑range Statewide Transportation Plan as defined in Section 57‑1‑370(A), and each project must be selected from a priority list of projects established by the Department of Transportation Commission pursuant to Section 57‑1‑370(B)(8). ‘Eligible project’ also includes mass transit including, but not limited to, monorail and monobeam mass transit systems.”

SECTION 3. Act 114 of 2007 is amended by deleting Section 6, which reads:

“Section 6. Unless extended by subsequent act of the General Assembly, the Governor’s authority to appoint the Secretary of the Department of Transportation pursuant to Section 57‑1‑410 terminates and is devolved upon the Department of Transportation Commission effective July 1, 2015. All other provisions regarding the rights, powers, and duties of the secretary shall remain in full force and effect.”

SECTION 4. Except where otherwise provided, this act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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