**A** **BILL**

TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PALMETTO RURAL FIRE DISTRICT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BOARD MEMBERS MUST BE APPOINTED BY THE DARLINGTON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, TO DEFINE THE BOARD’S TERMS, POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TO PROVIDE A METHOD FOR FILLING VACANCIES.

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

SECTION 1. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law and not later than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this act, a majority of the Darlington County Legislative Delegation shall appoint three members residing within the area described in subsection (D) to serve as the governing board of the Palmetto Rural Fire District. Members shall serve without pay and are not entitled to mileage or per diem. Two of the initial appointees shall serve four‑year terms, and one initial appointee shall serve a two-year term. Upon expiration of the terms of those members initially appointed, the term of office for the members of the board is four years, and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Members may succeed themselves.

(B) A majority of the of the governing board of the Palmetto Rural Fire District shall appoint the board’s chairman whose term in that position is coterminous with his term as a member of the governing board. The chairman may be reappointed to that office for successive terms without limitation. The board also may choose to elect a vice chair, a secretary, and other officers the board considers appropriate.

(C) The governing board of the Palmetto Rural Fire District shall meet not less than once each month, and a board member who misses three consecutive meetings of the board is considered to have resigned his office. A vacancy on the board must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment.

(D) The area served by the Palmetto Rural Fire District lies entirely within Darlington County and is composed of the entire Palmetto voting precinct and portions of the following voting precincts:

(1) Darlington No. 4;

(2) Darlington No. 5;

(3) High Hill; and

(4) Mechanicsville.

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

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