**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 60‑13‑220 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2015‑2016 SHALL APPROPRIATE SUCH FUNDS AS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY‑FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, TO ESTABLISH THE “SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION FUND” FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDING GRANTS TO QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO PRESERVE, EXAMINE, AND EXPLORE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN SOUTH CAROLINA HAVING SIGNIFICANT ARCHEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND DESERVING OF SPECIAL ATTENTION, AND TO CREATE A SEVEN MEMBER COMMITTEE TO AWARD THESE GRANTS UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 13, Title 60 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 60‑13‑220. The General Assembly in the annual general appropriations act beginning with Fiscal Year 2015‑2016 shall appropriate such funds as it considers appropriate, not to exceed seventy‑five thousand dollars, to establish the ‘South Carolina Archaeological Preservation Fund’ for the purpose of awarding grants to qualified archaeologists to preserve, examine, and explore public and private archaeological sites in South Carolina with the consent of the owners of the sites, having significant archeological importance and deserving of special attention. A committee of seven members is hereby established to award these grants, two to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, two to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and three to be appointed by the Governor. All members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. The State Archaeologist and the State Underwater Archaeologist shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the committee. No grant may exceed twenty‑five thousand dollars and only may be awarded to qualified archaeologists who justify to the committee the archaeological importance of the proposed site for which that archaeologist has obtained the necessary permission to examine and explore.”

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

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