**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑1‑60, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT EACH MULTIPLE OFFICE IN THIS STATE CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT OFFICE, THE PROHIBITION ON CANDIDATES QUALIFYING FOR MORE THAN ONE OFFICE IN ANY ONE ELECTION, AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION BALLOTS FOR MULTIPLE OFFICES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A CANDIDATE’S NAME MAY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT ONLY ONCE FOR A SPECIFIC OFFICE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑1‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7‑1‑60. (A) Each multiple office in this State ~~shall constitute~~ constitutes a separate and distinct office to which a separate number ~~shall~~ must be assigned within each election district for such an office. A candidate for such an office ~~shall be~~ is required to qualify for a specific office and ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ permitted to qualify for more than one such office in any one election.

(B) The election ballots for multiple offices ~~shall~~ must reflect the number assigned to each office and the names of the candidates.

(C) A candidate’s name may appear on the ballot only once for a specific office. If a candidate is nominated for a specific office by more than one party, the candidate must decline all but one of the nominations. A candidate’s decline of a nomination pursuant to this subsection has the same effect for purposes of substituting a candidate as if the candidate had resigned for a legitimate nonpolitical reason.”

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

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