**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CREATE THE “STUDY COMMITTEE ON EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES” TO REVIEW THE CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE STATE AND DETERMINE CRIMINAL OFFENSES APPROPRIATE FOR EXPUNGEMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFFING OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY COMMITTEE’S TERMINATION.

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

SECTION 1. (A) There is created the “Study Committee on Expungement of Criminal Offenses” to review the criminal laws of the State and determine criminal offenses which may be appropriate for expungement after a certain period of time and under certain delineated circumstances and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning proposed changes to expungement laws.

(B) The study committee must be composed of three members of the Senate, appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The study committee shall review information including, but not limited to, statistics and other information available from the courts, the Prosecution Coordination Commission, and the Public Defenders’ Association regarding the current rates of expungement and the types of criminal offenses that may be appropriate for expungement, in addition to corresponding expungement laws in other states, in order to determine whether amendments should be proposed to the state’s existing expungement statutes.

(C) Vacancies in the membership of the study committee must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

(D) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees shall provide appropriate staffing for the study committee.

(E) The study committee shall make a report of its recommendations to the General Assembly by May 15, 2014, at which time the study committee must be dissolved.

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

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