**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 54-15-20 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE FOR THE UPPER COASTAL AREA, TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION FROM SIX TO EIGHT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54‑15‑20 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 54‑15‑20. (A) The South Carolina Commissioners of Pilotage for the Upper Coastal Area must be appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of a majority of the Legislative Delegation of Georgetown County and shall serve for three years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Vacancies must be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired term.

(B) The South Carolina Commissioners of Pilotage for the Upper Coastal Area shall consist of ~~six~~ eight persons appointed as provided by this chapter, one of whom is the Chairman of the South Carolina State Ports Authority or a board member designated by the chairman, ex officio, one of whom is the president of the International Longshoremen’s Association Local or his designee, ex officio, and one of whom is a pilot licensed for the Port of Georgetown under Section 54‑15‑90, appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the licensed pilots. The remaining ~~three~~ five members are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Georgetown County Legislative Delegation ~~from lists of nominations for the offices submitted to the delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and the Propeller Club of the Port of Georgetown~~. The terms of office of the commissioners are for three years and until their successors are appointed except of the members first appointed~~, one shall serve for one year, one shall serve for two years, and one shall serve for three years~~. The member representative of the pilots licensed under Section 54‑15‑90 shall serve a three‑year term. In the event of a vacancy, however caused, a successor must be appointed in the manner of the original appointment to fill the unexpired term. The above appointments must be made as each term of the present commissioners expires.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑