**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE FOR A STATEWIDE ADVISORY REFERENDUM TO BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THIS STATE FAVOR REQUIRING PAYMENT OF A MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE RATE OF ONE DOLLAR ABOVE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE TO EMPLOYEES FOR ALL HOURS WORKED IN THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. (A) A statewide advisory referendum must be held at the same time as the 2016 general election to ascertain the wishes of the qualified electors of this State as to whether or not they favor requiring employers to pay a minimum hourly wage rate of one dollar above the federal minimum wage to employees for all hours worked in this State. The State Election Commission shall place the question contained in this section on the general election ballot in November, 2016. The state election laws shall apply to the referendum, mutatis mutandis. The State Board of Canvassers shall publish the results of the referendum and certify them to the Secretary of State and each house of the General Assembly.

(B) The question put before the voters at the 2016 referendum shall read as follows:

“Do you favor requiring employers to pay a minimum hourly wage rate of one dollar above the federal minimum wage to employees for all hours worked in this State?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

(C) The cost of the referendum must be paid from funds appropriated to the State Election Commission and the results of the referendum are advisory only.

(D) The following statement must be printed on the referendum ballot:

“The United States government mandates a nationwide minimum wage level that workers generally must be paid. States and local governments cannot permit employers to pay a minimum wage that is lower than the federally mandated minimum wage, but may require employers to pay a minimum wage that is higher than the federally‑mandated minimum wage. South Carolina currently does not mandate a minimum wage.”

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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