**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CREATE THE “PUBLIC SCHOOL FLEXIBILITY AND PARITY STUDY COMMITTEE”, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TERMINATION OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE.

Whereas, reducing widespread and unjust disparities in public education requires innovation and creativity, such as that seen in charter and magnet schools; and

Whereas, some current laws and regulations affecting public education lack sufficient flexibility to promote innovation and creativity, resulting in the unintended consequence of causing or exacerbating disparities among school districts; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the State of South Carolina to explore and study approaches to achieving parity in public education by promoting flexibility, thereby freeing innovation and creativity to help all children reach their potential. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (A) There is created the “Public Education Flexibility and Parity Study Committee”. The study committee shall review information about programs and innovations in public education that might be adopted in some fashion in South Carolina to improve parity in public education throughout the State.

(B) The study committee must be composed of three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Public Works, three members of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and one member appointed by the Governor. At least one member from both the House of Representatives and the Senate must be selected upon recommendation of the Minority Leader of the respective body.

(C) The House Committee on Education and Public Works and the Senate Education Committee shall provide staffing for the study committee.

(D) The study committee shall make a report of its recommendations to the General Assembly before January 31, 2016, at which time the study committee must be dissolved.

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

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