COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED

May 4, 2016

**H. 4510**

Introduced by Reps. Thayer, Hosey, Nanney, Hamilton, Erickson, Long, Hicks, McCoy, McEachern and Bedingfield

S. Printed 5/4/16--S.

Read the first time March 10, 2016.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 63-7-2400 SO AS TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN WHO MAY BE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 7, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63‑7‑2400. (A) A foster home may not provide full‑time care for more than five foster children, with the total number of children residing in the household not to exceed eight, including the foster parent’s own children, children of other household members, and other children residing in the household, except:

(1) to keep a sibling group together;

(2) to keep a child in the child’s home community;

(3) to return a child to a home in which the child was previously placed;

(4) to comply with an order of the court; or

(5) if it is in the best interest of the children as determined by the court.

(B) No more than two of the five foster children referenced in subsection (A) may be classified as therapeutic foster care placement unless one of the exceptions in subsection (A) apply. If one of the exceptions apply, no more than three of the five foster children may be classified as therapeutic foster care placement.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. Section 63-7-2400(B) of Article 5, Title 7 does not apply to foster children placed before the effective date of this act.

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