**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CREATE THE “POLL WORKERS COMPENSATION STUDY COMMITTEE” TO REVIEW COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO POLL WORKERS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAWS REGARDING APPLICABLE POLICES.

Whereas, fair elections are fundamental to the functioning of a Democracy; and

Whereas, public confidence in every level of the election process is critical to public confidence in its governmental institutions and public officials; and

Whereas, competent, talented, and dedicated poll workers are crucial to ensuring the elections process is conducted in a manner that inspires public confidence; and

Whereas, if South Carolina hopes to attract such people to serve as poll workers, it must be diligent ascertaining and providing a competitive and fair level of compensation to poll workers. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (A) There is created the “Poll Workers Pay Study Committee”. The study committee shall review information, including, but not limited to, statistics, information from other states, and other information regarding the compensation of poll managers and poll manager assistants, and evaluate how compensation in South Carolina compares to other states, particularly in the Southeastern United States. The report must include a recommendation for the compensation of poll managers and poll manager assistants in South Carolina, accompanied by a cost‑benefit analysis of the recommendation.

(B)(1) The study committee must be composed of the following seven members:

(a) two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(b) two members of the Senate, appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(c) one member appointed by the Governor;

(d) one member appointed by the South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials; and

(e) the Director of the State Elections Commission or his designee.

(2) 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 Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall provide staffing for the study committee.

(D) The study committee shall make a report of the committee’s recommendations to the General Assembly by January 31, 2017, 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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