**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 57‑5‑1620, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S DUTY TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE VALUE FOR CONTRACTS THAT MUST BE ADVERTISED, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MUST ADVERTISE THE CONTRACTS IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS WITH THE HIGHEST CIRCULATION IN A COUNTY, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO MUST POST A NOTICE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS AT THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT BEFORE THE CONTRACT MAY BE AWARDED.

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

SECTION 1. Section 57‑5‑1620 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 57‑5‑1620. Awards by the department of construction contracts for ~~ten~~ five hundred thousand dollars and more shall be made only after the work to be awarded has been advertised for at least two weeks in one or more daily newspapers ~~in this State,~~ with the highest circulation in the county, and in a notice posted adjacent to the street, road, highway, or location affected by the contract. ~~but~~ However, where circumstances warrant, the department may advertise and post the notice for longer periods of time and in other publication media. Awards of contracts, if made, shall be made in each case to the lowest qualified bidder whose bid shall have been formally submitted in accordance with the requirements of the department. However, in cases of emergencies, as may be determined by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, the department, without formalities of advertising, may employ contractors and others to perform construction or repair work or furnish materials and supplies for such construction and repair work, but all such cases of this kind shall be reported in detail and made public at the next succeeding meeting of the commission.”

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

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