**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 27 TO CHAPTER 37, TITLE 12 SO AS TO IMPOSE A UNIFORM STATEWIDE AD VALOREM TAX TO REPLACE ANY OTHER AD VALOREM TAX IMPOSED FOR SCHOOL OPERATING PURPOSES, TO SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TAX IS TO BE IMPOSED AND ADMINISTERED, AND THE MANNER IN WHICH ITS REVENUE IS APPROPRIATED.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 37, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 27

State Uniform Millage for Schools

Section 12‑37‑3410. (A) Effective for property tax years beginning after 2016, there is imposed an annual, permanent, and uniform statewide ad valorem tax on all taxable property. The tax imposed in this article may be cited as the ‘State Uniform Millage’ (SUM). This rate is not subject to rollback upon any reassessment program.

(B) The millage rate of the SUM must be determined by the General Assembly each year in the annual general appropriations act. In determining the rate, the General Assembly must consider the effects of the implementation of an equalization program required pursuant to Section 12‑43‑217. The revenue derived from SUM only may be appropriated for K‑12 school operating purposes, and the General Assembly shall specify the distribution of the revenue in the annual general appropriations act.

(C) The Department of Revenue, each county auditor, and each county assessor, as the case may require so that all taxable property is correctly included, shall impose and the Department of Revenue and each county treasurer, as the case may require, shall collect the SUM. County treasurers shall promptly remit the proceeds of the SUM to the State Treasurer.

(D) The powers and duties of the Department of Revenue pursuant to Chapter 53 of this title apply to this article and are supplementary to the powers and duties of the county auditors, assessors, and treasurers.

Section 12‑37‑3420. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective for property tax years beginning after 2016, no political subdivision of this State, including school districts, may impose an ad valorem tax on any class of property for school operating purposes. Any such tax being imposed is repealed after December 31, 2016.

(B) To the degree that property is exempt from ad valorem taxation pursuant to Section 12‑37‑220, it is also exempt from the SUM.

Section 12‑37‑3430. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no fee‑in‑lieu‑of‑tax (FILOT) agreement entered into after December 31, 2016, may reduce, redirect, exempt, or otherwise excuse or alter the SUM liability of taxable property.

(B) The county treasurer of each county shall remit to the Department of Revenue all school operating revenue derived from every FILOT agreement or multicounty industrial or business park payment made in this State pursuant to an agreement or ordinance in force on or before January 1, 2017.

(C) All FILOT revenue collected by the Department of Revenue pursuant to this section is considered SUM revenue.”

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

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