**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑26‑45 SO AS TO PROVIDE RETIRED EDUCATOR TEACHING CERTIFICATES FOR PEOPLE WHO MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA, TO PROVIDE INITIAL RETIRED EDUCATOR CERTIFICATES ARE VALID FOR THIRTY YEARS AND MAY BE RENEWED, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑26‑45. (A) A person is eligible for a South Carolina Retired Educator certificate if he:

(1) previously held a South Carolina renewable, professional educator certificate;

(2) is either a:

(i) retired member of the South Carolina Retirement System; or

(ii) current or former participant in the State Optional Retirement Program who would have met the eligibility requirements for retirement under the South Carolina Retirement System had he participated in that system rather than the State Optional Retirement Program.

(3) does not hold another valid South Carolina educator certificate.

(B) An initial retired educator certificate is valid for thirty years. A certificate may be renewed and is valid for ten years. To renew a retired educator certificate, an individual must submit a request for renewal to the State Department of Education. The department shall create forms and a process for submitting renewal requests.

(C) Renewal of a retired educator certificate does not require completion of professional learning or renewal credit.

(D) An educator who works under the retired certificate must work under a letter of agreement.

(E) Nothing in this section exempts an educator from taking part in professional development that is required by the local school district.

(F) The State Board of Education shall develop guidelines for the implementation of this section.”

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

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