AMENDED

February 14, 2017

**H. 3515**

Introduced by Reps. Erickson, W. Newton, Yow, Loftis, Bowers, Bradley and Herbkersman

S. Printed 2/14/17--H.

Read the first time January 18, 2017.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAIVER OF FIVE OR FEWER DAYS THAT SCHOOLS IN COUNTIES FOR WHICH FEDERAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS WERE MADE AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE MATTHEW, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THESE WAIVERS ARE AVAILABLE ONCE WAIVERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ARE EXHAUSTED.

Whereas, in October 2016 the State of South Carolina endured extreme weather and resulting disastrous effects due to Hurricane Matthew, the first Category Five Atlantic Hurricane since 2007; and

Whereas, in recognition of the severity and magnitude of this disaster, the President made a declaration of a major disaster for twenty‑one counties in South Carolina; and

Whereas, schools in these districts closed for varying numbers of days in the days surrounding Hurricane Matthew’s landfall, and the unique circumstances of this natural disaster merit the waiving of some of these school closing days for school districts that have exhausted their remedies available under Section 59‑1‑425, which through Act 21 of 2015 was amended by the General Assembly to provide greater flexibility to school districts and the State Board of Education with respect to grating waivers for school days missed due to snow, extreme weather, or other disruptions requiring school closure. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (A) The provisions of this joint resolution apply to school districts in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Calhoun, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties that missed school days due to Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016.

(B) Schools that have made up, or will make up, at least three days or the equivalent number of hours, have received a waiver for three missed instructional days or the equivalent number of hours from their local governing board, and received a waiver of three additional days or the equivalent number of hours from the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 59‑1‑425, may have the local governing board waive up to five additional school days or the equivalent number of hours missed due to snow, extreme weather, or other disruptions requiring the school to close during the 2016‑2017 School Year.

(C) When a district waives a make‑up day pursuant to this joint resolution, the make‑up day also is waived for any student participating in a home schooling program approved by the board of trustees of the district in which the student resides.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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