**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, TITLE 4 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO COUNTIES, BY ADDING SECTION 4‑1‑160, TO ALLOW COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE BUILDING FEES UP TO TEN PERCENT AND REQUIRE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO USE THE MONEY FROM THE INCREASE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 5‑25‑310, TO ALLOW MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE BUILDING PERMIT FEES UP TO TEN PERCENT AND TO REQUIRE THE MUNICIPALITY TO USE THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE INCREASE TOWARD AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 4 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 4‑1‑160. Fees charged by a county for building permits may be increased up to ten percent by the governing body of the county. The amount collected from the increase shall be used exclusively for the funding of affordable housing.”

SECTION 2. Section 5‑25‑310 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 5-25-310. (A) Before a building is begun the owner of the property shall apply to the inspector for a permit to build. This permit shall be given in writing and shall contain a provision that the building shall be constructed according to the requirements of this chapter. This requirement shall not prevent cities or towns from requiring submission of plans to the city engineer.

(B) Fees charged by a municipality for building permits may be increased up to ten percent by the governing body of the municipality. The amount collected from the increase shall be used exclusively for the funding of affordable housing.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑