**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO SUSPEND LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND LAWS PERTAINING TO THE USE OF STATE FUNDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SPECIFIC ROAD PROJECTS FOR SIX YEARS SO AS TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO BE OPERATED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

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

SECTION 1. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any law pertaining to the duties and authority of the Commission of the Department of Transportation is suspended. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any law or regulation pertaining to the use of state funds by the Department of Transportation for specific road projects is suspended.

(B)(1) During the suspension set forth in subsection (A), the Secretary of the Department of Transportation shall act as the Chief Executive of the Department of Transportation and shall operate the department in the manner the secretary considers best for the repair and maintenance of the state transportation system. The secretary may not expend funds for the construction of new roads.

(2) During the time of the suspension, the secretary only may be removed from office by the Governor pursuant to Section 1‑3‑240(C).

(C) The suspension set forth in subsection (A) shall remain in effect until January 1, 2024, or until the Secretary of the Department of Transportation serving on January 1, 2018, is no longer the secretary, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2018.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑