**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑149‑50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CRITERIA FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY, SO AS TO REVISE THE CRITERIA ONLY TO INCLUDE STUDENTS IN THE TOP THIRTY PERCENT OF THEIR GRADUATING CLASSES, AND TO MAKE THE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE BEGINNING WITH FRESHMEN ENTERING FOUR‑YEAR INSTITUTIONS IN THE 2018‑2019 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑149‑50(D) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(D)(1) Beginning with School Year ~~2002‑2003~~ 2018‑2019, an entering freshman at a four‑year institution to be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship in addition to the other requirements of this chapter ~~shall meet two of the following three criteria:~~

~~(1) have the grade point average required by this section;~~

~~(2) have the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or equivalent ACT score required by this section;~~

~~(3)~~ must be in the top thirty percent of his high school graduating class.

(2) For home school students and students whose high school graduating class is less than fifty students, the Commission on Higher Education may define alternative criteria for students to meet the requirement of item (~~3~~1).

(3) After receipt of a LIFE Scholarship by an entering freshman beginning with School Year ~~2002‑2003~~ 2018‑2019, a student shall meet the criteria established in this chapter to retain or regain the scholarship.

(4) For an exceptionally gifted student who is accepted into college without having attended high school, the Commission on Higher Education shall define alternative criteria for the student to qualify for a LIFE Scholarship.”

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

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