**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 2017 “ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO ESTABLISH AND PRACTICE ELECTRICAL SAFETY HABITS IN THE HOME, SCHOOL, AND WORKPLACE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ELECTRICALLY‑RELATED FIRES, INJURIES, AND DEATHS.

Whereas, the most recent statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show forty‑eight thousand electrical fires occur annually, causing four hundred fifty‑five deaths and over one thousand five hundred injuries across the nation; and

Whereas, property damages from these home fires due to electrical failure or malfunction cost more than 1.4 billion dollars a year; and

Whereas, more than six people are electrocuted each week in the United States, and in 2016 alone, electrical fires claimed the lives of one hundred sixty‑eight civilians, including fourteen children across the nation, according to the United States Fire Administration; and

Whereas, the State Fire Marshal reports that thirty South Carolinians died in electrical fires from 2014 to 2017, and some eighty percent of civilian fire fatalities in the State occurred in residential homes; and

Whereas, citizens are advised and often required to protect their homes and families with proven fire prevention safety technologies, such as ground fault circuit interrupters, arc fault circuit interrupters, and tamper‑resistant receptacles, and they are urged to install, test, and maintain properly an adequate number of smoke alarms; and

Whereas, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, a group of nearly four hundred electrical, medical‑imaging, and radiation‑therapy manufacturers across the country, promotes education and awareness about electrical safety and fire‑prevention technologies. Now therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declares May 2017 “Electrical Safety Month” in South Carolina and encourages all citizens to establish and practice electrical safety habits in the home, school, and workplace to reduce the number of electrically‑related fires, injuries, and deaths.

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