**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 58‑3‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ARE FOR FOUR YEARS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SERVING IN OFFICE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018, MAY NOT SERVE IN A HOLDOVER CAPACITY FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR TERMS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 58‑3‑20(D) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(D)(1) Beginning in 2004, the members of the Public Service Commission must be elected to staggered terms. In 2004, the members representing the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Congressional Districts must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2006, and until their successors are elected and qualify. Thereafter, members representing the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Congressional Districts must be elected to terms of four years ~~and until their successors are elected and qualify~~. In 2004, the members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts and the State at large must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2008, and until their successors are elected and qualify. Thereafter, members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts and the State at large must be elected to terms of four years ~~and until their successors are elected and qualify~~. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts shall serve until the expiration of their terms, and in 2013, members representing the First, Third, and Fifth Congressional Districts must be elected for terms ending on June 30, 2016, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2) In the event there are Seven Congressional Districts, the member elected from the State at large shall serve until the expiration of his term, and in 2013, a member representing the Seventh Congressional District must be elected for a term ending on June 30, 2016, and until his successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the member representing the Seventh Congressional District must be elected to terms of four years ~~and until his successor is elected and qualified~~. Upon the election and qualification of the member representing the Seventh Congressional District, the at‑large member elected to satisfy the requirements of subsection (E) immediately shall cease to be a member of the commission.

(3) Notwithstanding another provision of law, effective January 1, 2018, the terms of the members of the Public Service Commission are for four years, and a member of the Public Service Commission serving in office on or after January 1, 2018, may not serve on the commission in a holdover capacity after the member’s term expires.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to the terms of members serving on or elected to the Public Service Commission on or after January 1, 2018.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑