**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 6‑1‑180 SO AS TO PROHIBIT COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THEM FROM USING THE AT‑LARGE OR THE PLURALITY AT‑LARGE VOTING METHOD TO CHOOSE MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF ITS MEMBERS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT MUST NOT BE CONSTRUED TO SHORTEN THE TERM OF A DULY ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHOSE CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE COMMENCED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2019.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 6 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 6‑1‑180. (A) As used in this section, ‘political subdivision’ includes, but is not limited to, a county, municipality, school district, special purpose district, or public service district.

(B)(1) Notwithstanding another provision of law, beginning January 1, 2019, a county, a municipality, or a political subdivision of them, whose governing body, board, or council consists of publicly elected officials may not use the at‑large or the plurality at‑large voting method to choose more than fifty percent of its members.

(2) Notwithstanding another provision of law, after December 31, 2018, a county, a municipality, or a political subdivision of them, whose governing body, board, or council consists of publicly elected officials shall use single‑member election districts to choose at least fifty percent of its members.

(C) The provisions of this section must not be construed to shorten the term of a duly elected public official whose current term of office commenced before January 1, 2019.”

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

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