**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 11‑35‑1524, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO RESIDENT VENDOR PREFERENCES UNDER THE CONSOLIDATED PROCUREMENT CODE SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A BUSINESS OWNED BY A SERVICE‑DISABLED VETERAN RESIDING IN THIS STATE SHALL RECEIVE A FIVE PERCENT PREFERENCE THROUGH THE USE OF SET‑ASIDES ON CONTRACT AWARDS WHERE THE AWARDING PROCUREMENT OFFICER DETERMINES THE BUSINESS IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONTRACT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11‑35‑1524 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

“(F) In awarding contracts for bids of any amount under the provisions of this section, if one or more of the bidders is a business owned by a service‑disabled veteran residing in this State, which otherwise is qualified to perform the requirements of the contract in the determination of the awarding procurement officer, at least five percent of the dollar amount of the contract award must be set aside for and awarded to the business owned by the service‑disabled veteran where its bid is within ten percent of the bid of the lowest responsive bidder. If more than one such business meets these requirements, the five percent set‑aside must be equally divided among all of these businesses. Nothing herein prevents the entire contract from being awarded to a business owned by a service‑disabled veteran if it is the low bidder for the contract.”

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

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