COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED AND AMENDED

March 16, 2017

**S. 483**

Introduced by Senators Williams, Malloy, Setzler, Sheheen, Hembree and Rankin

S. Printed 3/16/17--S.

Read the first time February 28, 2017.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO DIRECT THE TREASURER TO DISBURSE CERTAIN FUNDS TO THE TOWN OF NICHOLS FOR RECOVERY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MATTHEW.

Amend Title To Conform

Whereas, Act 174 of 2016 established the South Carolina Farm Aid Fund to assist South Carolina farmers and the State’s agriculture industry in recovering from the historic flood of 2015; and

Whereas, the period during which grants from the fund may have been awarded has ended, and the remaining monies in the fund have lapsed to the general fund; and

Whereas, Hurricane Matthew exacted an enormous toll on the Town of Nichols; and

Whereas, it is financially impossible for the Town of Nichols to repair and replace the town’s vehicles, equipment, and physical infrastructure that was devastated by the hurricane without help from the State.

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

SECTION 1. From the funds lapsed to the general fund from the South Carolina Farm Aid Fund pursuant to Section 46‑1‑160(E)(2), the State Treasurer is directed to loan $700,000 to the Town of Nichols. The funds loaned to the Town of Nichols shall be used by the town for recovery expenses associated with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, including, but not limited to, the repair or replacement of equipment, vehicles, and physical infrastructure. Upon receipt of the $700,000 loan, the Town of Nichols shall apply for any and all sources of federal disaster relief funds. The Town of Nichols shall repay the $700,000 loan, free of interest, to the State Treasurer with the federal disaster relief funds within ninety days of receipt. However, if the Town of Nichols has not received federal funds to repay the loan at the close of thirty‑six months after receiving the loan, the loan shall be forgiven.

SECTION 2. Following the disbursement of funds to the Town of Nichols, the State Treasurer is directed to disburse the remaining funds lapsed to the general fund from the South Carolina Farm Aid Fund pursuant to Section 46‑1‑160(E)(2) to eligible counties and municipalities to offset storm cleanup expenses associated with the 2014 Winter Storm during states of emergency declared by executive orders 2014-06 and 2014-11. A county or municipality is eligible for a disbursement pursuant to this joint resolution if the county or municipality was eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency but was not reimbursed due to local match requirements. An eligible county or municipality shall receive a disbursement, pursuant to this joint resolution, equal to the amount for which the county or municipality was eligible for but not reimbursed, due to local match requirements, in proportion to the funds lapsed to the general fund after the funds appropriated to the Town of Nichols in SECTION 1 herein. The amount reimbursed from remaining lapsed funds to each eligible county or municipality shall not exceed more than thirty-three percent of the county or municipality’s remaining unreimbursed total non-federal aid share from the 2014 Winter Storm.

SECTION 3. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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