**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO ESTABLISH A REVOLVING FUND TO OPERATE A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO DAM OWNERS TO CONDUCT ENGINEERING AND SAFETY STUDIES ON THE DAMS.

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

SECTION 1. From the funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Environmental Control in the current fiscal year, the department shall develop and operate a financial assistance program to provide grants to dam owners to conduct engineering and safety studies on the dams. The department shall develop an application process whereby the county in which the dam is located applies for the dam owner. The application must include a statement by the appropriate county officials that the dam is in need of study and the possible consequences to the public of not conducting a study. The department may promulgate regulations setting forth the requirements to become an aid recipient. In making aid determinations, the department must prioritize funds based on the most critical‑need infrastructure affected by the catastrophic weather event of October 2015.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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