INTRODUCED

April 26, 2017

**S. 664**

Introduced by Senator Timmons

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Read the first time April 26, 2017.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO CLARIFY AND AFFIRM THAT THE GREENVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO CREATE A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT MEETS ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE TO THE COMMUNITIES IT SERVES; TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LEGAL ENTITIES FOR OPERATION AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT; AND TO TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE THE UPSTATE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION AND THE STRATEGIC COORDINATING ORGANIZATION AND TO FILL VACANCIES ON THEIR BOARDS.

Whereas, Act 432 of 1947 created public hospital facilities for the residents of Greenville County to address the need to provide adequate medical and hospital care for its surrounding communities; and

Whereas, the act, as amended, authorizes and empowers the Greenville Health System to do all things necessary or convenient to establish and maintain adequate hospital facilities in Greenville County; and

Whereas, based upon the authority granted to the Greenville Health System in the act, the Greenville Health System Board of Trustees voted at the December 2015 board meeting to become part of a new health system; and

Whereas, this led the board to enter into long-term contractual relationships with other legal entities and create the Upstate Affiliate Organization and the Strategic Coordinating Organization; and

Whereas, the incorporation of the Upstate Affiliate Organization and the Strategic Coordinating Organization requires the board to identify members of the community to fill vacancies on the initial boards of these entities; and

Whereas, the Greenville Health System Board of Trustees acted responsibly and within its legal authority, provided that certain provisions in this joint resolution are met. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The Greenville Health System shall give one hundred million dollars generated by the hospital to the communities served by the system to establish a community health program.

SECTION 2. The Greenville Legislative Delegation shall appoint twenty-five percent of any board substantially obligated by contract for the operational control of the system’s assets. Upon the expiration of these individuals’ terms of service, the Greenville Health System shall submit half of the board’s appointments to the Greenville Legislative Delegation for approval. If the delegation does not approve the appointments, then the delegation shall make the appointments directly by a majority vote. The remaining appointments shall be made by a majority vote of the legislative delegation.

SECTION 3. The Greenville Health System Board of Trustees and any legal entity with a substantial contractual relationship with the Greenville Health System shall not provide duplicative services by January 1, 2020.

SECTION 4. The legal entity contractually obligated to manage the operations of the Greenville Health System shall create, fund, and employ the position of ombudsman. The ombudsman shall be available to the members of the Greenville Legislative Delegation for purpose of assisting with constituent services regarding health care issues related to the Greenville Hospital System.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this act is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this act, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed this act and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

SECTION 6. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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