**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 14‑17‑15 SO AS TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK OF COURT, AND TO EXEMPT CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS FROM THESE REQUIREMENTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 30‑5‑13 SO AS TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS, AND TO EXEMPT CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS FROM THESE REQUIREMENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 17, Title 14 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 14‑17‑15. (A) No person is eligible to hold the office of county clerk of court who at the time of his election is not a citizen of the United States and of this State, has not attained the age of twenty‑one years upon his election, has not become a qualified elector of the county in which he is to be clerk of court, and has not received a four‑year bachelor’s degree from an accredited post‑secondary institution or if he has received no degree he must have eight years’ experience as an employee in a county clerk of court office in this State.

(B) The provisions of this section do not apply to a person serving as a county clerk of court on the effective date of this section for the remainder of his current term or any subsequent consecutive term.”

SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Title 30 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 30‑5‑13. (A) No person is eligible to serve as a register of deeds who at the time of his election or appointment is not a citizen of the United States and of this State, has not attained the age of twenty‑one years upon his election, has not become a qualified elector of the county in which he is to be register of deeds, and has not received a four‑year bachelor’s degree from an accredited post‑secondary institution or if he has received no degree he must have eight years’ experience as an employee in a register of deeds office in this State.

(B) The provisions of this section do not apply to a person serving as a register of deeds on the effective date of this section for the remainder of his current term or any subsequent consecutive term.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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