**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 5, TITLE 58 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES’ ADEQUACY OF SERVICE, BY ADDING SECTION 58-5-715, TO REQUIRE THAT A WATER OR SEWER UTILITY SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION’S SUPERVISION AND REGULATION MUST ESTABLISH CUSTOMER CLASSES BASED UPON GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE LOCATION, TO PROVIDE THAT A CLASS BASED UPON GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE LOCATION CONSISTS OF CUSTOMERS WHO ARE SERVED BY A WATER OR SEWER UTILITY FOR WHICH THE UTILITY’S SYSTEM COMPONENTS THAT PROVIDE THE SERVICE TO THOSE CUSTOMERS ARE PHYSICALLY CONNECTED AND THIS CLASS IS IN ADDITION TO OTHER TYPES OF CUSTOMER CLASSES, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A CUSTOMER IN A GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE LOCATION CLASS MUST NOT PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, OR IMPROVEMENT OF THE UTILITY’S PIPES OR OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT PROVIDES SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS IN A SEPARATE GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE LOCATION CLASS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 5, Title 58 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 58‑5‑715. (A) A water or sewer utility that is subject to the supervision and regulation of the Public Service Commission must establish customer classes based upon geographic service location. A class based upon geographic service location must consist of customers who are served by a water or sewer utility for which the components that provide the water or sewer service to those customers are physically connected. This class must be in addition to other types of customer classes.

(B) A customer within a geographic service location class must not pay for the construction, maintenance, or improvements for the water or sewer utility’s pipes or other equipment that provides water or sewer service to customers in a separate geographic service location class.”

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

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