**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 8‑11‑82 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE A PAYROLL DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING EMPLOYEE PURCHASES OF CONSUMER OFFERINGS THROUGH AN EMPLOYEE PURCHASE PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 11, Title 8 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 8‑11‑82. (A)(1) The Comptroller General may, for the benefit of public employees, make deductions from the compensation of any such employee for the purpose of facilitating employee purchases of consumer offerings through an employee purchasing program facilitated by and through the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) and its vendors. The Comptroller General shall pay over to the relevant employee purchasing program or its agent designated to receive the funds, all amounts so collected or withheld. No part of the cost of the employee purchasing program or expenses incidental to the payroll deduction must be borne by the State, nor must any liability whatsoever be incurred by the State in connection with the deduction.

(2) If an employee leaves employment for whatever reason with a balance outstanding, no liability for the balance owed will be borne by the State.

(3) The local governing body of a political subdivision of this State, including school districts, may elect to offer its public employees the same benefits provided by this section, mutatis mutandis.

(B) The Public Employee Benefit Authority shall adopt rules and may promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of an employee purchase program.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2019.

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