**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 26‑1‑15, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOTARIAL COMMISSION, SO AS TO ADD ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A NOTARY IS COMMISSIONED IN THE COUNTY OF HIS EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS IF HE IS NOT A RESIDENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26‑1‑15 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 26‑1‑15. (A) A person qualified for a notarial commission:

(1) must be ~~a registered voter in this State~~ eighteen years of age or older;

(2) shall read and write the English language; ~~and~~

(3) shall submit an application containing no significant misstatement or omission of fact. The application form must be provided by the Secretary and must include the signature of the applicant written with pen and ink, and the signature must be acknowledged as the applicant’s by a person authorized to administer oaths;

(4) shall reside legally in the United States; and

(5) shall possess a high school diploma or the equivalent.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the notary is commissioned in his county of residence, unless the notary is not a South Carolina resident, in which case he is commissioned in the county of his employment or business.”

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

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