**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 29 TO CHAPTER 53, TITLE 59 SO AS TO ENACT THE “WORKFORCE EDUCATION ACT”, TO PROVIDE THE STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SHALL CREATE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES FOR A FIVE‑YEAR SOUTH CAROLINA WORKFORCE EDUCATION SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PILOT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR GOVERNANCE; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 53, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 29

Workforce Education

Section 59‑53‑2500. (A) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (board) shall create parameters and guidelines for a five‑year South Carolina Workforce Education School Pilot Program for adults aged twenty‑one years and older seeking a high school diploma, including the funding methodology to the workforce education school.

(B) A workforce education school granted a pilot program by the board shall follow all requirements of Chapter 40, Title 59 except as expressly provided for in this article.

(C)(1) In order to be accepted into the pilot program, a nonprofit entity must have a successful model of providing educational services, including industry certifications and job placement services, to adults age twenty‑one and older whose education and training opportunities have been limited by educational disadvantages, disabilities, or poverty.

(2) An applicant to this pilot program must be a nonprofit entity, offer flexible scheduling, complete a majority of the instruction of the school’s curriculum in‑person, and offer dual State’s workforce development needs.

(3) Applicants for the pilot program shall commit no less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars toward development of the workforce education school. An applicant to this pilot program shall maintain a cooperative agreement with a two‑year technical college. Any workforce education school granted a pilot program by the board is designated an Alternative Education Campus (AEC).

(D) The governing board of a workforce education school must be composed of at least seven members who are residents of the State of South Carolina. Membership of the board may be governed by the nonprofit entity’s bylaws and is not subject to the governing board election requirements as defined in Section 59‑40‑50(9).

(E) The workforce education school may issue high school diplomas to students who have met state requirements for a high school diploma in South Carolina.

(F) The board may enter into a contract with one nonprofit entity that is granted a pilot program, and the contract must specify all roles, powers, responsibilities, and performance expectations for each party to the contract pursuant to this section and Chapter 40, Title 59.

(G) The board is prohibited from providing per‑pupil funding.

(H) Local governments may contribute funds or property to a workforce education school.

(I) The development of the pilot program is to begin by the start of the school year in the following calendar year after the effective date of this section. The board annually shall report its findings to the General Assembly and provide recommendations.”

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

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