**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑1‑425, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATUTORY SCHOOL TERM, SO AS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY OPERATE SCHOOLS ON FOUR‑DAY WEEKLY CALENDARS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUR‑DAY WEEKLY CALENDARS AND PROCESSES FOR OBTAINING APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FOUR‑DAY WEEKLY CALENDARS FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑1‑425 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection at the end to read:

“( )(1) Beginning with the 2020‑2021 School Year, a school district board of trustees may operate one or more schools in the district on a four‑day weekly calendar pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board of Education, subject to approval by the State Department of Education.

(2) To operate a school on a four‑day weekly calendar, a district first must submit a proposed four‑day school schedule plan to the department for approval. The proposed plan must:

(a) meet the equivalent number of instructional hours of the statutory school term; and

(b) conform annual salaries for certified teachers accordingly, taking into account scheduled staff development days.

(3) A proposed plan must be submitted to the department before June first of the calendar year in which the four‑day weekly calendar schedule would be implemented. The department shall review and either approve or deny the request within thirty days of receipt, and notify the district within twenty‑four hours of reaching a decision to approve or deny. If the department denies a request, it shall provide a written explanation of its decision.

(4) A school operating on a four‑day weekly calendar must be used in calculating the average daily membership for the district.”

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

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