**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 36 TO TITLE 2 SO AS TO CREATE THE “SOUTH CAROLINA RACING STUDY COMMITTEE” TO EXAMINE ISSUES RELATED TO REGULATING AND ENCOURAGING ALL FORMS OF RACING PRESENT IN THIS STATE OR WHICH MAY BE PRESENT IN THE FUTURE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, STAFFING, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STUDY COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT ITS FIRST REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES RESPECTIVELY, AND TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE AS A WHOLE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN STATE LAW, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2020, AND ANNUALLY AFTER THAT IN THE SAME MANNER ON OR BEFORE JULY FIRST.

Whereas, the various types of racing in South Carolina including horse and automobile racing and the potential for other types of racing pose the potential to generate additional revenue for the State of South Carolina, help create jobs, and expand economic growth; and

Whereas, a comprehensive and ongoing analysis of the costs and benefits of the various types of racing also would facilitate informed decision making on this issue by the General Assembly or other regulatory bodies; and

Whereas, it is also in the best interest of our State to have a permanent entity continually reviewing and studying the issue of racing in South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“CHAPTER 36

Racing Study Committee

Section 2‑36‑10. (A) There is created the ‘South Carolina Racing Study Committee’. The committee is a permanent entity and shall consider information concerning:

(1) the social and financial costs and benefits of all forms of racing, including horse racing and various forms of automobile racing;

(2) the financial viability of the new forms of racing in the State;

(3) the licensing and other revenue realized or to be realized from the various forms of racing; and

(4) the frequency in which racing could occur in various areas of this State and the locations or potential locations where this would occur.

Section 2‑36‑20. The study committee must be composed of seven members, consisting of the following:

(1) one member appointed by the Governor;

(2) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(4) one member appointed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate;

(5) one member appointed by the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives;

(6) one member appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; and

(7) one member appointed by the Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Section 2‑36‑30. All members appointed must be from areas of this State which currently have at least some form of racing located in those areas.

Section 2‑36‑40. Members shall receive the usual mileage, subsistence, and per diem paid to members of state boards, commissions, and committee to be paid from the approved accounts of the Governor or the house in the General Assembly from which their appointing authority belongs.

Section 2‑36‑50. The Chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee and the Ways and Means Committee and the Chairmen of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Finance Committee shall provide staffing for the study committee.

Section 2‑36‑60. The South Carolina Racing Study Committee shall submit its first report to the chairman of the House of Representatives and Senate Judiciary committees respectively, and to the House of Representatives and Senate as a whole, together with its recommendations, including any recommended changes in state law, on or before July 1, 2020, and annually after that in the same manner on or before July first.”

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

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