**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑111‑110, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CERTAIN PEOPLE EXEMPT FROM PAYING TUITION TO ATTEND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, SO AS TO INCLUDE THE CHILDREN OF FULL‑TIME LICENSED PHYSICIANS WHO RESIDE AND PRACTICE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THIS STATE FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑111‑110 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑111‑110. (A) No tuition may be charged for a period of four school years by any state‑supported college or university or any state‑supported vocational or technical school for children of:

(1) firemen, both regularly employed and members of volunteer organized units, organized rescue squad members, members of the Civil Air Patrol, law enforcement officers, or corrections officers, as defined herein, including reserve and auxiliary units of counties or municipalities who become totally disabled or are killed in the line of duty on or after July 1, 1964;

(2) government employees who become totally disabled or are killed in the line of duty while working on state time on or after July 1, 1996, as a result of a criminal act committed against them which constitutes a felony under the laws of this State; or

(3) licensed physicians who for the previous five years have primarily resided and practiced in a medically underserved area in this State as designated by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. The physician must have his principal place of residence in the medically underserved area for the duration of the time the child is enrolled in a state‑supported college, university, or vocational or technical school. If during the time the child is enrolled in a state-supported college, university, or vocational or technical school the area in which the physician resides and practices loses its designation as a medically underserved area, the student remains qualified to be exempt from paying tuition, subject to the four-year limitation.

(B) The tuition authorized to be paid by this section applies only to undergraduate courses or curriculum and may be paid for a period not exceeding four years, regardless of the number of state‑supported colleges, universities, or state‑supported vocational or technical schools the child attends.”

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

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