**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 5‑31‑695 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A MUNICIPALITY THAT PROVIDES WATER SERVICE OR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT ITS CORPORATE BOUNDARIES MAY NOT REQUIRE OR DEMAND A NONMUNICIPAL RESIDENT’S PERMISSION OR CONSENT TO ANNEXATION BY THE MUNICIPALITY AS A CONDITION FOR ESTABLISHING OR MAINTAINING THE SERVICE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IF A MUNICIPALITY OFFERS TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE OR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION, THEN THE SERVICE MUST BE OFFERED AT THE SAME PRICE AS IS OFFERED TO PROPERTY OWNERS LOCATED INSIDE THE MUNICIPALITY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 31, Title 5 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 5‑31‑695. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a municipality that provides water service or water and sewer service to customers both within and without its corporate boundaries may not require or demand a nonmunicipal resident’s permission or consent to annexation by the municipality as a condition for establishing or maintaining the service.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a municipality offers to provide water service or water and sewer service to property owners in another jurisdiction, then the service must be offered at the same price as is offered to property owners located inside the municipality.”

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

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