**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 51‑1‑100 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM TO UNDERTAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO FACILITATE THE CHARGING OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT ALL STATE WELCOME CENTERS; BY ADDING SECTION 57‑3‑800 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UNDERTAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO FACILITATE THE CHARGING OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT ALL STATE-OPERATED REST AREAS; AND TO REQUIRE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REQUEST A WAIVER FROM THE FEDERAL PROVISION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 51 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 51‑1‑100. (A) By January 1, 2021, the department, in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Transportation, must:

(1) install electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles at all state Welcome Centers; and

(2) provide the opportunity to lease space for the limited purpose of installing and operating a battery exchange station or a battery charging station at all state Welcome Centers.

(B) The department may impose a reasonable fee for the use of the electrical outlet, battery charging station, or battery exchange station.

(C) For purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Battery charging station’ means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles.

(2) ‘Battery exchange station’ means a fully automated location that will enable an electric vehicle with an interchangeable battery to enter a specified area and exchange a depleted battery with a fully charged battery.”

SECTION 2. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 57 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 57‑3‑800. By January 1, 2021, the department must:

(1) install electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles at all state-operated rest areas; and

(2) provide the opportunity to lease space for the limited purpose of installing and operating a battery exchange station or a battery charging station at all state operated rest areas.

(B) The department may impose a reasonable fee for the use of the electrical outlet, battery charging station, or battery exchange station.

(C) For purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Battery charging station’ means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles.

(2) ‘Battery exchange station’ means a fully automated location that will enable an electric vehicle with an interchangeable battery to enter a specified area and exchange a depleted battery with a fully charged battery.”

SECTION 3. The Attorney General of South Carolina on the effective date of this act, shall request a waiver from the United States Secretary of Transportation who is charged with enforcing the provisions of 11 U.S.C. Section 111 in order to permit and approve South Carolina’s installation of commercial electrical outlets, battery charging stations, or battery exchange stations. If the waiver is not granted, the provisions of this act become null and void ten days after the Secretary of State is notified by the Attorney General that the waiver could not be obtained.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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