**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑25‑35 SO AS TO PROVIDE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES SHALL INCREASE TEACHERS’ SALARIES BY TWENTY PERCENT USING THE DISTRICT SALARY SCHEDULE USED FOR THE 2019‑2020 SCHOOL YEAR AS THE BASIS FOR PROVIDING THE INCREASE; TO APPLY THIS PROVISION UNIFORMLY FOR ALL ELIGIBLE CERTIFIED TEACHERS, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMINOLOGY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑25‑35. (A) A local school board of trustees shall increase the salary compensation for all eligible certified teachers employed by the district by twenty percent using the district salary schedule used for the 2019‑2020 School Year as the basis for providing the increase. This provision must be applied uniformly for all eligible certified teachers.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘certified teachers’ is defined by the Department of Education using the Professional Certified Staff System, and includes classroom teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, orientation/mobility instructors, speech pathologists, and audiologists employed by a school district in this State.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2020.

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