**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑1‑325 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAKE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE THE DISPLAY OF THE OFFICIAL MOTTOS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, July 30, 2016, marked the 60th anniversary of “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States; and

Whereas, in 2011, by resolution of the United States House of Representatives, with the concurrence of the United States Senate, the United States Congress reaffirmed “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States and supported and encouraged the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other governmental institutions; and

Whereas, “In God We Trust” appears over the south entrance to the United States Senate Chamber and above the Speaker’s rostrum in the Chamber of the United States House of Representatives; and

Whereas, the motto has been an integral part of the society of the United States since its founding and first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864; and

Whereas, “Dum Spiro Spero,” which translates to “While I breathe, I hope” is perhaps the most well known of South Carolina’s two mottoes and appears on the State Seal that was adopted in 1776; and

Whereas, reflecting the character and beliefs of the citizens of South Carolina, “Dum Spiro Spero” illustrates the inherent spirit of South Carolinians to overcome obstacles and face each day with the courage and determination to do what is just in the face of adversity. Now, therefore:

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 1, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑1‑325. The State Board of Education shall make rules and regulations for the display of ‘In God We Trust,’ the official motto of the United States, and ‘Dum Spiro Spero,’ the official motto of South Carolina. The person at the head of a public school shall ensure that the mottos are displayed in the manner adopted by the State Board of Education.”

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

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