**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑1‑415 SO AS TO PROVIDE “VALEDICTORIAN RECOGNITION DAY” MUST BE OBSERVED ANNUALLY ON THE SECOND TUESDAY IN JANUARY AT THE STATE HOUSE BY MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO HONOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO IN THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST RANKING BASED ON GRADE POINT AVERAGE IN THEIR GRADUATING CLASS, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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 59‑1‑415. (A) ‘Valedictorian Recognition Day’ must be observed annually on the second Tuesday in January at the State House by members of the General Assembly during the legislative session to honor those students who in the previous school year achieved the highest ranking based on grade point average in their graduating class.

(B) The South Carolina Department of Education shall compile a list of valedictorians from every high school in the State and provide this information to the General Assembly before August first of each year.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021.

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