**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO EXEMPT CLOSE‑CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO CLOSE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR DUE TO THE COVID‑19 PANDEMIC FROM LICENSE RENEWAL FEE REQUIREMENTS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS UNTIL ONE YEAR AFTER THEY ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK BY THE GOVERNOR HAS LAPSED, AND TO PROVIDE THESE EXEMPTIONS APPLY ONLY TO PERSONS SO LICENSED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER.

Whereas, the COVID‑19 global pandemic necessitated the declaration of a state of emergency by a series of executive orders issued by the Governor in 2020, which included the closure of certain close‑contact service providers regulated by boards, commissions, or panels administered by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds it necessary and prudent to exempt these close‑contact service providers from license renewal fees and continuing education requirements until a period of one year following the termination of this required closure has lapsed, in addition to the extended renewal period provided by the department. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Close‑contact service providers regulated by boards and commissions administered by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation who were ordered to close on April 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. by Executive Order 2020‑17 of Governor Henry McMaster issued on March 31, 2020, and extended by subsequent executive orders issued by him are exempt from renewal fees and continuing education requirements for their continued licensure until a period of one year after the date on which they are allowed to return to work by the Governor has lapsed, and the applicable renewal periods also are extended for this period. The provisions of this joint resolution apply only to such close‑contact service providers credentialed by this State before the issuance of Executive Order 2020‑17.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval of the Governor.

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