**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ACT 612 OF 1984, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE METHOD OF CONDUCTING ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF TRUSTEES IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SO AS TO REQUIRE CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY RATHER THAN SIGNED PETITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1(C) of Act 612 of 1984, as last amended by Act 111 of 2009, is further amended to read:

“(C)(1) To place the name of an at‑large candidate on the ballot, qualified electors of the school district must file with the Spartanburg County ~~Election Commission, not less than sixty days before the date of the election, a petition which must contain the names of qualified electors of a number equal to not less than one hundred twenty qualified electors of the district or five percent of the total number of electors of the district, whichever is the lesser~~ Board of Voter Registration and Elections a statement of candidacy no later than twelve o’clock noon on August first or, if August first falls on a Saturday or Sunday, no later than twelve o’clock noon on the following Monday. Section 7‑13‑352 of the 1976 Code shall govern the process of nomination by statement of candidacy and verification of candidates’ qualifications for the elections established by this act. In the event no ~~petition~~ statement of candidacy is filed within the time limits specified, the appropriate district board of trustees shall appoint a successor.

(2) To place the name of a candidate for a school district board of trustees from a single‑member district on the ballot, qualified electors of the single‑member district shall file with the Spartanburg County ~~Election Commission, not less than sixty days before the date of the election, a petition which must contain the names of the qualified electors of a number equal to not less than seventy‑five qualified electors of the single‑member district or five percent of the total number of electors of the single‑member district, whichever is the lesser~~ Board of Voter Registration and Elections a statement of candidacy no later than twelve o’clock noon on August first or, if August first falls on a Saturday or Sunday, no later than twelve o’clock noon on the following Monday. Section 7‑13‑352 of the 1976 Code shall govern the process of nomination by statement of candidacy and verification of candidates’ qualifications for the elections established by this act. In the event no ~~petition~~ statement of candidacy is filed within the time limits specified, the appropriate district board of trustees must appoint a successor.”

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

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