**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 14‑23‑1040, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS OF PROBATE JUDGES, SO AS TO REVISE THE QUALIFICATIONS AND RESTRUCTURE THE STATUTE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 14‑23‑1040 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 14‑23‑1040. No person is eligible to hold the office of judge of probate who is not at the time of his election:

(1) a citizen of the United States and of this State~~,~~;

(2) has not attained the age of twenty‑one years upon his election~~,~~;

(3) has not become a qualified elector of the county in which he is to be a judge~~,~~; and

(4) has not received a four‑year ~~bachelor’s~~ bachelor of science or arts degree from an accredited post‑secondary institution or if he has not received ~~no~~ a four‑year bachelor of science or arts degree he must have four years’ experience as an employee in a probate judge’s office in this State.”

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act do not apply to a probate judge currently serving in office on or before the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑