**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 57‑25‑40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO APPLICATIONS BY A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATOR TO INSTALL COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT BENCHES, SO AS TO ALLOW A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT BENCHES, DELETE THE PROVISION THAT REQUIRES A BENCH TO BE LOCATED AT A BUS STOP, DELETE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF PERMITS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AND CREATE THE MASS TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONNECTING WITH THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND PROVIDING MASS TRANSIT THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

SECTION 1. Section 57‑25‑40 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 57‑25‑40. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, upon proper application the Department of Transportation may issue appropriate permits to a regional transit authority, ~~or~~ public transit operator, or political subdivision to install and maintain benches upon which commercial advertisements are placed provided that ~~each bench will be located at one of the applicant’s bus stops,~~ the proposed location for the bench is within the right‑of‑way of a public road, and the applicant otherwise meets all relevant federal statutory and regulatory requirements. The department may charge a permit fee of twenty‑five dollars for each permit application. ~~All permits issued pursuant to this section expire on July 1, 2010.~~”

SECTION 2. (A)There is created the Mass Transit Feasibility Study Committee to examine the feasibility of connecting with the mass transit system in Charlotte, North Carolina, and providing mass transit throughout South Carolina.

(B) The committee must be composed of:

(1) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(2) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(3) one member appointed by the Secretary of Transportation; and

(4) three members selected by the Transportation Association of South Carolina.

(C) Members of the study committee shall serve without compensation, but are allowed the mileage, subsistence, and per diem allowed by law for members of state boards, committees, and commissions.

(D) The committee must be staffed by the staff of the Department of Transportation, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

(E) By December 31, 2022, the study committee shall provide a report to the General Assembly detailing its findings. Upon the issuance of its report, the committee is dissolved.

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

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