**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 7‑13‑1625 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ANY VOTING SYSTEM PURCHASED FOR USE IN SOUTH CAROLINA SHALL UTILIZE HAND‑MARKED PAPER BALLOTS TABULATED BY OPTICAL SCANNERS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 15, Chapter 13, Title 7 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 7‑13‑1625. (A) Any voting system purchased by the State of South Carolina or any state agency, board, commission, or council must meet the following requirements:

(1) a voter must be able to mark by hand a paper ballot, which must be tabulated using an optical scanner; and

(2) a voter must be able to insert the marked paper ballot into the optical scanner.

(B) Nothing in this section may be construed as precluding the purchase of a voting system with features or components necessary to ensure compliance with other federal and state law requirements including, without limitation, at least one accessible voting system per polling place equipped for individuals with disabilities in accordance with 52 U.S.C. Section 21081 of the ‘Help America Vote Act of 2002’.”

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

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