**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59-19-40 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CERTAIN SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES, TO PROVIDE THAT ELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES MUST BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GENERAL ELECTION IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.

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

SECTION 1.A. Section 59-19-40 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59-19-40. The provisions of Section 59‑19‑30 shall neither repeal, supersede nor annul any special act providing for the appointment or election of school trustees in any school district or in any of the several counties of the State, provided that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any regularly scheduled election for a school trustee must be held at the same time as the general election in even-numbered years.”

B. Any person elected as a school trustee between the effective date of this act and the 2022 general election may serve for an abbreviated term and may not continue to serve as a school trustee unless he is elected in accordance with the provisions of this act. In the alternative, a local school district board of trustees may elect to allow a school trustee to serve in a holdover capacity for any term that expires between the effective date of this act and the 2022 general election if the local school district board of trustees determines that it is more cost effective than electing a new member for an abbreviated term.

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

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