**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 11, TITLE 40 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CONTRACTORS, TO PROVIDE FOR A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO BE MADE UPON APPLICATION FOR A CONTRACTOR’S LICENSE TO BE APPLIED TO ACCREDITED PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING OFFERING COURSES IN BUILDING SCIENCE OR CIVIL ENGINEERING; TO PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION; AND TO IMPOSE A REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Title 40 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 40-11-40. (A) An applicant for a new, reinstatement, or renewal contractor’s license must be given an opportunity in writing to make a voluntary contribution to be distributed to an accredited public institution of higher learning offering courses in building science or civil engineering. The applicant may designate a specific accredited institution to receive the contribution. Undesignated contributions shall be distributed to accredited institutions in a pro rata manner based on the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in each program at each institution. Any voluntary contribution must be added to the contractor’s license fee and must be transferred to the State Treasurer and credited to the appropriate institution.

(B)(1) Each institution receiving funds pursuant to this section shall utilize the funds to provide or enhance programs and related to building science or civil engineering, which shall include, but is not limited to, scholarships, fellowships, research, faculty development, and continuing education programs.

(2) Each institution receiving funds pursuant to this section shall provide an annual report to the board by January thirty-first disclosing the amount of funds received and an accounting of how the funds were utilized.

(C) The board shall retain five percent of the amount to be distributed for administrative expenses associated with the collection and distribution of funds.”

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

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