**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 1186**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Turner

Companion/Similar bill(s): 4349

Document Path: SR-0652KM24.docx

Introduced in the Senate on March 20, 2024

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Education**

Summary: Greenville Technical College Area Commission

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/20/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20240320.docx))

3/20/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20240320.docx))

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/20/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/1186_20240320.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑53‑1500, RELATING TO THE GREENVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION, SO AS TO REMOVE OBSOLETE REFERENCES, TO REVISE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COMMISSION SEATS, AND TO REVISE THE ABSENCE POLICY FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑53‑1500 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 59‑53‑1500. (A) There is created the Greenville Technical College Area Commission which is a body politic and corporate and the governing body of Greenville Technical College. The commission consists of twelve voting members or area commissioners appointed by the Greenville County Legislative Delegation in the manner provided in this section.

(B) Except for commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (D)(2) and (3), all members must be qualified electors of Greenville County. Each member filling a house district residency seat, as provided for in this section, at the time of their appointment and throughout their term of office, shall reside in a house district corresponding to their membership seat. A change of residency outside of Greenville County, or outside of a corresponding district for members filling house district residency seats, automatically terminates that member's appointment, although, subject to the provisions of subsection (E), the member may serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

(C) The commission shall have six members designated as occupying house district residency seats which, unless otherwise stipulated, must be filled as provided in this subsection. The members of the House of Representatives from each of the House single‑member election districts in a particular house residency district, together with any member of the Senate representing any portion of these House single‑member election districts in that particular house residency district, shall recommend a nominee for that seat to the full Greenville County Legislative Delegation which shall either select and appoint that nominee to the commission or reject the nominee. In this case another nominee must be recommended by the same process to the full county legislative delegation until the seat is filled. These six house district residency seats are as follows:

(1) Residency Seat No. 1: one member selected from House District 105, 17, or 19. Present Commissioner Blakely serving in office on the effective date of this provision is deemed to be the member filling Residency Seat No. 1;

(2) Residency Seat No. 2: one member selected from House District 16, 21, or 35;

(3) Residency Seat No. 3: one member selected from House District 22 or 24. Present Commissioner Shouse now serving as an at‑large member Seat No. 4 on the effective date of this provision is deemed to be the member filling Residency Seat No. 3;

(4) Residency Seat No. 4: one member selected from House District 23 or 25;

(5) Residency Seat No. 5: one member selected from House District 18, or 20, or 36. Present Commissioner Hamilton serving on the effective date of this provision is deemed to be the member filling Residency Seat No. 5; and

(6) Residency Seat No. 6: one member selected from House District 7, 10, 27, or 28.

Members of the commission residing in these specified house districts not serving as at‑large members are deemed to be the house district residency seat members from those districts unless otherwise provided.

(D) The commission shall have six at‑large members selected by the Greenville County Legislative Delegation as follows:

(1) four at‑large members which unless otherwise stipulated, must be nominated by the Greenville County Council. Each of these four at‑large seats must be numbered as Seats 1‑4, respectively;

(2) one at‑large member nominated by the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees from among the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees, including the superintendent, and this individual must live or work in Greenville County; and

(3) one at‑large member nominated by the Greenville County Workforce Investment Board, including the president, from among the members of the board including its officers, and this individual must live or work in Greenville County.

Any public officials selected for the school board and Workforce Investment Board seats shall serve ex officio as voting members.

Members are responsible to all areas served by the Greenville Technical College regardless of residency and shall make decisions in the best interests of the Greenville Technical College and all those it serves as a whole. The commission shall elect from among its members a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Members shall serve without compensation.

(E) Commission members shall serve terms of four years, which expire May thirty‑first of the appropriate year, and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A member shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualifies for a period not to exceed one year after expiration of his term. If the Greenville County Legislative Delegation has not filled a seat within one year of the expiration of the term, the member serving in that seat shall cease serving and the seat is vacant until filled. Vacancies must be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.

(F) A commissioner having served as a member of the commission for a total of twelve years, after the effective date of this subsection, and whether or not consecutive or in different seats, is not eligible for appointment to any additional terms until after he has been off the commission for six consecutive years, at which time, a new twelve‑year limitation period commences.

(G) For the purpose of facilitating the transition to this modified commission structure, upon the effective date of this subsection:

(a) the house district residency seats are considered filled as set forth in subsection (C);

(b) the current commissioners filling the school board and Workforce Investment Board‑related seats shall fill their respective newly reconstituted subject matter seats; and

(c) the four current remaining commissioners shall become the four at‑large members in Seats 1‑4 as follows:

(1) current Commissioner Johnson is deemed to fill at‑large Seat No. 1;

(2) on the effective date of this provision, due to the death of former Commissioner Erhmann who served as the at‑large member, Seat No. 2, at‑large Seat No. 2 is vacant which shall be filled as provided in this article;

(3) current Commissioner Stafford is deemed to fill at‑large Seat No. 3; and

(4) present Commissioner Southerlin on the effective date of this provision is deemed to be the at‑large member, Seat No. 4.

Thereafter, all commission members must be selected as otherwise set forth in subsections (A)‑(F) and (H)‑(J) and their terms of office must be staggered and modified as follows:

(1) Block 1: The terms of office for commissioner seats falling within Block 1 initially expire on May 31, 2014, and then expire every four years thereafter. Block 1 shall include:

(a) the at‑large member nominated from the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees;

(b) the at‑large member nominated from the Workforce Investment Board; and

(c) Residency Seat No. 1.

(2) Block 2: The terms of office for commissioner seats falling within Block 2 initially expire on May 31, 2015, and then expire every four years thereafter. Block 2 shall include:

(a) the at‑large member from at‑large Seat No. 1;

(b) Residency Seat No. 2; and

(c) Residency Seat No. 5.

(3) Block 3: The terms of office for commissioner seats falling within Block 3 initially expire on May 31, 2016, and then expire every four years thereafter. Block 3 shall include:

(a) the two at‑large members from at‑large Seats No. 2 and No. 3; and

(b) Residency Seat No. 4.

(4) Block 4: The terms of office for commissioner seats falling within Block 4 initially expire on May 31, 2017, and then expire every four years thereafter. Block 4 shall include:

(a) the at‑large member from at‑large Seat No. 4;

(b) Residency Seat No. 3; and

(c) Residency Seat No. 6.

(H)(F) The absence of a member at three consecutive regularly scheduled commission meetings shall cause that member's seat to become immediately vacant unless the absence is excused by the chairman of the commission. Any regularly scheduled meeting which is canceled pursuant to the bylaws or does not begin for lack of a quorum must be disregarded for all purposes under this subsection. Vacancies occurring under this subsection must be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. If otherwise eligible, the member causing the vacancy may be reappointed to the seat.

(I) (G) The nominating procedures for appointment of area commissioners are as follows:

(1) The legislative delegation shall publicize vacancies, and recommendations may be made to the commission from any individual, organization, or group. Notwithstanding this provision, the Greenville County Legislative Delegation may reappoint a member who completes an unexpired portion of a prior term of less than two years without soliciting or accepting any nominations. The legislative delegation may appoint the nominee of the county council for a particular seat or may reject the nominee, in which case an additional nominee must be submitted by the county council in the manner provided by this article until the vacancy is filled.

(2) All recommendations, nominations, and appointments to the commission must be nondiscriminatory and shall take into account diversity and other pertinent qualifications as may be beneficial to constituting a commission which is mindful of the needs of all segments of the population of Greenville County and those served by Greenville Technical College.

(3) The Greenville County School District Board of Trustees and the Greenville County Workforce Investment Board shall submit a nominee to the Greenville County Legislative Delegation to fill vacancies in their respective proxy seats. The Greenville County Council shall submit a nominee to the Greenville County Legislative Delegation for all seat vacancies for which it submits a nominee.

(J) (H) Whenever the South Carolina House of Representatives election districts are redrawn and become effective, the boundaries of the house district residency seats are automatically redrawn to match the new house districts. Redistricting does not affect the term of any commissioner appointed before the effective date of redistricting. If any new house districts are added to Greenville County or include portions of Greenville County, then one of the four at‑large seats nominated by the Greenville County Council must be filled upon the expiration of the current member's term with a member residing in one of the new house districts until such time as the residency seats are amended to include the new house districts. If redistricting renames or renumbers a district, it continues to be included within the residency seat boundaries under its prior number. If disagreement arises as to whether a house district is new or renamed for the purpose of this subsection, it must be resolved by majority vote of the Greenville County Legislative Delegation.

(K) (I) The commission shall:

(1) establish the basic qualifications for and appoint a president for the term and under the conditions as it may fix, the commission having full powers of appointment and dismissal to the fullest extent permitted by law and applicable regulations;

(2) provide for the employment of personnel pursuant to Section 59‑53‑20;

(3) purchase land required for college sites and rights of way which are necessary for the proper operation of the college;

(4) apply the standards and requirements for admission and graduation of students and other standards established by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education;

(5) receive and accept private donations, gifts, bequests, and the like to apply them or invest any of them and apply the proceeds for the purposes and upon the terms which the donor may prescribe and which are consistent with the provisions of law and the regulations of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education;

(6) require the execution of studies and take steps as are necessary to ensure that the functions of the college are always those which are most helpful and feasible in light of the resources available to the school;

(7) designate members or other agents or representatives to represent the college before the Greenville County Council, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, and other agencies concerned with the serving of financial support for the needs of the college for operational expenses and capital outlay;

(8) adopt and recommend current expense and capital outlay budgets;

(9) perform acts and do other things as may be necessary or proper for the exercise of the foregoing specific powers, including the adoption and enforcement of reasonable rules, regulations, and bylaws for the government and operation of the college under law and for the discipline of students;

(10) perform functions required as necessary for the proper governance of the college with regard to policy, personnel, and fiduciary matters.

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

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