**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 25‑1‑2270 SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS OR TAKE MAKE‑UP EXAMINATIONS WHEN AN ABSENCE IS CAUSED BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY SERVICE, DUTY, TRAINING, OR DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 17, Chapter 1, Title 25 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 25‑1‑2270. Upon notice from a student required to attend or participate in military service, duty, training, or disaster relief efforts, a state institution of higher education shall excuse the student from attending classes or engaging in other mandatory activities, including tests or examinations, in order for the student to fulfill his military obligations and associated military travel requirements. A student whose absence is excused pursuant to this section may not be penalized for his absence and must be allowed to complete all missed assignments or take missed tests or examinations within a reasonable time of his return from the military service, duty, training, or disaster relief efforts. Each state institution of higher education shall determine what constitutes a reasonable time to make up the assignments, tests, or examinations missed by reason of military service on a case by case basis, taking into account the individual student’s schedule and academic responsibilities. The provisions of this section must be liberally construed and shall apply in the same manner and without distinction to a student’s status as a member of the active component, reserve component, or National Guard.”

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

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