**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑67‑160, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE PHYSICAL MUST BE A DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PHYSICAL THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CERTAIN FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS IN ADDITION TO EXISTING STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59‑67‑160 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 351 of 2006, is amended to read:

“Section 59‑67‑160. A school bus driver shall have a South Carolina Department of Transportation physical examination that meets the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR), 49 C.F.R. 391.41, and meets the certification requirements of this section, certified by a physician, a nurse practitioner acting within an approved protocol, or a physician assistant acting within an approved scope‑ of‑practice guideline before the testing required to operate a school bus and every two years after that. The examining physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant’s certification must be made on forms provided by the State Department of Education or the United States Department of Transportation. The school bus driver candidate shall provide the testing administrator with the certified physical examination before taking the school bus driver physical performance test and the commercial driver’s license skills test. The school bus driver candidate shall provide a copy of the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant’s certification to the employing school district. A school district may require additional physical examinations as the district determines to be appropriate. The State assumes no responsibility for the cost of physical examinations required by districts.”

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

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