**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT THE OPENING DATE FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE 2017‑2018 SCHOOL YEAR MAY BE AS EARLY AS THURSDAY, AUGUST SEVENTEENTH, IN THE DISCRETION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Whereas, on Monday, August 21, 2017, South Carolina will be in the path of the largest total solar eclipse experienced in North America since February 1978, providing a rare learning opportunity for people in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, to capitalize on the potential educational value of this eclipse, South Carolina public school districts should be given the flexibility to move their opening dates to before the eclipse. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59‑1‑425(A) regarding the opening date for students to attend public schools, a local school board may choose Thursday, August 17, 2017, or later, as the opening date for students attending schools in the district. These provisions only apply to the 2017‑2018 School Year.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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