**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 22‑1‑10, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT A MAGISTRATE MUST BE A LICENSED ATTORNEY AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22‑1‑10(B)(2) of the 1976 Code is amended by adding a subitem to read:

“( ) On and after July 1, 2018, no person is eligible for an initial appointment to hold the office of magistrate who: (i) is not at the time of his appointment a citizen of the United States and of this State, (ii) has not been a resident of this State for at least five years, (iii) has not attained the age of twenty‑one years upon his appointment, and (iv) is not a licensed attorney. However, a county with a population of less than seventy-five thousand is exempt from the provisions of (iv) and the magistrate must have received a four‑year baccalaureate degree.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑