**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 2(A) OF ACT 321 OF 2010, RELATING TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE FOR TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF THE SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT AND SUBSEQUENT ELECTION OF AT-LARGE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS; AND TO STAGGER THE TERMS OF THE AT-LARGE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS.

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

SECTION 1. SECTION 2(A) of Act 321 of 2010 is amended to read:

“SECTION 2. (A)(1) The school district must be governed by a board of trustees of ~~seven~~ nine members, one of whom must be elected from each district from which members of the Sumter County Council are elected and two members from the county at large. The members of the board must be elected in nonpartisan elections. A member of the board representing a district must be a resident of the school district and the election district from which he is elected.

(2)(a) The two at-large members of the board shall initially be appointed to the board by the members of the Sumter County Legislative Delegation. The appointees shall serve on the board until the next scheduled nonpartisan school district election. Members appointed by the Sumter County Legislative Delegation are eligible for election.

(b) One at-large member elected to the board in 2018 shall be elected to a term of two years, and the other member shall be elected to a term of four years. Thereafter, all at-large elections shall be for a four-year term. The members of the Sumter County Legislative Delegation shall designate which at-large seat shall be subject to the two-year term following the 2018 election.

(3) ~~The members of the board must be elected in nonpartisan elections to be held beginning in 2010. A member of the board must be a resident of the school district and the election district from which he is elected. The members of the board shall elect a chairman and other officers they consider necessary to serve for terms of two years in these capacities. The 2010 nonpartisan election must be held at the same time as the general election.~~ ~~After the 2010 election, members of the board must be elected at nonpartisan elections~~ School board elections shall be non-partisan and shall be conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November every two ~~or four~~ years ~~thereafter beginning in 2012~~. Members of the board must be elected for four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualify~~, except that of the seven members of the board elected in 2010, the members elected from Election Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall serve for initial terms to expire in November 2014, when their successors elected at the 2014 election qualify and take office, and the members elected from Election Districts 5, 6, and 7 shall serve for initial terms to expire in November 2012, when their successors elected at the 2012 election qualify and take office~~. In the event of a vacancy on the board occurring for a reason other than expiration of a term, the board shall call a special election to fill the unexpired term, so long as the vacancy does not occur within one hundred eighty days of a regular trustee election. In this case, the vacancy must be filled for the unexpired term through appointment by the Governor. All members of the board shall serve until their successors are elected and qualify. The Sumter Registration and Election Commission shall conduct and supervise the elections for members of the board in the manner as for the election of the Sumter County Council, subject to the election laws of this State, mutatis mutandis. The commissioners shall prepare the necessary ballots, appoint managers for the voting precincts, and do all things necessary to carry out the elections, including the counting of ballots and declaring the results. The commission shall publish notices of the elections in the same manner provided in Section 7-13-35 of the 1976 Code. The results of the elections must be determined by the nonpartisan plurality method as contained in Section 5-15-61 of the 1976 Code. The members of the board elected in these nonpartisan elections shall take office one week following certification of their election as provided in Section 59-19-315 of the 1976 Code.

(4) The members of the board shall elect a chairman and other officers they consider necessary to serve for terms of two years in these capacities.”

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

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