**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-1140 OF THE 1976 CODE OF LAWS, RELATING TO FILING A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS, SO AS TO REQUIRE EACH STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER AND MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE A COPY OF PERSONAL FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR BY APRIL TWENTY-FIFTH, UNLESS THE FILER REQUESTED AN EXTENSION TO FILE TAX RETURNS, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE THAT A FILER’S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR INCOME TAX RETURN IF THE FILER’S INCOME TAX RETURN DOES NOT INDICATE THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER’S SOURCE OF INCOME, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE THAT TAX RETURNS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ARE NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND MUST BE DESTROYED AFTER THE TIME PERIOD FOR AUDIT OR INCOME VERIFICATION, AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE THAT THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE CONDUCT RANDOM AUDITS TO VERIFY THAT SOURCES OF INCOME ON A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE FULLY AND ACCURATELY DISCLOSED.

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

SECTION 1. Amend Section 8-13-1140 of the 1976 Code of Laws to read:

“Section 8-13-1140 (A) A person required to file a statement of economic interests under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8‑13‑365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year. If the person has filed the description by name, amount, and schedule of payments of a continuing arrangement relating to an item required to be reported under this article, an updating statement need not be filed for each payment under the continuing arrangement, but only if the arrangement is terminated or altered.

(B)(1) Each statewide constitutional officer and member of the General Assembly must provide a copy of his personal federal and state income tax returns for the previous calendar year in the following manner:

(a) A statewide constitutional officer must submit a copy of his personal federal and state income tax returns to the State Ethics Commission.

(b) A member of the House of Representatives must provide a copy of his personal federal and state income tax returns for the previous calendar year to the House Ethics Committee and the State Ethics Commission.

(c) A member of the Senate must provide a copy of his personal federal and state income tax returns for the previous calendar year to the Senate Ethics Committee and the State Ethics Commission.

(2) In the event that the personal income tax returns of a statewide constitutional officer or a member of the General Assembly does not include the source of income for all members of his immediate family, a copy of that immediate family member’s personal federal and state income tax returns for the previous calendar year must also be provided.

(3) A copy of the personal income tax returns required by this subsection must be submitted not later than April twenty-fifth. If the filer requested an extension for filing his personal federal or state income tax return, or both, a copy of the request for extension must be submitted in the same manner as provided in item (1) of this subsection, and the personal income tax return for which an extension was requested must be submitted within ten business days after the personal income tax returns are filed.

(4) Information received pursuant to this subsection is not subject to public disclosure and may be retained only for the period of time necessary to conduct any audit or verification of the filer’s applicable statement of economic interests, after which time the documents must be destroyed. Social security numbers may be redacted before providing a copy of the income tax returns or request for filing an extension of the income tax returns.

(5) The State Ethics Commission, House Ethics Committee and the Senate Ethics Committee must each establish a process to conduct random audits to verify that sources of income provided on a statement of economic interests are fully and accurately disclosed.”

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

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