**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59-123-60(A)(3) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE POWERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROCURED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

Whereas, Proviso 23.4 of the General Appropriations Act of 2017 required the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), the Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA), and Procurement Services of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority to work together to study and make recommendations regarding the opportunity to create efficiencies, cost savings, or economies of scale by combining some or all similar operations or procurements of MUSC and MUHA; and

Whereas, MUSC functions as the parent organization for MUHA, which, by law, provides the services necessary for the training and education of health care professionals. As major organizational entities, MUSC and MUHA are independent and serve under the oversight of the same Board of Trustees and President; and

Whereas, in 2000, MUHA was exempted from the Human Resources regulations and the Procurement Code, subject to State approval of a competitive bid construction policy. The Procurement Code exemption enabled MUHA to participate in Group Purchasing Organizations and to be on equal playing field in the competitive academic sciences center industry; and

Whereas, MUSC and MUHA, through their strategic plan, “Imagine 2020,” have identified opportunities to streamline operations and save taxpayer dollars; and

Whereas, MUSC and MUHA have identified services and procurements that are common to both organizations; and

Whereas, since MUSC is a healthcare organization, it is critical that it remain flexible so that money is saved and opportunities are maximized. Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Section 59-123-60(A)(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3) to make contracts and to have, to hold, to purchase, and to lease real estate and personal property for corporate purposes; and to sell and dispose of personal property and any buildings that are considered by it as surplus property or no longer needed and any buildings that it may need to do away with for the purpose of making room for other construction. These powers must be exercised in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter 35 of Title 11, unless procuring information technology in association with the Medical University Hospital Authority. Such procurement is exempt if made by the authority.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑