**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE BELIEF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THIS STATE SHOULD UTILIZE THE EDUCATION RATE PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (E‑RATE) ESTABLISHED BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996 WHICH PROVIDES DISCOUNTS ON INTERNET ACCESS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGHER POVERTY LEVELS IN THEIR STUDENT POPULATION THAT WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THESE STUDENTS.

Whereas, the Education Rate program, more commonly known as E‑Rate, was established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and began monetary distribution in 1998; and

Whereas, E‑Rate is overseen by the Federal Communications Commission and is administered by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administration Company; and

Whereas, The E‑Rate program was established to aid schools and libraries in obtaining affordable telecommunication and internet services by offering discounts on these services; and

Whereas, funding may be requested in two separate categories of service: category 1, telecommunications and internet access and category 2, internet connections and basic maintenance of internal connections; and

Whereas, the discount percentage for the applicant is based on poverty and location of the population served by the school or library; and

Whereas, the E‑Rate program, if utilized by our schools and school districts, would be a great benefit to the student population of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly express their belief that the schools and school districts of this State should utilize the Education Rate Program of the Federal Communications Commission (E‑Rate) established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which provides discounts on internet access and telecommunications services for schools and school districts with higher poverty levels in their student population that would be of great benefit to these students.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina School Boards Association for Dissemination for its members.

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