**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑13‑190, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN OFFICE, SO AS TO PERMIT THE COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS OR OTHER AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO SET THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE SECOND SUCCEEDING TUESDAY WHEN THE NEXT SUCCEEDING TUESDAY FALLS ON A DAY THAT IS WIDELY OBSERVED OR CELEBRATED IN THE STATE EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS A STATE HOLIDAY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑13‑190(B)(2) of the 1976 Code, is amended to read:

“(2) A primary must be held on the eleventh Tuesday after the vacancy occurs. A runoff primary must be held on the thirteenth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs. The special election must be on the twentieth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs. If the twentieth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs is no more than sixty days prior to the general election, the special election must be held on the same day as the general election. If the filing period closes on a state holiday, then filing must be held open through the succeeding weekday. If the date for an election falls on a state holiday, the election must be set for the next succeeding Tuesday; however, if the next succeeding Tuesday falls on a day that is widely observed or celebrated in the State, though not officially recognized as a state holiday, the county board of voter registration and elections or other authority responsible for the conduct of the elections, in its discretion, may set the election for the second succeeding Tuesday. For purposes of this section, state holiday does not mean the general election day.”

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

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