**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑13‑35, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO NOTICES OF GENERAL, MUNICIPAL, SPECIAL, AND PRIMARY ELECTIONS, SO AS TO CHANGE FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 9:00 A.M. the time that tHE PROCESS FOR EXAMINING THE RETURN‑ADDRESSED ENVELOPES CONTAINING ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAY BEGIN ON ELECTION DAY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑13‑35 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 434 of 1996, is further amended to read:

“Section 7‑13‑35. The authority charged by law with conducting an election must publish two notices of general, municipal, special, and primary elections held in the county in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality, as appropriate. Included in each notice must be a reminder of the last day persons may register to be eligible to vote in the election for which notice is given, notification of the date, time, and location of the hearing on ballots challenged in the election, a list of the precincts involved in the election, the location of the polling places in each of the precincts, and notification that the process of examining the return‑addressed envelopes containing absentee ballots may begin at ~~2:00 p.m.~~ 9:00 a.m. on election day at a place designated in the notice by the authority charged with conducting the election. The first notice must appear not later than sixty days before the election and the second notice must appear not later than two weeks after the first notice.”

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

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