**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 11‑11‑85 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A ZERO BASE BUDGET PROCESS BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2012‑2013.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 11, Title 11 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 11‑11‑85. (A) The House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee shall implement a zero base budget process, beginning with the annual general appropriations act for fiscal year 2012‑2013. The schedule for a zero base budget process must be organized by the following agency functional areas for all of state government:

(1) fiscal year 2012‑2013, Group I: human service, health care, and social service agencies;

(2) fiscal year 2013‑2014, Group II: correctional, criminal justice, public safety, and natural resource agencies;

(3) fiscal year 2014‑2015, Group III: executive, regulatory, judicial, quasi‑judicial agencies and boards, and other agencies determined by the committees not to fall in the first two categories;

(4) fiscal year 2015‑2016, Group IV: education functions of government including, but not limited to, public education and higher education.

(B) The process for each group must be maintained on a four‑year rotating basis.”

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

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