**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH COUNTY’S LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN EACH COUNTY IN THIS STATE AS AGGRAVATED BY THE CURRENT RECESSION, ASSESS THE AVAILABILITY AND CAPACITIES OF HOMELESS SHELTERS IN EACH COUNTY, AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF USING TENT‑LIKE TEMPORARY SHELTERS TO BE OBTAINED WITH STATE FUNDS TO HOUSE ON A SHORT‑TERM BASIS PERSONS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE TURNED AWAY; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT’S REPORT MUST BE MADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY JANUARY 31, 2012.

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

SECTION 1. (A) The State Department of Social Services in conjunction with each county’s local Department of Social Services shall conduct a study on the number of homeless persons in each county in this State as aggravated by the current recession, assess the availability and capacities of homeless shelters in each county, and determine the feasibility of using tent‑like temporary shelters to be obtained with state funds to house on a short‑term basis persons who would otherwise be turned away.

(B) The department’s report must be made to the Governor and each House of the General Assembly and also made available to the general public by January 31, 2012. The report also must identify the source of funds which may be used to obtain these tent-like temporary shelters.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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