**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑39‑105 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A PROGRAM WHEREBY A PERSON MAY BE AWARDED A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA IF HE EARNS TWENTY‑FOUR CREDITS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THIS STATE, AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE COLLEGE COURSES A PERSON SHALL TAKE TO EARN APPLICABLE CREDITS AND TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS FOR SELECTING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 39, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑39‑105. The State Department of Education shall create a program whereby a person may be awarded a high school equivalency diploma if he earns twenty‑four credits at a public or private institution of higher learning in this State. The department shall determine college courses a person shall take to earn applicable credits and shall develop a framework for participating institutions of higher learning for identifying and selecting potential program participants.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑