**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO ESTABLISH A WELLNESS PREMIUM DISCOUNT TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN A HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN OFFERED THROUGH THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR ELIGIBILITY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ONGOING CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES.

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

SECTION 1. Beginning July 1, 2012, the health insurance plans offered through the South Carolina Employee Insurance Plan (SCEIP) must provide a monthly twenty-five dollar wellness premium discount to participating eligible state employees.

SECTION 2. (A) A state employee is eligible for the wellness premium discount if the employee submits baseline readings of the employee’s health risk factors to the SCEIP. The employee must submit the baseline readings by November 30, 2011; and

(1) the employee is certified by the SCEIP as not being at risk based upon the reported health factors; or

(2) the employee is certified by the SCEIP as being at risk based upon the reported health factors and the employee:

(a) submits a statement from a physician stating that the employee has a medical condition that prevents him from improving the health risk factors; or

(b) has certified improvement in the health risk factors.

(B) Employees must maintain certification to continue qualifying for the premium discount.

SECTION 3. (A)After November 30, 2011, the SCEIP may certify eligible employees pursuant to guidelines it adopts, provided that the eligibility requirements must be identical to the requirements contained in items (1) and (2) of SECTION 2.

(B) The SCEIP may develop guidelines to ensure that employees receiving the premium discount maintain certification.

SECTION 4. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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