**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 2‑1‑270 SO AS TO CREATE THE EXEMPTIONS REPEAL COMMITTEE, A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH TO DIVIDE THE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS INTO FIVE GROUPS AND RANDOMLY SELECT AN ORDER FOR THE REPEAL OF ONE GROUP A YEAR UNTIL ALL GROUPS ARE REPEALED, TO PROVIDE THAT THE EXEMPTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD HEARINGS ON THE EXEMPTIONS AND MAY AMEND THE CONTENTS OF SALES TAX EXEMPTION GROUPS AND THE ORDER FOR REPEAL, AND TO PROVIDE THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ENACT THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 2 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 2‑1‑270. (A) There is created the Exemptions Repeal Committee, a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The committee shall be composed of eight members as follows: the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and three members of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

(B)(1) By February 15, 2012, the Office of Economic Research, Budget and Control Board, shall divide all sales tax exemptions contained in Section 12‑36‑2120 into five groups. The Office of Economic Research shall allocate the exemptions into groups so as to maximize diversity amongst the groups in terms of items and to have a similar revenue impact on the State.

(2) After formation of the five groups, the Office of Economic Research randomly shall select the order by which the repeal of the exemptions within the group will occur. The first group shall be repealed effective July 1, 2013, and each remaining group shall be repealed every July first thereafter until all five groupings have been repealed.

(C) Upon conclusion, the Office of Economic Research, Budget and Control Board, shall report the groupings to the Exemptions Repeal Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

(D)(1) At any time following the report of the groupings pursuant to subsection (C), the Exemptions Review Committee shall hold public hearings on the contents of the exemption groups and the order of repeal. The committee shall accept testimony and written justification from any person, as defined in Section 12‑2‑20, seeking to have all or part of the exemptions removed from the group. Also, the committee shall accept testimony from any person regarding the order of repeal.

(2) After public evaluation, the committee may recommend that all or part of a group shall be excluded, the committee may set forth a different order for repealing groups, but the order must be determined randomly. The committee shall submit its recommendations and the order for repeal to the General Assembly by January 15, 2013.

(E) The Exemption Review Committee’s report pursuant to subsection (D) must be forwarded to the Code Commissioner who must take steps to prepare the substance of the report to be enrolled and engrossed in the Code of Laws with the provisions of the report to take effect July 1, 2013, if the report is approved by enactment of a joint resolution which deals exclusively with the single subject and question of approval of the report in its entirety. The legislation containing the amendment to enact the recommendations of the report made by the committee must be introduced in both houses by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. An amendment is germane to legislation recommended by the committee only if the amendment seeks to make a technical change necessary to effectuate the purpose of the particular provision to be amended. An amendment that seeks to add, delete, or substantively change a recommendation or other provision affecting state revenue included in any legislation recommended by the committee may only be adopted or concurred in by a two‑thirds majority of those present and voting in each respective house.”

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

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