**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 6‑1‑90 SO AS TO ENACT THE “VOLUNTEER SERVICE PERSONNEL APPRECIATION ACT” AND TO ALLOW THE GOVERNING BODY OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN REWARDS TO THREE ENUMERATED CATEGORIES OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE PERSONNEL SO LONG AS ALL PERSONNEL IN A RESPECTIVE CATEGORY ARE TREATED EQUALLY.

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the “Volunteer Service Personnel Appreciation Act”.

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 6 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 6‑1‑90. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, the governing body of a local government may authorize the distribution of a gratuitous year‑end or holiday monetary or other type of gift to the following categories of volunteer service personnel:

(1) reserve law enforcement officers;

(2) volunteer firefighters; or

(3) volunteer emergency medical service personnel.

(B) If the governing body of a local government elects to authorize the distribution of a gratuitous year‑end or holiday monetary or other type of gift, it shall ensure all personnel in that respective category bequeathed pursuant to this section are treated equally .”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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