**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑67‑310 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION SHALL CREATE A PILOT PROJECT TO STUDY THE USE OF BIOFUEL AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUELS TO POWER THE STATE’S PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES AND MAKE ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING ALTERNATIVE FUELS TO POWER THE STATE’S PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 67, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑67‑310. (A) The State Superintendent of Education shall create a pilot project within the South Carolina Department of Education to study the use of biofuel, and other alternative fuels to power public school buses operating in the State. The focus of the project is the development of a program to:

(1) improve air quality for passengers and the public in the acquisition of future school buses and retrofitting existing school buses with emission control devices; and

(2) increase fuel efficiency and lower energy costs and consumption.

(B) The State Superintendent of Education shall submit his recommendations on a annual basis to the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee regarding the feasibility of using alternative fuels to power the State’s public school buses.

(C) The pilot project shall begin on or before July 1, 2013.”

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

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