**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑15‑380, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OATH OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICANT, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICANT’S OATH BE WITNESSED.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7‑15‑380 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 43 of 2011, is further amended to read:

“Section 7‑15‑380. ~~(A)~~ The oath~~, which~~ that is required by Section 7‑15‑370 to be imprinted on the return‑addressed envelope~~,~~ furnished each absentee ballot applicant~~,~~ must be signed by the absentee ballot applicant ~~and witnessed. The address of the witness shall appear on the oath~~. In the event the voter cannot write because of a physical handicap or illiteracy, the voter ~~must~~ shall make his mark ~~and have the mark witnessed by someone designated by the voter~~. The oath must be in the following form:

‘I hereby swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified to vote at this election according to the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, that I have not voted during this election, that the ballot or ballots contained in this envelope is my ballot and that I have received no assistance in voting my ballot that I would not have been entitled to receive had I voted in person at my voting precinct.’

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Voter

Dated on this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_

~~\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~Signature of Witness~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~Address of Witness~~

~~(B)~~ ~~Qualified voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act are exempt from witness requirements in subsection (A).~~”

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

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