**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ACT 589 OF 1986, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, SO AS TO REQUIRE CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY RATHER THAN SUBMIT SIGNED PETITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1(B) of Act 589 of 1986, as last amended by Act 406 of 2002, is further amended to read:

“(B) Notice of the general election must be published by the Beaufort County Election Commission in a newspaper of general circulation in the districts from which members of the board are elected, and the notice must contain appropriate information concerning the election. The notice must be published not earlier than one hundred fifty days and not later than one hundred twenty days before the date of the election.

(1) To have his name placed on the ballot as a candidate in the general election, a person shall submit to the ~~county election commission a petition which, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7‑11‑70 of the 1976 Code, must contain the signatures of at least two and one‑half percent of the qualified registered electors of the district~~ Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections a statement of candidacy not later than twelve o’clock noon on August fifteenth or, if August fifteenth falls on a Saturday or Sunday, not later than twelve o’clock noon on the following Monday.

(2) Section ~~7‑13‑351~~ 7‑13‑352 of the 1976 Code must govern the process of nomination by ~~petition~~ statement of candidacy and verification of candidates’ qualifications for the elections established by this act.”

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

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