**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑56‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS UNDER THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEFINITION OF A “CLAIMANT AGENCY” INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, BUT ALSO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ETHICS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO THE EXTENT OF ANY UNPAID FINES, OR OTHER MONETARY SANCTIONS LEVIED BY THESE COMMITTEES ON BEHALF OF THEIR RESPECTIVE BODY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12‑56‑20(1) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“As used in this chapter:

(1) ‘Claimant agency’ means a state agency, board, committee, commission, public institution of higher learning, political subdivision, or other governmental or quasi‑governmental entity of any state or the United States. It includes the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, housing authorities established pursuant to Articles 5, 7, and 9 of Chapter 3, Title 31 and the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Department of Education. It also includes a private institution of higher learning for the purpose of collecting debts related to default on authorized educational loans made pursuant to Chapter 111, 113, or 115, Title 59. ‘Political subdivision’ includes the Municipal Association of South Carolina and the South Carolina Association of Counties when these organizations submit claims on behalf of a county or local governmental or quasi‑governmental entity. A political subdivision who submits a claim through an association is a claimant agency for the purpose of the notice and appeal provisions and other requirements of this chapter. A claimant agency also includes not only the State Ethics Commission, but also the House of Representatives Ethics Committee and the Senate Ethics Committee to the extent of any unpaid fines, or other monetary sanctions levied by these committees on behalf of their respective body.”

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

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