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INTRODUCED

January 31, 2018

**H. 4397**

Introduced by Rep. Cobb‑Hunter

L. Printed 1/31/18--S.

Read the first time January 31, 2018.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND AN ACT OF 2017, BEARING RATIFICATION NUMBER 127, RELATING TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE THREE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY INTO ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019, SO AS TO REVISE PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE BUDGET OF THE ORANGEBURG CONSOLIDATION TRANSITION COMMITTEE, AND TO REVISE CERTAIN OTHER PROVISIONS CONTAINING OBSOLETE 2017 LANGUAGE.

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

SECTION 1. SECTION 1.(A) of an Act of 2017, bearing Ratification Number 127 is amended to read:

“(A) Effective July 1, 2019, Orangeburg County shall consist of one school district to be known as the Orangeburg County School District. ~~To provide for continuity of representation throughout the consolidation process, the school district elections scheduled for 2017 are suspended, and a member’s term that would have expired following the 2017 school district elections is extended until July 1, 2019~~.”

SECTION 2. SECTION 6.(C) of an Act of 2017, bearing Ratification Number 127 is amended to read:

“(C) During the transition period, ~~from July 1, 2017, to~~ until July 1, 2019, no new general obligation bonds may be issued against the constitutional debt limitation of the present three districts, except in the case of an emergency. If new general obligation bonds are issued, then the board of trustees of the issuing school district must adopt an ordinance declaring the emergency and specifying the necessity of the issue.”

SECTION 3. SECTION 8.(D) of an Act of 2017, bearing Ratification Number 127 is amended to read:

“(D) ~~No later than November first,~~ The Orangeburg Consolidation Transition Committee shall prepare a budget to be submitted to the county ~~legislative delegation~~ council. When approved by the ~~delegation~~ council, the budget must be funded by the school districts, each paying their portion based on their proportionate average daily membership report for 2017, from funds provided by the districts from their respective budgets. The consolidated school district fiscal commission may increase the districts’ budgets to meet these requirements.”

SECTION 4. SECTION 9. of an Act of 2017, bearing Ratification Number 127 is amended to read:

“SECTION 9. All local acts concerning a school district of Orangeburg County inconsistent with the provisions of this act are repealed as of July 1, ~~2017~~ 2019, it being the intent of the General Assembly to have this act and the general law be the only provisions of law governing the school district of the county.”

SECTION 5. SECTION 2. of an Act of 2017, bearing Ratification Number 127 is amended to read:

“SECTION 2. The school district must be governed by a board of trustees of nine members, one of whom must be elected from each of the same seven defined single-member election districts as are members of the Orangeburg County Council. These seven board members' numeric district designations shall match that of the corresponding county council district from which the consolidated school district board member is elected, and a consolidated school district board member also must be a resident of the election district from which he is elected. In addition to the seven members elected from the single-member districts described above, two additional members must be elected from Orangeburg County at large. These at-large board members shall hold seats bearing designations eight and nine. The board member holding at-large seat eight must be a resident of Orangeburg County Council District One, Two, Three, or Four, and the board member holding at-large seat nine must be a resident of Orangeburg County Council District Five, Six, or Seven. Beginning in 2018, members of the board must be elected at nonpartisan elections to be conducted at the same time as the general election. Members of the board must be elected for four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualify, except that of the nine members of the board elected in 2018, the members elected from election districts one, three, five, seven, and at-large seat nine shall serve for initial terms to expire in November 2022, when their successors elected at the 2022 election qualify and take office. The members elected from election districts two, four, six, and at-large seat eight shall serve for initial terms to expire in November 2020, when their successors elected at the 2020 election qualify and take office. In the event of a vacancy on the board occurring for any reason other than the expiration of a term, the vacancy must be filled for the unexpired term through appointment by the county legislative delegation. All persons desiring to qualify as a candidate shall file written notice of candidacy with the county election commission on forms furnished by the commission. This notice of candidacy must be a sworn statement and must include ~~the candidate's name, age, election district in which he resides and from which he seeks election, voting precinct, period of residence in the county and election district, and other~~ information that the county election commission requires. The county commissioners of election shall conduct and supervise the elections for members of the board in the manner governed by the election laws of this State, mutatis mutandis. The commissioners shall prepare the necessary ballots, appoint managers for the voting precincts, and do all things necessary to carry out the elections, including the counting of ballots and declaring the results. The commission shall publish notices of the elections pursuant to Section 7-13-35. The results of the elections must be determined by the nonpartisan plurality method contained in Section 5-15-61. The members of the board elected in these nonpartisan elections shall take office one week following certification of their election pursuant to Section 59-19-315.”

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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