**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 30-5-10 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS, SO AS TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO HOLD THE OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 30-5-10 is amended by adding appropriately lettered new subsections to read:

“( ) In order to be eligible to hold the office of register of deeds, a person must:

(1) be a citizen of the United States and of this State;

(2) be a qualified elector of the applicable county;

(3) have a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution or at least four years' experience in the fields of law, real estate, or accounting, or as an employee in a register of deeds office in this State; and

(4) not have a pattern of failing to properly record in the time and manner prescribed in Section 30-5-90.

( ) A quo warranto action may be brought in accordance with Section 15-63-60 to determine a register of deeds’ eligibility to hold office.”

SECTION 2. Section 30-5-10( )(3), as added by this act, does not apply to a person who holds the office of register of deeds on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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