**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59‑29‑115 SO AS TO PROVIDE EVERY STUDENT IN AN ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL IN THIS STATE SUCCESSFULLY SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS A REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND RECEIPT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN THIS STATE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 59‑39‑100, RELATING TO UNITS OF STUDY REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, SO AS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER CORRESPONDINGLY AND MAKE THESE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE IN THE 2023‑2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. A. Article 1, Chapter 29, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 59‑29‑115. Every student in an accredited high school in this State successfully shall complete at least one unit of instruction on the subject of the United States government as a requirement for high school graduation and receipt of a high school diploma in this State. This required unit of study must be one of the twenty‑four and one‑half units required for graduation pursuant to Section 59‑39‑100(B).”

B. The provisions of this SECTION take effect on July 1, 2023.

SECTION 2. Section 59‑39‑100(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B) Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in School Year ~~1997‑1998~~ 2023‑2024, the number of units required for a high school diploma was increased to twenty‑four and one‑half units. To support the Profile of the Graduate, for students entering the ninth grade beginning with the ~~2018‑2019~~ 2023‑2024 School Year, the twenty‑four and one‑half units required are as prescribed in this section and in regulation by the State Board of Education.

(1) Students will continue to be required to earn the units of credit as prescribed in regulation and, when applicable, be offered national industry certifications or credentials.

(2) Coursework must be aligned with a student’s personalized diploma pathway. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations that outline the process and procedures for approval of courses to personalize pathways based on students’ postsecondary plans and include an annually updated course activity coding manual listing approved courses. The individualized graduation planning process must plan each student’s personalized pathway based on his postsecondary plans.”

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, this act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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