

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL'S REQUEST THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALLOW COUNTIES TO INCREASE THE MILLAGE CAP SET BY SECTION 6-1-320 OF THE S.C. CODE OF LAWS IN THE LIMITED MANNER SET OUT IN SENATE BILL 401

WHEREAS, Clarendon County, along with the vast majority of citizens, acknowledge that South Carolina counties' abilities to raise revenue are limited due to the passage of Act 388 in 2006; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that many counties have not raised their millage over the past couple of years due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many fire districts are shifting from volunteer to career (paid) firefighters and do not have the necessary revenue due to the millage cap restrictions mentioned below; and

WHEREAS, many counties are using outdated equipment and do not have the personnel to effectively provide critical and life-saving fire protection needs to the citizens of their county; and

WHEREAS, many counties are already close to their millage cap while others could potential raise millage, but the slight increase in revenue would not pay for the services needed; and

WHEREAS, S.401 would allow counties to adopt an ordinance or resolution to suspend the millage rate limitation set out in §6-1-320 for the sole purpose of supporting a fire protection district created pursuant to Chapter 19 of Title 4 or those fire districts created pursuant to Title 6; and

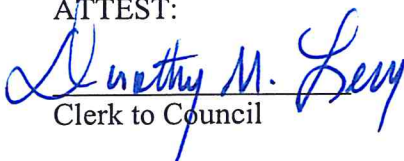
WHEREAS, S. 401 would provide a short-term solution by allowing for a one-time millage increase above the caps for fire protection within two years of the effective date of the legislation; and

WHEREAS, S. 401 is not a statewide tax increase but merely provides those counties in need with a resource to combat their already strained budgets caused by loss of revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clarendon County Council that it is in support of S. 401 and requests that all members of the South Carolina General Assembly take action to ensure the enactment of this critical piece of legislation during the 124th Session of the General Assembly.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 13th DAY OF Sept., 2021.

ATTEST:


Clerk to Council



CLARENDON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA


Chairman, Clarendon County Council