~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

April 22, 2010

**S. 1177**

Introduced by Senators Fair, Reese, Cromer, Campbell, Coleman, Shoopman, Williams and Rose

S. Printed 4/22/10--S.

Read the first time February 16, 2010.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8‑27‑10 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF A REPORT AS USED IN THE WHISTLEBLOWER STATUTE, TO PROVIDE THAT TESTIMONY GIVEN TO A STANDING COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE OF A STANDING COMMITTEE, OR A STUDY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS ENTITLED TO THE PROTECTIONS OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER STATUTE.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 27 of Title 8 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 8‑27‑35. An employee who gives testimony in good faith alleging waste or wrongdoing to any standing committee, subcommittee of a standing committee, or study committee of the Senate, or the House of Representatives, or a joint committee of the General Assembly is given the protections of this chapter. These protections are not extended to an employee who makes unfounded allegations or gives testimony not made in good faith.”

SECTION 2. Section 8‑27‑40 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 8‑27‑40. Notwithstanding the filing of a report pursuant to this chapter, a public body may dismiss, suspend, demote, or decrease the compensation of an employee for causes independent of either the filing of a protected report as described in Section 8‑27‑20 or for giving testimony as described in Section 8‑27‑35.”

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

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