**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 63-17-495 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IF A PERSON IS INCARCERATED FOR NONPAYMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT DURING THE TIME THE PERSON IS INCARCERATED AND FOR THREE MONTHS AFTER RELEASE, THE PERSON’S OBLIGATION TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT IS SUSPENDED, ARREARAGES DO NOT ACCRUE, AND EXISTING ARREARAGES ARE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 17, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63-17-495. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a person is incarcerated for nonpayment of child support in violation of a court order, from the date of arrest until three months after the date the person is released from incarceration, the person’s obligation to pay child support pursuant to that order:

(1) is suspended;

(2) arrearages do not accrue; and

(3) prior arrearages are held in abeyance.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect three months after approval by the Governor.

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