**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 38 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO REQUIRE PRODUCERS OF PACKAGED ICE WHO SELL DIRECTLY TO CUSTOMERS TO SUBMIT ICE SAMPLES MONTHLY TO A LABORATORY FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

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

SECTION 1. Title 39 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“CHAPTER 38

Packaged Ice

Section 39‑38‑10. (A) All retail ice merchants who produce ice products and sell directly to their customers shall submit monthly to an approved laboratory, a sample of each type of finished product for microbiological analysis. Packaged ice producers shall maintain these records for a period of not fewer than two years and make these records available to the Department of Health and Environmental Control upon request.

(B) The monthly laboratory analysis must include testing for fecal and total coliform organisms and Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC). Total coliforms must not be greater than 2.2 organisms/100 ml. using the Most Probable Number (MPN) method or not greater than 1 organism/100 ml. using the Membrane Filtration (MF) method. The HPC must not exceed 500 colonies/ml. Packaged ice must not have any fecal coliform‑positive samples.

(C) If finished product samples exceed the acceptable standards provided for in subsection (B), the packaged ice producer shall submit samples to an approved laboratory on a weekly basis until two consecutive acceptable samples are obtained. Copies of weekly sample analyses must be submitted to the Department of Health and Environmental Control upon receipt by the packaged ice producer.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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