**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 39‑5‑43 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS AN UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE FOR A MERCHANT OF GOODS OR SERVICES TO REFUSE TO RENDER THOSE GOODS OR SERVICES IF A CUSTOMER DECLINES TO DISCLOSE HIS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 5, Title 39 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 39‑5‑43. (A) It is an unfair trade practice pursuant to Section 39‑5‑20 for a merchant of goods or services to refuse to render those goods or services if a customer declines to disclose his social security number.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘merchant’ means an owner or operator of any retail mercantile establishment or any agent, employee, lessee, consignee, officer, director, franchisee or independent contractor of the owner or operator.”

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

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