**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑3910 SO AS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR THE TERM “CHILD”, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR THE OPERATOR OR AN ADULT PASSENGER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO LEAVE THE MOTOR VEHICLE WHEN A CHILD IS LEFT UNATTENDED, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 31, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑5‑3910. (A) As used in this section, ‘child’ means a person under the age of fifteen.

(B) It is unlawful for the operator or an adult passenger of a motor vehicle to leave the motor vehicle when a child is left unattended, regardless of whether the vehicle’s operator or adult passenger is charged with the care or custody of the child.

(C) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.”

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

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