**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 31, CHAPTER 5, TITLE 56 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TRAFFIC RULES, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑3815, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DRIVE CARELESSLY AS A RESULT OF BEING DISTRACTED, TO DEFINE CARELESSLY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A FIFTY DOLLAR FINE WITH NO POINTS ASSIGNED.

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 56‑5‑3815. (A) It is unlawful for a motor vehicle driver, while driving on a road, street, or highway of the State to drive carelessly as a result of reading, writing, personal grooming, interacting with passengers, pets or unsecured cargo, using a computer, using a wireless telephone, using personal communication technologies, or engaging in any other activity which causes the driver to be distracted.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘drive carelessly’ means operating a vehicle without care and caution and without full regard for the safety of persons or property.

(C) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined fifty dollars, no part of which may be suspended. Court costs, assessments, or surcharges may not be assessed against a person who violates a provision of this section, and no points, pursuant to Section 56‑1‑720, may be assigned to the driver.”

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

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