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Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 19, 2014

**H. 3623**

Introduced by Reps. Atwater and Toole

S. Printed 2/19/14--S.

Read the first time April 16, 2013.

**THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3623) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 38‑77‑127 so as to provide that an automobile insurer must verify the coverage of an insured, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

LAWRENCE K. GROOMS for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 38‑77‑127 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN AUTOMOBILE INSURER MUST VERIFY THE COVERAGE OF AN INSURED BY ELECTRONIC FORMAT TO A MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICE UPON REQUEST OF THE INSURED, AND TO PROVIDE A NECESSARY DEFINITION; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56‑10‑225, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN AN AUTOMOBILE, SO AS TO PERMIT THE USE OF A MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICE TO SATISFY THESE REQUIREMENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 77, Title 38 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 38‑77‑127. (A) An automobile insurer may issue verification concerning the existence of coverage it provides an insured in an electronic format to a mobile electronic device upon request of the insured.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘mobile electronic device’ means a portable computing and communication device that has a display screen with touch input or a miniature keyboard and is capable of receiving information transmitted in an electronic format.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑10‑225(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B) The owner of a motor vehicle must maintain proof of financial responsibility in the motor vehicle at all times, and it must be displayed upon demand of a police officer or any other person duly authorized by law. Evidence of financial responsibility may be provided by use of a mobile electronic device in a format issued by an automobile insurer. This section does not require that an automobile insurer issue verification concerning the existence of coverage it provides an insured in an electronic format. Information contained or stored in a mobile electronic device presented pursuant to this subsection is not subject to a search by a law enforcement officer except pursuant to the provisions of Section 17‑13‑140 providing for the issuance, execution, and return of a search warrant or pursuant to the express written consent of the lawful owner of the device.”

SECTION 3. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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