**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 15‑3‑550, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR DEFAMATION ACTIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A CAUSE OF ACTION FOR LIBEL OR SLANDER IS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE ACCRUED UNTIL TWO YEARS AFTER THE AGGRIEVED PARTY HAS DISCOVERED OR SHOULD HAVE DISCOVERED THE LIBEL OR SLANDER THAT IS THE BASIS OF THE CAUSE OF ACTION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 15‑3‑550 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 15‑3‑550. (A) Within two years:

(1) an action for libel, slander, or false imprisonment; and

(2) an action upon a statute for a forfeiture or penalty to the State.

(B) A cause of action for libel or slander is not considered to have accrued until two years after the aggrieved party has discovered or should have discovered the libel or slander that is the basis of the cause of action.”

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

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