**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 44‑89‑30, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CHAPTER DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITIONS OF “BIRTHING CENTER” AND “LAY MIDWIFE”; AND TO AMEND SECTION 44‑89‑60, RELATING TO REGULATION OF AND REPORTING BY BIRTHING CENTERS, SO AS TO REQUIRE A PHYSICIAN TO BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE CONSULTATION TO THE BIRTHING CENTER.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44‑89‑30(1) and (5) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(1) ‘Birth center’ or ‘birthing center’ means a facility or other place where human births are planned to occur. This does not include the usual residence of the mother or any facility which is licensed as a hospital.

(5) ‘~~Lay~~ Licensed midwife’ means an individual so licensed by the department.”

SECTION 2. Section 44‑89‑60(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3) A physician must be on call and available to provide medical assistance or consultation ~~at~~ to the birthing center at all times that it is serving the public.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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