**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 23‑1‑235 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO USE OR EMPLOY AN AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑1‑235. (A) As used in this section, ‘automatic number plate recognition’ means a mass surveillance method that uses optical character recognition images to read and record an image of a vehicle’s license plate.

(B) Notwithstanding another provision of law, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to use or employ an automatic number plate recognition system. A law enforcement agency that violates this provision must be fined one thousand dollars for each violation. The fine must be placed in the state general fund.”

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

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