**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16‑3‑600(B) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO ASSAULT AND BATTERY, TO ADD THAT ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE OCCURS WHEN A PERSON INJURES A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR CORRECTIONS OFFICER IN THE DISCHARGE OF OR BECAUSE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16‑3‑600(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B)(1) A person commits the offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature if the person unlawfully injures another person, and:

(a) great bodily injury to another person results; ~~or~~

(b) the act is accomplished by means likely to produce death or great bodily injury;~~.~~or

(c) the person injured is a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer or corrections officer, including a county or municipal corrections officer, during or because of the performance of his official duties.

(2) A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than twenty years.”

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

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