**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 23‑1‑250 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL RELEASE A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATED BY A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TO A RESPONSIBLE PARTY IN LIEU OF HAVING THE VEHICLE IMPOUNDED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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 23‑1‑250. A law enforcement officer shall release a motor vehicle operated by a person who has been taken into custody to a responsible party designated by the vehicle operator in lieu of having the vehicle removed by a towing contractor; provided there is no need to retain the vehicle for evidentiary purposes and that the designee must be able to remove the vehicle prior to the officer making initial contact with a towing contractor.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑