**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑17‑780 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO WEAR PANTS SAGGING MORE THAN THREE INCHES BELOW HIS ILEUM, TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION IS NOT GROUNDS FOR DENYING, SUSPENDING, OR REVOKING THE VIOLATOR’S PARTICIPATION IN A STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND TO PROVIDE JURISDICTION OF A VIOLATION IS VESTED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OR THE MAGISTRATES COURT.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 17, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑17‑780. (A) It is unlawful for a person to appear in public wearing his pants more than three inches below the crest of his ileum exposing his skin or undergarments.

(B) A person who violates the provisions of this section commits a noncriminal offense and is subject to a civil fine of up to twenty‑five dollars for a first offense, a civil fine of fifty dollars or not more than three hours of community service, or both, for a second offense, and a civil fine of seventy‑five dollars or not more than six hours of community service, or both, for a third or subsequent offense. Civil fines imposed pursuant to this section are subject to all applicable court costs, assessments, and surcharges.

(C) A violation of this section is not a criminal or delinquent offense and no criminal or delinquent record may be maintained.

(D) A violation of this section is not grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking a person’s participation in a state college or university financial assistance program including, but not limited to, a Life Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, HOPE Scholarship, or a needs‑based grant.

(E) Jurisdiction to hear a violation of this section is vested exclusively in the municipal court or the magistrates court, as appropriate. A hearing pursuant to this section must be placed on the court’s appropriate docket for traffic violations and not on the court’s docket for civil matters.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑