**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑13‑1630 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE UNLAWFUL ACT OF IMPORTING, POSSESSING, AND SELLING OF CERTAIN FISH, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MAY NOT PERFORM SUBSEQUENT STERILITY TESTS ON WHITE AMUR OR GRASS CARP HYBRIDS THAT HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE STERILE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CERTIFIED RESULTS OF STERILITY TESTS PERFORMED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ON WHITE AMUR OR GRASS CARP HYBRIDS ARE CONCLUSIVE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑13‑1630(C)(1) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(C)(1) The department may issue special permits for the stocking of sterile white amur or grass carp hybrids in the waters of this State. The special permits must certify that the permitee’s white amur or grass carp hybrids have been tested and determined to be sterile. The department may charge a fee of one dollar for each white amur or grass carp hybrid that measures five inches or longer or twenty‑five cents for each white amur or grass carp hybrid that measures less than five inches. The fee collected for sterility testing must be retained by the department and used to offset the costs of the testing. The department may not conduct subsequent sterility tests on fish that have been determined to be sterile. The certified results of sterility testing performed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on white amur or grass carp hybrids are conclusive and the department may not conduct additional sterility tests on those fish.”

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

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