**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8‑13‑320, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROHIBITION OF THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION UNTIL FINAL DISPOSITION OF AN ETHICS INVESTIGATION AND REQUIRE THAT THE INFORMATION MAY NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL A FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE HAS BEEN MADE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8‑13‑320(10)(g) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 387 of 2006, is further amended to read:

“(g) All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential until ~~final disposition of a matter~~ a finding of probable cause unless the respondent waives the right to confidentiality. The wilful release of confidential information before a finding of probable cause is a misdemeanor, and ~~any~~ a person releasing ~~such~~ confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year.”

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

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