**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑2785 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO FAIL TO STOP WHEN SIGNALED TO STOP BY A ROAD GUARD IN A SCHOOL ZONE, TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION IS A MISDEMEANOR AND A VIOLATOR MAY BE FINED AND IMPRISONED, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS IN SCHOOL ZONES THAT INFORM MOTORISTS OF THE HOURS A ROAD GUARD IS ON DUTY AND THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO STOP WHEN A ROAD GUARD SIGNALS A MOTORIST TO STOP.

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

SECTION 1. Article 21, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑5‑2785. (A) It is unlawful for a person to drive a motor vehicle in a school zone and fail to stop when signaled to stop by a road guard. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

(B) For purposes of this section a ‘school zone’ is the area between the first sign on the highway that informs a motorist of the existence of the school zone and the last sign that informs a motorist of the end of the school zone.

(C) The penalty imposed by this section applies only:

(1) if a sign is posted at the beginning of the school zone that states ‘SCHOOL ZONE ROAD GUARDS AHEAD FROM \_\_\_\_A.M. TO \_\_\_\_\_A.M. AND FROM \_\_\_\_P.M. TO \_\_\_\_P.M. $500.00 FINE OR 30 DAYS IMPRISONMENT FOR FAILURE TO STOP WHEN SIGNALED TO STOP’;

(2) to the area between the posted sign and the ‘END SCHOOL ZONE’ sign.

(D) The signs contained in this section may be posted at the discretion of the Department of Transportation.”

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

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