**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑4975 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE A VEHICLE THAT IS NO LONGER PERMITTED AND LICENSED AS AN AMBULANCE UNLESS THE VEHICLE’S EXTERIOR EQUIPMENT AND MARKINGS THAT DISTINGUISH IT AS AN AMBULANCE ARE REMOVED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCE AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 35, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑5‑4975. (A) It is unlawful for a person to operate a vehicle that is no longer permitted and licensed as an ambulance pursuant to Title 44 unless the vehicle’s exterior equipment and markings that distinguish it as an ambulance are removed. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than five years, or fined not less than five thousand dollars, or both.

(B) This section does not apply to an eleemosynary or not‑for‑profit organization that uses an ambulance that is no longer permitted and licensed, whose exterior markings have been removed, in parades, fund raising activities, and other official functions.”

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

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