**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 63‑7‑410, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT WHEN A PERSON IS MANDATED TO MAKE THESE REPORTS, SO AS TO ALSO PROVIDE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR FAILURE TO MAKE A REPORT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63‑7‑410 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 361 of 2008, is amended to read:

“Section 63‑7‑410. (A) A person required to report a case of child abuse or neglect or a person required to perform any other function under this article who knowingly fails to do so, or a person who threatens or attempts to intimidate a witness is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

(B) A person required to report a case of child abuse or neglect pursuant to this article who negligently fails to do so is liable for any civil damages proximately caused by the failure to report.”

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

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