**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑11‑735 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR STATE EMPLOYEES WHO IN A PERSONNEL ACTION HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED WITHOUT PAY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 11, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑11‑735. If a state employee participating in the state health and dental insurance plan is the subject of a personnel action suspending the employee without pay, then during that suspension and after coverage would otherwise lapse, the employee and any dependents covered by that employee remain covered by the state health and dental insurance plan upon timely payment by the suspended employee of the employee share of the premiums.”

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

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