**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 23‑3‑470, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER OR PROVIDE REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR A FIRST OFFENSE FROM THIRTY TO NINETY DAYS AND REQUIRE THE OFFENSE TO BE TRIED IN MAGISTRATES COURT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 23‑3‑470(B)(1) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 333 of 2008, is further amended to read:

“(1) A person convicted for a first offense is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than ~~thirty~~ ninety days, or both. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 22‑3‑540, 22‑3‑545, and 22‑3‑550, a person charged with a violation of this item must be tried in magistrates court.”

SECTION 2. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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