**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 48‑43‑395 SO AS TO PROVIDE OFFSHORE EXPLORATION, DRILLING, OR PRODUCTION OF OIL AND GAS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONTINGENT ON THE REMOVAL OF APPLICABLE FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS AND SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE, AND TO PROVIDE THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SHALL EXPEDITE AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION, DRILLING, OR PRODUCTION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2, Chapter 43, Title 48 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 48‑43‑395. (A) A person may engage in offshore exploration, drilling, or production of oil or gas in the Atlantic Ocean within the territorial jurisdiction of South Carolina contingent on the removal of applicable federal restrictions and subject to the requirements of this title.

(B) The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control shall expedite an application for a permit for offshore exploration, drilling, or production of oil and gas. The department shall grant or deny the license as soon as practicable after the receipt of a completed permit application.”

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

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