**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 6‑9‑55 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A BUILDING CODE PROVISION THAT REQUIRES AN AUTOMATIC RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM BE INSTALLED IN A NEW ONE‑FAMILY OR TWO‑FAMILY DWELLING MAY NOT BE ENFORCED, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PROSPECTIVE HOMEOWNERS MAY CHOOSE WHETHER TO HAVE AN AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLED, TO MAKE THE INSTALLATION OF AN AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE AVAILABLE WHERE REQUIRED BY THAT CODE, AND TO PROVIDE WHERE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION CONTROL EVEN WHEN THEY CONFLICT WITH ANOTHER LAW OR LOCAL ORDINANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 9, Title 6 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 6‑9‑55. (A) A building code provision that requires an automatic residential fire sprinkler system be installed in a new one‑family or two‑family dwelling may not be enforced.

(B) A prospective homeowner of a one‑family or two‑family dwelling in a jurisdiction in which installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system is required by a building code provision may choose whether to have the sprinkler system installed.

(C) A residential builder or general contractor of a one‑family or two‑family dwelling in a jurisdiction in which an automatic fire sprinkler system is required by the International Residential Code shall offer the homeowner the option of installing an approved automatic fire sprinkler system in accordance with the International Residential Code.

(D) To the extent that the provisions of this section conflict with another state law or local ordinance, this section must control.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2011.

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