**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑3‑655.5 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONDUCT BETWEEN MINORS, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑3‑655.5. (A) A person is guilty of unlawful sexual conduct between minors if the person is seventeen or eighteen years of age and engages in consensual sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal intercourse with a younger person who is at least fourteen years of age but less than sixteen years of age. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(B) A person convicted of a violation of this section is not subject to the provisions of Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 23.”

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founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action,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of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.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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