**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO ENACT “CAYLEE’S LAW” BY ADDING SECTION 16‑3‑1055 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE REPORTING OF A MISSING CHILD TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as “Caylee’s Law”.

SECTION 2. Article 11, Chapter 3, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑3‑1055. (A) A parent, spouse, guardian, legal custodian, or any other person responsible for a child shall submit a missing person report on a missing child to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction of the area in which the child became or is believed to have become missing, regardless of the circumstances, within twenty-four hours of when the person knew or should have known that the child became missing. A person who fails to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of a missing child in accordance with the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than five years.

(B) For the purposes of this section, ‘child’ means a person under the age of seventeen years.”

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

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