**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND TITLE 44 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO HEALTH, BY ADDING CHAPTER 137, TO ENACT “THE REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY SYNDROME EDUCATION ACT”, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CONCERNING THE SYNDROME, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTENTS OF A PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM, TO REQUIRE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL WORK WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS CONCERNING THE SYNDROME, TO ALLOW FOR PRIVATE FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS.

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

SECTION 1. Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Chapter 137

The Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Act

Section 44‑137‑10. As used in this chapter:

(1) ‘Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome’ means a neurologic syndrome of unknown etiology characterized by sever burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch, that, if untreated, results in permanent deformity and chronic pain.

(2) ‘Syndrome’ means reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome.

Section 44‑137‑20. The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall establish a program to promote awareness of the syndrome and the importance of early detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

Section 44‑137‑30. The public awareness program must utilize written materials and other forms of communication designed to provide education about the syndrome. The program’s materials must contain information concerning:

(1) the nature and possible causes of the syndrome;

(2) risk factors that may contribute to the manifestation of the syndrome;

(3) available treatment options, including the risks and benefits of treatment; and

(4) the availability of diagnostic, treatment, and support services in the State.

Section 44‑137‑40. The department shall work with health care providers, local public health agencies, and other appropriate government agencies to coordinate and promote professional education programs for lawyers, judges, arbitrators, and health care professionals concerning:

(1) the nature of the syndrome;

(2) current research on the syndrome;

(3) current diagnostic treatments;

(4) current medical and surgical treatment options; and

(5) the availability of diagnostic, treatment, and support services in the State.

Section 44‑137‑50. The department may accept gifts, bequests, devises, grants, donations of money, or real and personal property of whatever kind for its use in furthering the purposes of this chapter. However, no such gift or grant may be accepted upon the condition that it shall diminish an obligation due the department. The department may refuse to accept any such gift or grant and the acceptance of any such gift or grant shall not incur any obligation on the part of the State. The department may promulgate rules governing the disposition of such gifts and grants.”

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

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