**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑21‑85, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CONDITIONS UPON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A VESSEL DISPLAYING, REFLECTING, OR FLASHING A BLUE LIGHT, SO AS TO REVISE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A VESSEL WHILE DISPLAYING A BLUE LIGHT, AND TO REVISE THE PENALTY PROVISION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑21‑85 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑21‑85. ~~No~~ A person shall not operate ~~any~~ a vessel displaying, ~~reflecting~~ or using a rotating, strobing, flashing ~~a~~ , or intermittently reflecting blue light consistent with those used by a law enforcement agency unless a duly commissioned law enforcement officer is on board.

The operator of ~~any~~ a vessel being approached by a vessel flashing a blue light with a law enforcement officer on board shall stop or maneuver in ~~such~~ a way as to permit boarding, so far as possible without endangering his ~~own~~ vessel, and not begin normal movement again until directed by the law enforcement officer or until the vessel flashing a blue light has cleared the immediate area.

The operator of ~~any~~ a vessel approaching ~~any~~ an area where a vessel flashing a blue light with a law enforcement officer on board is located or patrolling shall slow his vessel to a no wake speed and shall maintain ~~such~~ the speed until clear of the area.

~~Any~~ A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, ~~shall be punished as provided in Section 50‑21‑150~~ must be fined not less than twenty‑five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days for each violation.”

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

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