**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 15‑32‑245 SO AS TO DEFINE CHIROPRACTIC CARE, AND TO REQUIRE SATISFACTION OF DEBT FOR CHIROPRACTIC CARE INCURRED FOR INJURIES GIVING RISE TO A CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION FROM A RELATED AWARD, JUDGMENT, OR SETTLEMENT TO THE PLAINTIFF WHO SUSTAINED THE INJURIES BEFORE THE PLAINTIFF MAY RECEIVE ANY OF THE AWARD, JUDGMENT, OR SETTLEMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 32, Title 15 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 15‑32‑245. (A) For the purposes of this section, ‘chiropractic care’ means the adjustment to the articulations of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the restoration and maintenance of health and the normal regimen and rehabilitation of the patient without the use of drugs or surgery.

(B) Where a plaintiff seeks chiropractic care for the treatment of injuries in connection with ongoing litigation, the debt incurred by the plaintiff to the chiropractor for that treatment must be satisfied before an award from the defendant or their insurer is relinquished to the plaintiff.

(C) Upon entry of judgment in favor of a plaintiff indebted to a chiropractor for chiropractic care stemming from injuries which gave rise to the underlying litigation, or when the parties reach a settlement, the defendant or his insurer must pay from that judgment or settlement any debt owed by the plaintiff for chiropractic care. The remainder of the judgment or settlement then must be remitted to the plaintiff upon complete satisfaction of the chiropractic care debt.”

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

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