**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16‑3‑600, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON THAT UNLAWFULLY INJURES A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER, OR FIREFIGHTER, COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16‑3‑600(B)(1) of the 1976 Code, is amended to read:

(B)(1) A person commits the offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature if the person unlawfully injures another person, and:

(a) great bodily injury to another person results; ~~or~~

(b) the act is accomplished by means likely to produce death or great bodily injury; or

(c) the injured person is a law enforcement officer, emergency medical service provider, or firefighter, and the injuring person knows or has reason to know of the injured person’s status.”

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founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil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this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.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