**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑5‑1705, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAW OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CATCH LIMITS FOR CERTAIN SPECIES OF FISH, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TAKE OR POSSESS A GREAT WHITE SHARK (CARCHARODON CARCHARIAS), AND TO PROVIDE THAT ANY GREAT WHITE SHARK THAT IS CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND MUST REMAIN COMPLETELY IN THE WATER AT ALL TIMES WHILE BEING UNHOOKED AND RELEASED.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑1705(L) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 7 of 2013, is further amended to read:

“(L) It is unlawful to take or possess a great white shark (Carcharodon carcharias). Any great white shark that is caught must be released immediately and must remain completely in the water at all times while being unhooked and released.

(M) The possession limits do not apply to the possession or sale of properly identified fish imported by seafood dealers or produced by permitted mariculture operations, or to possession as allowed under permit authorized by this chapter.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑