**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑1‑55, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON WHO HOLDS A BEGINNER’S PERMIT OR A RESTRICTED DRIVER’S LICENSE TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE USING A CELLULAR TELEPHONE OR TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE; AND TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE THROUGH A SCHOOL ZONE WHILE USING A CELLULAR TELEPHONE OR TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE WHEN THE SCHOOL ZONE’S WARNING LIGHTS HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑1‑55. (A) It is unlawful for a person who holds a beginner’s permit or a restricted driver’s license to drive a motor vehicle while using a cellular telephone or text messaging device.

(B) It is unlawful for a person to drive a motor vehicle through a school zone while using a cellular telephone or text messaging device when the school zone’s warning lights have been activated.

(C) A person who violates a provision contained in this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than 30 days, or fined not more than $500, or both.”

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

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