**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 43‑5‑17 SO AS TO PROHIBIT AN ALIEN FROM RECEIVING FEDERAL BENEFITS WITHOUT PROOF OF SATISFACTORY IMMIGRATION STATUS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 5, Title 43 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 43‑5‑17. (A) No alien may receive a federal public benefit, as the term is defined in 8 U.S.C. 1611(c), the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, unless that alien has a ‘satisfactory immigration status’ pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320b‑7.

(B) An alien with satisfactory immigration status pursuant to subsection (A) includes, but is not limited to, a lawful permanent resident, an alien admitted to the United States as a refugee, an alien who is granted asylum by the United States, an alien who is admitted to the United States as a victim of a severe form of trafficking, and any other alien with a legal right to be present in the United States.

(C) The department shall verify the immigration status for a person applying for federal public benefits who is identified as an alien on the application by using the United States Department of Homeland Security Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program.”

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

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