**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 19, TITLE 63 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO OFFENSES INVOLVING MINORS, BY ADDING SECTION 63‑19‑2470 TO PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER WHO ARE CONVICTED OF AN OFFENSE GENERALLY RELATED TO THE MISTREATMENT OF ANIMALS MUST BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE PSYCHIATRIC OR PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Article 23, Chapter 19, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63‑19‑2470. A court must order that a child twelve years of age, or younger, who is convicted of, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is adjudicated for an offense generally related to the mistreatment of animals, including, but not limited to violations of Section 16‑17‑650, Section 47‑3‑930, Section 47‑3‑960, Chapter 1 of Title 47, Chapter 27 of Title 16, or Article 11, Chapter 3 of Title 47 must be given appropriate psychiatric or psychological treatment to address the circumstances of the offense for which the child was convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or was adjudicated.”

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

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