**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 17‑1‑5, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PROSECUTION FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENSE MUST BE COMMENCED NO LATER THAN TWELVE YEARS AFTER THE DATE THE OFFENSE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 17 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 17‑1‑5. (A) Unless otherwise specified by statute, a prosecution for a criminal offense must be commenced no later than twelve years after the date the offense is alleged to have occurred.

(B) If the victim of the criminal offense is less than eighteen years of age on the date the offense is alleged to have occurred, the prosecution for the offense must be commenced no later than twelve years after the victim becomes eighteen years of age.”

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

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