**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 63‑7‑920, RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS AND CASE DETERMINATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OR LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR BOTH, MAY COLLECT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MILITARY AFFILIATION OF THE PERSON HAVING THE CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF THE CHILD SUBJECT TO AN INVESTIGATION AND MAY SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE MILITARY AUTHORITIES; AND TO AMEND SECTION 63‑11‑80, RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WITHIN CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES, TO PROVIDE THAT NO OFFICER, AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OR A CHILD WELFARE AGENCY SHALL DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DISCLOSE INFORMATION LEARNED ABOUT THE CHILDREN, THEIR PARENTS OR RELATIVES OR OTHER PERSONS HAVING CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF THEM, EXCEPT IN CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF PERSONS WHO HAVE MILITARY AFFILIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63‑7‑920 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“(F) The department or law enforcement, or both, may collect information concerning the military affiliation of the person having custody or control of the child subject to an investigation and may share this information with the appropriate military authorities pursuant to Section 63‑11‑80.”

SECTION 2. Section 63‑11‑80 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 63‑11‑80. No officer, agent or employee of the department or a child welfare agency shall directly or indirectly disclose information learned about the children, their parents or relatives or other persons having custody or control of them, except in cases involving children in the custody or control of persons who have military affiliation.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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