**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 11, TITLE 50 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF GAME, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO PROVIDE THAT IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON ON A DOG HUNT TO PERMIT HIS DOG TO ENTER UPON THE LAND OF ANOTHER OVER WHICH THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE HUNTING RIGHTS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEFINITION OF “ON A DOG HUNT”, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEFINITION OF “TAKE”, AND TO ASSESS A CIVIL FINE NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑11‑775. (A)(1) It shall be unlawful for a person on a dog hunt to permit his dog to enter upon the land of another over which the person does not have hunting rights. The provisions of this section apply whether the person in control of the dog intentionally or unintentionally releases, allows, or otherwise causes the dog to enter upon the land.

(2) As used in this section, a person is ‘on a dog hunt’ if the person is using dogs to assist in taking a game animal, hog, or coyote.

(3) As used in the section, ‘taking’ means harassing intentionally, hunting, capturing, gathering, harvesting, removing, catching, wounding, or killing, or attempting to harass, hunt, capture, gather, harvest, remove, catch, wound, or kill.

(B) A person who violates this section shall be assessed a civil fine in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. Fees received for these violations shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund of the State. Violations of this section do not by themselves trigger the penalties imposed under section 50‑11‑770.

(C) It is not a violation of this section if a person, with the landowner’s permission, uses a single dog to recover a dead or wounded animal on the land of another and maintains sight and voice contact with the dog.

(D)(1) The provisions of this section do not apply to bear hunting.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to Game Zones 1 or 2.”

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

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