**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑6‑5000, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT A HUSBAND AND WIFE HAVE THE SAME STATE FILING STATUS AS FEDERAL STATUS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE TERMS “HUSBAND”, “WIFE”, AND “SPOUSE” INCLUDE LEGAL SAME‑SEX MARRIAGES FROM THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE AND MUST NOT BE CONSTRUED TO BE GENDER SPECIFIC.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12‑6‑5000 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( ) For purposes of this chapter, the terms ‘husband’, ‘wife’, and ‘spouse’ include legal same‑sex marriages from this State or any other state and must not be construed to be gender specific.”

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

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