**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 48‑20‑125 SO AS TO SET MINIMUM DISTANCES THAT A MINE OPERATOR MUST MAINTAIN WHILE CONDUCTING BLASTING ACTIVITIES.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 20, Title 48 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 48‑20‑125. (A) An operator shall maintain a minimum distance of one half‑mile from any residential developments, schools, churches, hospitals, and commercial and industrial buildings when conducting blasting. For all other blasting, an operator shall maintain a minimum distance of one quarter‑mile from contiguous property boundaries.

(B) The department shall review the operator’s plans prior to issuing or amending an operating permit to ensure compliance with this section.

(C) The department shall revoke an operator’s operating permit if the operator violates this section.

(D) The provisions of this section do not apply to blasting operations in existence before the effective date of this section.”

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

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