**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 38‑71‑295 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THAT AN ACCIDENT OR HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN SHALL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COVERAGE TO A FIREFIGHTER WHO IS UNABLE TO WORK AS A RESULT OF AN INJURY SUSTAINED IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE ORIGINAL INSURER SHALL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 71, Title 38 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 38‑71‑295. (A) An accident or health insurance plan shall continue to provide coverage to a firefighter who is unable to work as a result of an injury sustained in the course of employment.

(B) If the firefighter recovers or is able to obtain new accident or health insurance coverage, the original insurer shall continue to provide benefits for injuries sustained in the course of employment as a firefighter, including cancer treatments.”

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

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