**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 63‑3‑530, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO JURISDICTION OF THE FAMILY COURT, SO AS TO REQUIRE FAMILY COURT MEDIATORS, AND OTHER COURT NEUTRALS APPOINTED IN FAMILY COURT CASES DECIDED BY ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, TO BE AN ATTORNEY WHO IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63‑3‑530(A)(39) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(39) to require the parties to engage in court‑mandated mediation mediated by an attorney who is a member in good standing of the South Carolina Bar pursuant to ~~Family Court Mediation Rules~~ South Carolina Supreme Court rules applicable to family court mediation or to issue consent orders authorizing parties to engage in any form of alternate dispute resolution mediated or arbitrated by an attorney who is a member in good standing of the South Carolina Bar which does not violate the rules of the court or the laws of South Carolina; provided, however, the parties in consensual mediation must designate any arbiter or mediator by unanimous consent subject to the approval of the court;”

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

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