**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16-17-722, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF FILING OF FALSE POLICE REPORTS, SO AS TO INCLUDE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE PURVIEW OF THE OFFENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16-17-722 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 16-17-722. (A) It is unlawful for a person, including a law enforcement officer, to knowingly file a false police report.

(B) A person who violates subsection (A) by falsely reporting a felony, or a law enforcement officer who files a false police report alleging a felony, is guilty of a felony and upon conviction must be imprisoned for not more than five years or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both.

(C) A person who violates subsection (A) by falsely reporting a misdemeanor, or a law enforcement officer who files a false police report alleging a misdemeanor, is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be imprisoned not more than thirty days or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both.

(D) In imposing a sentence under this section, the judge may require the offender to pay restitution to the investigating agency to offset costs incurred in investigating the false police report.”

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

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