**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 20 TO CHAPTER 3, TITLE 16 SO AS TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CRIME CONTAINED IN THIS CHAPTER WITH THE INTENT TO ASSAULT, INTIMIDATE, OR THREATEN A PERSON BECAUSE OF HIS STATUS AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 20

Hate Crimes Against Law Enforcement Officers

Section 16‑3‑2210. (A) A person who commits an offense contained in this chapter with the intent to assault, intimidate, or threaten a person because of his status as a law enforcement officer is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned not less than two years nor more than fifteen years, or both. Two thousand dollars of a fine and two years of a sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this article may not be suspended.

(B) A sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section is in addition to any other sentence imposed for another offense and is not a lesser-included offense of another offense; and any sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section must be served consecutively.”

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

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