**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND TITLE 48, CHAPTER 20 OF THE 1976 CODE BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO SET MINIMUM DISTANCES A MINE OPERATOR MUST MAINTAIN WHEN CONDUCTING BLASTING.

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

SECTION 1. Title 48, Chapter 20 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.”

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

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