**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 19, TITLE 56 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PROTECTION OF TITLES TO AND INTERESTS IN MOTOR VEHICLES, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑19‑482 TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSFER A MOTOR VEHICLE DAMAGED IN A FLOOD WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE DAMAGE IN WRITING AND DEFINING FLOOD VEHICLE AND ADDING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A VEHICLE AS FLOODED.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑19‑482. (A) It shall be unlawful for any transferor of a motor vehicle to transfer a motor vehicle when the transferor has knowledge that the vehicle is, or was, a flood vehicle, without disclosing that fact in writing to the transferee prior to the transfer of the vehicle.

(B) ‘Flood vehicle’ means a motor vehicle that has been submerged or partially submerged in water causing damage to the body, engine, or transmission.

(C) A person violating this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, for a first offense, must be fined not less than two nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both. For a second or subsequent offense, the fine must not be less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.”

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

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