**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑100, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PERSONS WHO MUST SIGN AN APPLICATION OF AN UNEMANCIPATED MINOR FOR A BEGINNER’S PERMIT, INSTRUCTION PERMIT, OR DRIVER’S LICENSE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT MUST BE SIGNED BY A PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR AN UNEMANCIPATED MINOR’S WELFARE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56‑1‑100 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑100. (A) The application of an unemancipated minor for a beginner’s permit, instruction permit, or driver’s license must be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths by ~~the father, mother, or guardian or, for all other minors, by a responsible adult who is willing to assume the obligation imposed under this article upon a person signing the application of a minor~~ a person responsible for the unemancipated minor’s welfare. Upon the extension of a permit pursuant to Section 56‑1‑50, authorization by the father, mother, guardian, or a responsible adult is not required.

(B) As contained in this section, a person responsible for an unemancipated minor’s welfare includes the minor’s parent, guardian, foster parent, an operator, employee, or caregiver, as defined by Section 63‑13‑20, of a public or private residential home, institution, agency, or childcare facility, or an adult who has assumed the role or responsibility of a parent or guardian for the minor, but who does not necessarily have legal custody of the minor. A person whose only role is as a caregiver and whose contact is only incidental with a minor, such as a babysitter or a person who has only incidental contact but may not be a caretaker, has not assumed the role or responsibility of a parent or guardian. An investigation pursuant to Section 63‑7‑920 must be initiated when the information contained in a report otherwise sufficient under this section does not establish whether the person has assumed the role or responsibility of a parent or guardian for the minor.”

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

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