**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 24‑21‑230 AND 24‑21‑280, BOTH AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT, DUTIES, AND POWERS OF DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES’ AGENTS, HEARING OFFICERS, AND STAFF, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT MAY EMPLOY OFFENDER SUPERVISION SPECIALISTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE REGULATIONS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THESE EMPLOYEES, AND PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFYING OFFENDERS AS STANDARD AND LOW‑RISK, AND TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF AN OFFENDER SUPERVISION SPECIALIST.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24‑21‑230 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 273 of 2010, is further amended by adding the following appropriately lettered subsection at the end to read:

“( ) The director, in his discretion, may employ offender supervision specialists to oversee the supervision of standard and low‑risk offenders. The department shall promulgate regulations for the qualifications of offender supervision specialists and procedures for classifying offenders as standard and low‑risk offenders based on criminal risk factors.”

SECTION 2. Section 24‑21‑280 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 154 of 2016, is further amended by adding the following appropriately lettered subsection at the end:

“( ) Offender supervision specialists have the same duties and authority granted to probation agents, except for the authority granted in subsection (B).”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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