**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑25‑130 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL, AND CRIMINAL IMMUNITY FOR PHYSICIANS WHO REPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATIONS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS RESULTING FROM A REPORT INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑25‑130. A physician who reports domestic violence or participates in an investigation or judicial proceedings resulting from a report involving domestic violence, acting in good faith, is immune from administrative, civil, and criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of these actions. In all such administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings, good faith is rebuttably presumed. Immunity pursuant to the provisions of this section extends to full disclosure by the physician of facts which gave the physician reason to believe that the victim’s physical or mental health or welfare had been or might be adversely affected by acts of domestic violence.”

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

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