**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, TITLE 47 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE STATE LIVESTOCK-POULTRY HEALTH COMMISSION, BY ADDING SECTION 47-4-65, TO PROVIDE THAT A LIVE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY SUIDAE (PIG) TRANSPORTED ON A PUBLIC ROAD OR WATERWAY IN THIS STATE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL FORM OF IDENTIFICATION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE STATE VETERINARIAN FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO MISUSE OR ALTER A PERMIT, TAG, OR OFFICIAL FORM OF IDENTIFICATION; TO AMEND SECTION 50-16-25 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE UNLAWFUL RELEASE OF PIGS AND PERMIT EXCEPTIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS, BUY, SELL, OFFER FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR TRANSPORT A PIG TAKEN FROM THE WILD UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO RELEASE A PIG INTO THE WILD; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 50-9-655 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO A PIG TRANSPORT AND RELEASE PERMIT AND A PIG ENCLOSURE PERMIT.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 4, Title 47 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 47‑4‑65. (A) A live member of the family Suidae (pig) transported on a public road or waterway in this State must be accompanied by an official form of identification that is approved by the State Veterinarian for this purpose.

(B) It is unlawful for a person to misuse or alter a permit, tag, or form of identification issued pursuant to this title, or to issue, obtain, or attempt to obtain a permit, tag, or form of identification by fraud or misrepresentation. A person misuses identification under this section if he uses identification that is not assigned to him, uses identification assigned to another, knowingly provides identification to a person other than the owner, or engages in any other activity to circumvent this section.

(C) Pigs that do not leave the premises of their owners are not subject to the identification requirement of this section.

(D) Each violation of subsection (B) constitutes a separate offense.”

SECTION 2. Section 50-16-25 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50-16-25. ~~(A)~~ It is unlawful to:

(1) possess, buy, sell, offer for sale, or transfer~~, release, or transport for the purpose of release~~ a live member of the family Suidae (pig) ~~into~~ taken from the wild~~.~~;

(2) transport a live pig on a public road or waterway in this State unless the pig is accompanied by an official form of identification, pursuant to Section 47-4-65;

(3) import a pig into this State unless the pig is a member of the Sus scrofa species and is imported pursuant to Section 47-6-50; or

(4) ~~A person who holds a valid permit, issued by the Department of Natural Resources, for the taking, transporting, and releasing of a pig from a free roaming population or his agent may capture and release a free roaming pig so long as: (1) the permit holder has express permission from the landowner to capture and transport free roaming pigs from the tract on which the free roaming pig is to be captured, (2) the free roaming pig is captured, transported, and released pursuant to a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources, and (3) the pig is released on the same tract on which the pig was captured or into a permitted pig enclosure utilized for hunting purposes. Under no circumstances may a free roaming pig be released in a county other than the county in which the pig was captured.~~

~~(B)~~ ~~All free roaming pigs captured pursuant to a permit must be tagged at the point of capture as prescribed by the department and the tags must remain affixed to the pigs. Pig hunting enclosures must be permitted by the department at a cost of fifty dollars annually.~~

~~(C)~~ ~~It is unlawful to transport~~ release a live pig ~~captured in~~ into the wild ~~except as permitted by this section~~.”

SECTION 3. Section 50-9-655 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

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