**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 58‑1‑70 SO AS TO ENACT THE “SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC UTILITY EMPLOYEE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT”, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 27, TITLE 8 REGARDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WHO REPORT CERTAIN VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION ALSO SHALL APPLY TO THE EMPLOYEES OF A PUBLIC UTILITY WHO REPORT VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION, AND TO DEFINE PUBLIC UTILITY.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 58 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 58‑1‑70. (A) This section may be cited as the ‘South Carolina Public Utility Employee Whistleblower Protection Act’.

(B) Notwithstanding another provision of law, the provisions of Chapter 27, Title 8 regarding public employees who report violations of state or federal law or regulation or other wrongdoings also shall apply to the employees of a public utility who report violations of state or federal law or regulation or other wrongdoings.

(C) For purposes of this section, ‘public utility’ means public utility as defined in Section 58‑5‑10, or electrical utility as defined in Section 58‑27‑10.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to qualifying reports of violations or other wrongdoings made after the effective date of this act.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑