**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 15, TITLE 7 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO ABSENTEE VOTING, BY ADDING SECTION 7-15-387, TO PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM KNOWINGLY COLLECTING VOTED OR UNVOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 15, Title 7 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 7-15-387. A person who is not authorized to return an absentee ballot as prescribed in Section 7-15-385 and who knowingly collects an absentee voter’s ballot is guilty of election misconduct pursuant to Section 7-25-190. For the purposes of this section, ‘collect’ means to gain possession or control of an absentee ballot that is either blank or has been completed by an absentee voter.”

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

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