**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 8‑13‑540, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE MANNER IN WHICH ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS ARE CONDUCTED, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN ETHICS ENFORCEMENT ACTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 8 SHALL TOLL THE APPLICABLE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8‑13‑540(A)(4) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(4) Action may not be taken on a complaint filed more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred unless the person alleged to have committed the violation, by fraud or other device, prevents discovery of the violation. Commencement of an ethics enforcement action pursuant to the provisions of this article shall toll the applicable statute of limitations.”

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

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