**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 63‑3‑605 SO TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDING JUDGE FOR ANY FAMILY COURT HEARING INVOLVING A CHILD IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IS THE INITIATING PARTY TO READ INTO THE RECORD THE NUMBER OF CONTINUANCES PREVIOUSLY GRANTED IN THE MATTER, THE DATES OF THE CONTINUANCES, AND THE REASONS FOR THE CONTINUANCES.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 3, Title 63 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 63‑3‑605. At any proceeding involving a child in which the Department of Social Services is the initiating party pursuant to any chapter of Title 63, the presiding judge shall read into the record the number of continuances previously granted in the matter, the dates on which the continuances were granted, and the reasons the continuances were granted.”

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

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