**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16‑17‑720, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF IMPERSONATING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, SO AS TO REMOVE THE EXCEPTION FOR A CITIZEN’S ARREST; AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 17‑13‑10 AND 17‑13‑20 BOTH RELATING TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A CITIZEN MAY MAKE AN ARREST.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16‑17‑720 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 16‑17‑720. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person other than a duly authorized law enforcement officer to represent to any person that he is a law enforcement officer and, acting upon such representation, to arrest or detain any person, search any building or automobile or in any way impersonate a law enforcement officer or act in accordance with the authority commonly given to such officers. ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a private citizen from making a citizen’s arrest in accordance with the laws of this State.~~

Any person ~~violating~~ who violates the provisions of this section ~~shall be deemed~~ is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, ~~shall~~ must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than one year.”

SECTION 2. Sections 17‑13‑10 and 17‑13‑20 of the 1976 Code are repealed.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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