**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑29‑45 SO AS TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO OPT OUT OF CERTAIN VACCINATIONS BASED ON A MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED HEALTH CONDITION OR A RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR PRACTICE.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑29‑45. Any vaccination offered by the Department of Health and Environmental Control as part of any mass immunization project to protect against infectious disease, or to prevent the spread of a pandemic or a contagious or possibly contagious disease, only may be administered to those individuals who do not opt out of the vaccination based on a medically diagnosed health condition or religious belief or practice. For purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Infectious disease’ has the same meaning as defined in Section 44‑4‑130.

(2) ‘Pandemic’ means an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area that affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population including, but not limited to, COVID‑19.”

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

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