**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, TITLE 58 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES, SERVICES, AND CARRIERS, BY ADDING SECTION 58‑1‑70, TO REQUIRE THAT A PUBLIC UTILITY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF REPAIRS TO THE PORTION OF A SERVICE LINE FROM THE UTILITY’S SERVICE METER TO THE POINT OF ENTRY OF THE SERVED FACILITY OR STRUCTURE AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 58 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 58‑1‑70. A public utility, as defined in Section 58‑5‑10, shall be responsible for repairing damage to a service line to a served facility or structure from the point where the line exits the utility’s metering device to the point where it enters the facility or structure unless it can be documented that the damage is the direct result of an act or omission on the part of the owner or lessee of the facility or structure. A public utility may purchase insurance to cover such repair costs based on a risk assessment approved by the Public Service Commission but shall not increase rates or fees to the ratepayer to offset the cost of the insurance or any repair costs.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑