**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, TITLE 16, OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON, BY ADDING ARTICLE 21 TO PROVIDE FOR ENHANCED PENALTIES IF AN OFFENSE IS COMMITTED AGAINST A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 21

Law Enforcement Protection

Section 16-3-2300. Unless an offense contained in this chapter carries a greater penalty, a person who commits an offense contained in this chapter against a law enforcement officer is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, and imprisoned not less than two years nor more than fifteen years. Two thousand dollars of a fine and two years of a sentence imposed pursuant to the provisions of this article may not be suspended.”

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

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