**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑81‑80 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS BY LONG‑TERM CARE FACILITIES TO RESOLVE CLAIMS OF RESIDENTS FOR INJURY OR OTHER DAMAGES OCCURRING AT THE LONG‑TERM CARE FACILITY.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 81, Title 44, of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑81‑80. It is prohibited under the laws of this State for a long‑term care facility to include in any contract or other agreement signed by or on behalf of a resident or prospective resident a provision requiring the arbitration of any claims for injury or other damages occurring while the person is a resident of or receives care at the long‑term care facility. Any such contract, or provision of a contract, requiring arbitration is void ab initio.”

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

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