**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, TITLE 58 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES, SERVICES, AND CARRIERS, BY ADDING SECTION 58‑1‑60, TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC UTILITY FROM INCLUDING IN ITS RATE BASE OR OTHERWISE RECOVER FROM ITS CUSTOMERS ANY LEGAL FEES PAID BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY FOR A MATTER IN WHICH THE PUBLIC UTILITY WAS FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL STATUTE, REGULATION, OR ORDINANCE.

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 58‑1‑60. A public utility, as defined in Section 58‑3‑5, that has rates subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission shall not be permitted to include as a part of its rate base nor otherwise recover from its customers any legal fees paid by the public utility for a matter in which the public utility was found to have violated a federal, state, or local statute, regulation, or ordinance.”

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

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