**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 8‑11‑56 SO AS TO PROVIDE HAZARD PAY FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WORKING IN FRONTLINE POSITIONS DURING A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY, A DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR BOTH, AND TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 11, Title 8 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 8‑11‑56. (A) For purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Frontline public employee’ means a person:

(a) employed by a state agency or state institution, a political subdivision of the State, or a public school district; and

(b) who routinely works directly, in person with nonpublic employees in the course of his employment.

(2) ‘State of emergency’ means a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to Section 25‑1‑440.

(3) ‘Public health emergency’ means a public health emergency declared by the Department of Health and Environmental Control pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act.

(B) A frontline public employee working during a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or both, shall receive hazard compensation throughout the applicable emergency period, which must be paid at a rate equal to twice the amount of his normal compensation.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑