**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 27‑40‑250 SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT A TENANT AND LANDLORD ENGAGE IN MEDIATION AFTER THE EJECTION ACTION IS INSTITUTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

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

SECTION 1. Subarticle 3, Article 1, Chapter 40, Title 27 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 27‑40‑250. After an eviction action is instituted by the landlord, the parties shall participate in a mediation conference or other form of alternative dispute resolution within thirty days. The court may not schedule a hearing until an affidavit is filed by both parties stating the date of the mediation conference and attesting that the mediation conference was unsuccessful under penalty of perjury.”

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

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