**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 26 TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 1 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE STATE FROM ORDERING THE CLOSURE OF PUBLIC BEACHES AND PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS POINTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 6‑1‑190 SO AS TO PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM ORDERING THE CLOSURE OF PUBLIC BEACHES AND PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS POINTS.

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

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

“Article 26

Prohibition on Closures

Section 1‑1‑1700. Notwithstanding another provision of law, the State or any other political subdivision is prohibited from ordering the closure of public beaches or public beach access points, to include any adjacent or associated public parking lots or other public facilities except for closures due to inclement weather or natural disasters.”

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 6 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 6‑1‑190. Notwithstanding another provision of law, local governments, including counties and municipalities, are prohibited from ordering the closure of public beaches or public beach access points, to include any adjacent or associated public parking lots or other public facilities except for closures due to inclement weather or natural disasters.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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