**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 4‑9‑30 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE POWERS OF A COUNTY GOVERNMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY TO ADOPT BY ORDINANCE A REQUIREMENT THAT A RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNER SHALL KEEP A LOT OR OTHER PROPERTY CLEAN AND FREE OF RUBBISH, TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, AND TO PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4‑9‑30 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding a new item at the end to read:

“(18)(a) to provide by ordinance that the owner of a lot or property in the county, whether residential or commercial, shall keep that lot or property clean and free of rubbish, debris, and other unhealthy conditions that constitute a public nuisance, provided that:

(i) farmland; land used for the production of food, fiber, or other agricultural products; and archaeological resources, to include artifacts, relics, burial objects, or material remains of past human life or activities, are specifically excluded from an ordinance enacted pursuant to this item; and

(ii) an ordinance enacted pursuant to this item must not be solely for aesthetic purposes; and

(b) to provide by ordinance for notification to an owner of conditions needing correction, to require that the owner take action as necessary to correct the conditions, to provide the terms and conditions under which an employee of the county or a person employed for that purpose may go on the property to correct the conditions, and to provide that not more than the actual cost of these corrections becomes a lien upon the real estate and is collectable as a county tax.”

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

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