COMMITTEE REPORT

January 27, 2022

**H. 4538**

Introduced by Reps. Whitmire, Bustos, Forrest and Hixon

S. Printed 1/27/22--H.

Read the first time January 11, 2022.

**THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL**

**RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 4538) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 50‑1‑320 so as to prohibit the unlawful removal or destruction of an electronic collar, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑11‑785. (A) It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner.

(B) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be:

(1) fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than ten days for a first offense; or

(2) fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days for a second or subsequent offense.” /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

DAVID R. HIOTT for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 50‑1‑320 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE UNLAWFUL REMOVAL OR DESTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRONIC COLLAR OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE PLACED ON A DOG BY ITS OWNER TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE DOG.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑1‑320. (A) It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog.

(B) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be:

(1) fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than ten days for a first offense; or

(2) fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days for a second or subsequent offense.”

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

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