**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO GENERAL PROVISIONS AFFECTING THE GOVERNOR, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑3‑60 TO PROVIDE THAT THE GOVERNOR MUST ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A TOLL‑FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS, AND COMPLAINTS CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, OR UNETHICAL CONDUCT VIOLATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND WRONGDOING IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

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

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

“Section 1‑3‑60. The Governor must establish and maintain a toll‑free public telephone number used to receive information, suggestions, and complaints concerning fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, unethical conduct, or violations of state or federal law and wrongdoing in or by departments, bureaus, divisions, boards, commissions, institutions, and other agencies or undertakings of the State, or with regard to the use of any federal or state money. The phone number must be prominently posted by all departments, bureaus, divisions, boards, commissions, institutions, and other agencies in clear view of all employees and the public and in a conspicuous location on the internet website maintained by the department, bureau, division, board, commission, institution, or other agency. The Governor may refer information, suggestions, and complaints received pursuant to this section to the appropriate federal, state, or local authorities for investigation and remediation.”

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

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