**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 44-7-130, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN THE STATE CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND HEALTH FACILITY LICENSURE ACT, SO AS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF “CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT” IN A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY BY REVISING THE TERM TO INCLUDE YOUNG ADULTS AND BY INCREASING THE ELIGIBILITY AGE FROM UNDER EIGHTEEN TO UNDER TWENTY-ONE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44-7-130(18) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(18) ‘Children ~~and~~, adolescents, and young adults in need of mental health treatment’ in a residential treatment facility means a child ~~or~~, adolescent, or young adult under age ~~eighteen or a child or adolescent under age~~ twenty‑one ~~who is a client of, committed to the custody of, or in the legal custody of an agency of the State of South Carolina~~ who manifests a substantial disorder of cognitive or emotional process, which lessens or impairs to a marked degree that child’s or adolescent’s or young adult’s capacity either to develop or to exercise age‑appropriate or age‑adequate behavior. The behavior includes, but is not limited to, marked disorders of mood or thought processes, severe difficulties with self‑control and judgment including behavior dangerous to self or others, and serious disturbances in the ability to care for and relate to others.”

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

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