**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16-11-770 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO ILLEGAL GRAFFITI VANDALISM, TO PROVIDE THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 22-3-540, 22-3-545, 22-3-550, AND 14-25-65, A FIRST OFFENSE MAY BE TRIED IN MAGISTRATES OR MUNICIPAL COURT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16-11-770 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( ) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 22-3-540, 22-3-545, 22-3-550, and 14-25-65, a first offense punishable under this subsection may be tried in magistrates or municipal court.”

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

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