**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50-11-710 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO NIGHT HUNTING PROHIBITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, TO ALLOW THE USE OF LASER SIGHTING AND OTHER DEVICES WHEN HUNTING COYOTES AT NIGHT DURING MAY AND JUNE PURSUANT TO AUTHORIZATION GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH ITS DEPREDATION PERMIT PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑11‑710(A)(3) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(3)(a) coyotes and armadillos may be hunted at night with an artificial light that is carried on the hunter’s person ~~attached to a helmet or hat,~~ or part of a belt system worn by the hunter. Coyotes and armadillos may be hunted with a rifle or sidearm no larger than .22 caliber rimfire, a shotgun with a shot size no larger than a BB, or a sidearm of any caliber that has iron sites and a barrel length not exceeding nine inches. Except as provided in subitem (b), ~~Any~~ any weapon used to hunt coyotes or armadillos may not be equipped with a butt‑stock, scope, laser site, or light emitting or light enhancing device. It is unlawful to have in one’s possession any shot size larger than a BB while legally hunting coyotes and armadillos at night with a shotgun, and coyotes and armadillos may not be hunted at night from a vehicle, unless specifically permitted by the department. A person who violates this item is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

(b) The department may authorize night hunting for coyotes during May and June through its depredation permit program. A hunter may use a shotgun with a shot size no larger than a BB equipped with a butt‑stock, scope, laser site, or light emitting or light enhancing device to hunt coyotes only pursuant to authorization provided in this item.”

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

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑