**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 16‑17‑760 SO AS TO ENACT THE “SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY SERVICE INTEGRITY AND PRESERVATION ACT”, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO, WITH THE INTENT OF SECURING A TANGIBLE BENEFIT, KNOWINGLY AND FALSELY REPRESENTS HIMSELF TO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OR TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED A DECORATION, MEDAL, RIBBON, OR OTHER DEVICE AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS OR PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

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

SECTION 1. Article 7, Chapter 17, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑17‑760. (A) This section may be cited as the ‘South Carolina Military Service Integrity and Preservation Act’.

(B) A person who, with the intent of securing a tangible benefit, knowingly and falsely represents himself through a written or oral communication, including a resume, to have served in the Armed Forces of the United States or to have been awarded a decoration, medal, ribbon, or other device authorized by Congress or pursuant to federal law for the Armed Forces of the United States is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, may be fined up to five hundred dollars or imprisoned for up to thirty days, or both.

(C) For purposes of this section, ‘tangible benefit’ includes:

(1) a benefit relating to military service provided by the federal government or a state or local government;

(2) employment or personal advancement;

(3) financial remuneration; or

(4) an effect on the outcome of a criminal or civil court proceeding.”

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

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