**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 1‑13‑80, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND EXCEPTIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS NOT AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE FOR A PRIVATE EMPLOYER TO GIVE HIRING PREFERENCES TO A VETERAN, AND TO EXTEND THE PREFERENCE TO THE VETERAN’S SPOUSE IF THE VETERAN HAS A SERVICE‑CONNECTED PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1‑13‑80(I) of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately numbered item at the end to read:

“( ) It is not an unlawful employment practice for a private employer to give preference in employment to a veteran. This preference is also extended to the veteran’s spouse if the veteran has a service‑connected permanent and total disability. A private employer who gives a preference in employment provided by this item does not violate any other provision of this chapter by virtue of giving the preference. For purposes of this item, ‘veteran’ has the same meaning as provided in Section 25‑11‑40.”

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

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