**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑7‑263 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES APPROVED AND ANNUALLY REVIEWED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDING CARE EXCLUSIVELY TO THREE OR FEWER VETERANS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 7, TITLE 44 IN REGARD TO HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, AND OTHER FACILITIES REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 7, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑7‑263. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 44‑7‑260, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to any home or facility approved and annually reviewed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a Medical Foster Home in which care is provided exclusively to three or fewer veterans. The South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly by December first of each year beginning on December 1, 2016, outlining the scope and effectiveness of the Medical Foster Home Program for veterans in South Carolina.”

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

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