**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 20‑1‑110 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT COMMON‑LAW MARRIAGE IS NOT VALID IN THE STATE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018, AND THAT OTHERWISE VALID COMMON‑LAW MARRIAGES ESTABLISHED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE STATE; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 20‑1‑360 RELATING TO THE VALIDITY OF A MARRIAGE CONTRACTED WITHOUT THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 20 is amended by adding:

“Section 20‑1‑110. No common‑law marriage entered into in this State on or after January 1, 2018, is valid. Otherwise valid common‑law marriages established before January 1, 2018, are not affected by this section and continue to be recognized in this State.”

SECTION 2. Section 20‑1‑360 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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