**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑3910 SO AS TO IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY TO FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING THE DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING UPON A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE MOVING VIOLATIONS IF THE ARRESTING OFFICER OBSERVED THE PERSON HOLDING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 31, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑5‑3910. (A) A person convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation pursuant to Chapter 5, Title 56 must be assessed an additional civil penalty equal to the fine otherwise imposed for the moving violation, if the arresting officer observes at the time the moving violation occurred that the motor vehicle operator was holding in either hand a ‘wireless electronic communication device’, as the term is defined in Section 56‑5‑3890(A)(3).

(B) The South Carolina Department of Public Safety shall receive the proceeds for the civil penalty contained in subsection (A) and use them to conduct public safety awareness campaigns to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving.”

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

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