**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑31‑45 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A CAR RENTAL COMPANY MUST RENT A PRIVATE PASSENGER VEHICLE AT ITS STANDARD RATES TO ANY PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, WHO IS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES WITH A VALID MILITARY IDENTIFICATION, WHO HAS A VALID DRIVER’S LICENSE, AND WHO IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO RENT A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE AND THE RULES AND POLICIES OF A CAR RENTAL COMPANY, EXCEPT FOR ANY AGE RESTRICTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IN ADDITIONAL TO ALL OTHER PENALTIES AUTHORIZED BY LAW CONSTITUTES AN UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE SUBJECTING THE VIOLATOR TO THE PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 5, TITLE 39.

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

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

“Section 56‑31‑45. (A) A car rental company must rent a private passenger vehicle at its standard rates to any person who is at least eighteen years of age, who is on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States with a valid military identification, or who has a valid driver’s license issued by this State, any other state, and who is otherwise qualified to rent a motor vehicle under the laws of this State and the rules and policies of a car rental company, except for any age restrictions.

(B) In addition to any other penalty provisions of this chapter, a violation of this section constitutes an unfair trade practice subjecting the violator to the penalties and sanctions provided in Chapter 5, Title 39.”

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

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