**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑11‑735 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, AND MEMBERS OF URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS EMPLOYED IN THIS STATE BY AN EMPLOYER WHOSE PRINCIPAL OFFICE IS LOCATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO ARE NOT OTHERWISE COVERED BY THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OR ANOTHER COMPARABLE PLAN OF THEIR EMPLOYER WITH AT LEAST THE SAME BENEFITS AND COVERAGES AS DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PROGRAM AND WHO CONTRACT HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) OR ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AS A RESULT OF A JOB‑RELATED ACTIVITY, SHALL RECEIVE FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA THE SAME BENEFITS AND COVERAGES FOR HIV OR AIDS TREATMENT AS WOULD A STATE EMPLOYEE COVERED BY THE STANDARD HEALTH PLAN OF THE STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 11, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑11‑735. Any law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, and member of urban search and rescue teams employed in this State by an employer whose principal office is located in South Carolina, who are not otherwise covered by the State of South Carolina Employee Health Insurance Program or another comparable plan of their employer with at least the same benefits and coverages as determined by the Director of the State Employee Insurance Program, and who contract Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) after the effective date of this section as a result of a job‑related activity, shall receive from the State of South Carolina the same benefits and coverages for HIV and AIDS treatment as would a state employee covered by the standard health plan of the State Employee Health Insurance Program. The same deductibles and other policy provisions shall apply.”

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

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