**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 47‑1‑40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ILL‑TREATMENT OF ANIMALS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FROM FIVE YEARS TO TEN YEARS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 47‑1‑40(B) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(B) A person who tortures, torments, needlessly mutilates, cruelly kills, or inflicts excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering upon an animal or by omission or commission causes these acts to be done, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be punished by imprisonment of not less than one hundred eighty days and not to exceed ~~five~~ ten years and by a fine of five thousand dollars.”

SECTION 2. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

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

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