**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 41-35-110(5) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON SEPARATED FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR DEFYING A COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATE BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 41-35-110(5) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(5)(a) has separated, through no fault of his own, from his most recent bona fide employer; provided, however, the term "most recent bona fide employer" means the work or employer from which the individual separated regardless of work subsequent to his separation in which he earned less than eight times his weekly benefit amount; or

(b) has separated from his most recent bona fide employer because he refused vaccination against COVID-19 in accordance with a mandate imposed by his employer or the local, state, or federal government; provided, however, the term "most recent bona fide employer" means the work or employer from which the individual separated regardless of work subsequent to his separation in which he earned less than eight times his weekly benefit amount; and”

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

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