**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A199, R256, H4687**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. King, Parks, Butler Garrick, J.E. Smith and Lucas

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Introduced in the House on January 26, 2012

Introduced in the Senate on April 25, 2012

Last Amended on May 29, 2012

Passed by the General Assembly on June 5, 2012

Governor's Action: June 7, 2012, Signed

Summary: Death certificates

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/26/2012 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\01-26-12.docx))

1/26/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\01-26-12.docx))

3/15/2012 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Lucas

3/28/2012 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-28-12.docx))

4/19/2012 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 04‑24‑12 ([House Journal‑page 39](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-19-12.docx))

4/24/2012 House Debate adjourned ([House Journal‑page 37](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-24-12.docx))

4/24/2012 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 53](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-24-12.docx))

4/24/2012 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 53](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-24-12.docx))

4/24/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑105 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 54](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-24-12.docx))

4/25/2012 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-25-12.docx))

4/25/2012 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-25-12.docx))

4/25/2012 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-25-12.docx))

5/24/2012 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-24-12.docx))

5/29/2012 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 38](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/29/2012 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 38](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/29/2012 Senate Roll call Ayes‑40 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 38](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/30/2012 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-30-12.docx))

6/5/2012 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 106](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\06-05-12.docx))

6/5/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑107 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 106](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\06-05-12.docx))

6/6/2012 Ratified R 256

6/7/2012 Signed By Governor

6/18/2012 Effective date 09/01/12

6/18/2012 Act No. 199

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/26/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4687_20120126.docx)

[3/28/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4687_20120328.docx)

[4/24/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4687_20120424.docx)

[5/24/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4687_20120524.docx)

[5/29/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4687_20120529.docx)

(A199, R256, H4687)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 44‑63‑74 SO AS TO REQUIRE DEATH CERTIFICATES TO BE ELECTRONICALLY FILED WITH THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, AND ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED BETWEEN THE FUNERAL HOME AND THE PHYSICIAN, CORONER, OR MEDICAL EXAMINER, CERTIFYING THE CAUSE OF DEATH, TO DOCUMENT DEATH CERTIFICATE INFORMATION AND TO PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT REQUIRED SIGNATURES MUST BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY AND TO DEFINE “ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE”.**

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

**Electronic filing and transmission of death certificates, electronic signatures, and exemptions**

SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 44‑63‑74.(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, death certificates must be electronically filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics as prescribed by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. Death certificates must be transmitted electronically between the funeral home director and the physician, coroner, or medical examiner certifying the cause of death in order to document the death certificate information prescribed by this chapter. Required signatures on death certificates must be provided by electronic signature. An individual who acts, without compensation, as a funeral director on behalf of a deceased family member or friend, physicians certifying fewer than twelve deaths per year, and funeral homes that perform fewer than twelve funerals per year are exempt from this requirement.

(B) For purposes of this section, an electronic signature shall be as defined pursuant to the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Chapter 6, Title 26.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 2. This act takes effect September 1, 2012.

Ratified the 6th day of June, 2012.

Approved the 7th day of June, 2012.

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