**A** **BILL**

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 TRANSMITTED AMONG ALL PARTIES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE DEATH CERTIFICATE; TO REQUIRE ELECTRONIC FILING OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE WITH THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL; 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:

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 transmitted electronically among all parties required to complete death certificate information, including but not limited to, funeral home directors, licensed embalmers, physicians, coroners, and medical examiners, and must be transmitted electronically for filing with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Environmental Control. Required signatures on death certificates must be provided by electronic signature.

(B) For purposes of this section, an electronic signature means a method of signing an electronic message that:

(1) identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic message; and

(2) indicates such person’s approval of the information contained in the electronic message.”

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

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