AMENDED

April 24, 2012

**H. 4687**

Introduced by Reps. King, Parks, Butler Garrick, J.E. Smith and Lucas

S. Printed 4/24/12--H.

Read the first time January 26, 2012.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Department of Health & Environmental Control

The department reports that this bill will have no impact on the state general fund. Training and support will be required to implement the new procedures, but the current vital records fees will cover these additional costs.

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

The department reports that this bill will have no impact on the state general fund or on federal and/or other funds.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

The State Budget Division surveyed counties in the FIST Network of local governments on the impact of this bill. One county responded and indicated there would be no fiscal impact to their operations with the adoption of this bill.

*Approved By:*

Brenda Hart

Office of State Budget

**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”.

Amend Title To Conform

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 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.”

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

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