~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 11, 2020

**S. 176**

Introduced by Senators Hembree, Martin and Verdin

S. Printed 3/11/20--H. [SEC 3/12/20 2:10 PM]

Read the first time January 31, 2019.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 176) to amend Section 24‑3‑530, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to death by electrocution or lethal injection, so as to provide, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 in its entirety and inserting:

/SECTION 1. Section 24‑3‑530 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 24‑3‑530. (A) A person convicted of a capital crime and having imposed upon him the sentence of death shall suffer the penalty by electrocution or, at the election of the person, lethal injection, if it is available at the time of election, under the direction of the Director of the Department of Corrections. The election for death by electrocution or lethal injection must be made in writing fourteen days before ~~the~~ each execution date or it is waived. If the inmate receives a stay of execution or the execution date has passed for any reason, the election expires and must be renewed in writing fourteen days before a new execution date. If the person waives the right of election, then the penalty must be administered by ~~lethal injection~~ electrocution.

(B) The Director of the Department of Corrections shall determine and certify by affidavit under penalty of perjury to the Supreme Court whether the method selected pursuant to subsection (A) is available.

~~(B)~~(C) A person convicted of a capital crime and sentenced to death by electrocution prior to the effective date of this section must be administered death by electrocution unless the person elects death by lethal injection, and it is available, in writing fourteen days before the execution date. The convicted person must sign and date this form. The convicted person’s signature must be witnessed by two persons who are not inmates of the Department of Corrections and not under the supervision of the Director of the Department of Corrections. The witnesses’ signatures must be duly notarized. The form must contain a certification signed by the witnesses that the convicted person’s signature is free from coercion and voluntarily given.

~~(C)~~(D) If execution by lethal injection under this section is determined and certified pursuant to subsection (B) to be unavailable by the Director of the Department of Corrections or is held to be unconstitutional by an appellate court of competent jurisdiction, then the manner of inflicting a death sentence must be by electrocution regardless of the method elected by the person.

(E) The Department of Corrections must provide written notice to an inmate of his right of election under this section.” /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

PETER M. MCCOY, JR. for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 24‑3‑530, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION OR LETHAL INJECTION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CAPITAL CRIME AND HAVING IMPOSED UPON HIM THE SENTENCE OF DEATH SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY BY ELECTROCUTION OR, AT THE ELECTION OF THE PERSON, LETHAL INJECTION, IF IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF ELECTION, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE CONVICTED PERSON RECEIVES A STAY OF EXECUTION OR THE EXECUTION DATE HAS PASSED, THE ELECTION EXPIRES AND MUST BE RENEWED IN WRITING, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PENALTY MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY ELECTROCUTION FOR A PERSON WHO WAIVES THE RIGHT OF ELECTION, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SHALL DETERMINE AND CERTIFY TO THE SUPREME COURT WHETHER THE METHOD SELECTED IS AVAILABLE, TO PROVIDE THAT A CONVICTED PERSON’S SIGNATURE MUST BE WITNESSED BY TWO PERSONS WHOSE SIGNATURES MUST BE NOTARIZED AND CERTIFIES THAT THE CONVICTED PERSON’S SIGNATURE WAS MADE FREE FROM COERCION AND VOLUNTARILY GIVEN, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IF EXECUTION BY LETHAL INJECTION UNDER THIS SECTION IS UNAVAILABLE OR IS HELD TO BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY AN APPELLATE COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, THEN THE MANNER OF INFLICTING A DEATH SENTENCE MUST BE ELECTROCUTION REGARDLESS OF THE METHOD ELECTED BY THE PERSON.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24‑3‑530 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 24‑3‑530. (A) A person convicted of a capital crime and having imposed upon him the sentence of death shall suffer the penalty by electrocution or, at the election of the person, lethal injection, if it is available at the time of election, or by firing squad under the direction of the Director of the Department of Corrections. The election for death by electrocution ~~or~~, lethal injection, or firing squad must be made in writing fourteen days before ~~the~~ each execution date or it is waived. If the inmate receives a stay of execution or the execution date has passed for any reason, the election expires and must be renewed in writing fourteen days before a new execution date. If the person waives the right of election, then the penalty must be administered by ~~lethal injection~~ electrocution.

(B) The Director of the Department of Corrections shall determine and certify by affidavit under penalty of perjury to the Supreme Court whether the method selected pursuant to subsection (A) is available.

~~(B)~~(C) A person convicted of a capital crime and sentenced to death by electrocution prior to the effective date of this section must be administered death by electrocution unless the person elects death by lethal injection, and it is available, or firing squad in writing fourteen days before the execution date. The convicted person must sign and date this form. The convicted person’s signature must be witnessed by two persons who are not inmates of the Department of Corrections and not under the supervision of the Director of the Department of Corrections. The witnesses’ signatures must be duly notarized. The form must contain a certification signed by the witnesses that the convicted person’s signature is free from coercion and voluntarily given.

~~(C)~~(D) If execution by lethal injection under this section is determined and certified pursuant to subsection (B) to be unavailable by the Director of the Department of Corrections or is held to be unconstitutional by an appellate court of competent jurisdiction, then the manner of inflicting a death sentence must be by electrocution regardless of the method elected by the person.

(E) The Department of Corrections must provide written notice to an inmate of his right of election under this section.”

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

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