**A** **BILL**

A BILL TO AMEND ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 5, TITLE 17 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CORONERS, BY ADDING SECTION 17-5-80, TO PROVIDE THAT A CORONER SHALL, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE NEXT OF KIN OF THE DECEASED PERSON, TAKE POSSESSION OR CUSTODY OF ALL PROPERTY OF VALUE FOUND ON OR ABOUT SUCH PERSON, MAKE AN EXACT INVENTORY THEREOF ON HIS REPORT, AND SURRENDER THE SAME TO THE PERSON ENTITLED TO ITS CUSTODY OR POSSESSION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 5, Title 17 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 17-5-80. (A) A coroner shall, in the absence of the next of kin of the deceased person, take possession or custody of all property of value found on or about such person, make an exact inventory thereof on his report, and surrender the same to the person entitled to its custody or possession.

(B) Property in the custody or possession of a coroner pursuant to subsection (A) shall not be transferred to any nongovernmental entity for storage or disposal.”

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

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