**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A205, R214, S1014**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Knotts

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Introduced in the Senate on January 10, 2012

Introduced in the House on February 8, 2012

Last Amended on May 24, 2012

Passed by the General Assembly on May 29, 2012

Governor's Action: June 11, 2012, Signed

Summary: Qualifications required for candidates for coroner

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

11/28/2011 Senate Prefiled

11/28/2011 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/10/2012 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\01-10-12.docx))

1/10/2012 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\01-10-12.docx))

1/9/2012 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Knotts (ch), Massey, Coleman

2/1/2012 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-01-12.docx))

2/2/2012 Scrivener's error corrected

2/2/2012 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-02-12.docx))

2/2/2012 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-02-12.docx))

2/2/2012 Senate Roll call Ayes‑38 Nays‑2 ([Senate Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-02-12.docx))

2/7/2012 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 23](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-07-12.docx))

2/8/2012 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\02-08-12.docx))

2/8/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\02-08-12.docx))

5/15/2012 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 27](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-15-12.docx))

5/16/2012 House Debate adjourned until Tues., 05‑22‑12 ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-16-12.docx))

5/22/2012 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 05‑23‑12 ([House Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-22-12.docx))

5/23/2012 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 05‑24‑12 ([House Journal‑page 27](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-23-12.docx))

5/24/2012 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-24-12.docx))

5/24/2012 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-24-12.docx))

5/24/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑90 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-24-12.docx))

5/24/2012 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day ([House Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-24-12.docx))

5/25/2012 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 1](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-25-12.docx))

5/29/2012 Senate Concurred in House amendment and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 60](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/29/2012 Senate Roll call Ayes‑37 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 60](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

6/5/2012 Ratified R 214

6/11/2012 Signed By Governor

6/18/2012 Effective date 06/11/12

6/19/2012 Act No. 205

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[11/28/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20111128.docx)

[2/1/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20120201.docx)

[2/2/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20120202.docx)

[2/2/2012-A](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20120202A.docx)

[5/15/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20120515.docx)

[5/24/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1014_20120524.docx)

(A205, R214, S1014)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17‑5‑130, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR CANDIDATES FOR CORONER, SO AS TO ELIMINATE TWO YEARS’ EXPERIENCE AS A LICENSED PRIVATE DETECTIVE AS A QUALIFICATION FOR THE BALLOT AND ADD AS QUALIFICATIONS BEING A MEDICAL DOCTOR OR HOLDING A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING, TO REPLACE ON THE CORONERS TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE THOSE FORENSIC SCIENCE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS THAT QUALIFY AS “RECOGNIZED” FOR PURPOSES OF THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REQUIRED FOR CANDIDATES FOR CORONER.**

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

**Coroner qualifications**

SECTION 1. A. Section 17‑5‑130(A) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 222 of 2010, is further amended to read:

“(A)(1) A coroner in this State shall have all of the following qualifications, the person shall:

(a) be a citizen of the United States;

(b) be a resident of the county in which the person seeks the office of coroner for at least one year before qualifying for the election to the office;

(c) be a registered voter;

(d) have attained the age of twenty‑one years before the date of qualifying for election to the office;

(e) have obtained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent by the State Department of Education; and

(f) have not been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (A)(1), a coroner in this State shall have at least one of the following qualifications, the person shall:

(a) have at least three years of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;

(b) have a two‑year associate degree and two years of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;

(c) have a four‑year baccalaureate degree and one year of experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency;

(d) be a law enforcement officer, as defined by Section 23‑23‑10(E)(1), who is certified by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council with a minimum of two years of experience;

(e) have completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program or be enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within one year of being elected to the office of coroner;

(f) be a medical doctor; or

(g) have a bachelor of science degree in nursing.”

B. Section 17‑5‑130(G) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 222 of 2010, is further amended to read:

“(G) The Director of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy shall appoint a Coroners Training Advisory Committee to assist in the determination of training requirements for coroners and deputy coroners and to determine those forensic science degree and certification programs that qualify as ‘recognized’ pursuant to the requirements of this section. The committee must consist of no fewer than five coroners and at least one physician trained in forensic pathology as recommended by the South Carolina Coroners Association. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation.”

**Time effective**

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

Ratified the 5th day of June, 2012.

Approved the 11th day of June, 2012.

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