**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTIONS 17‑5‑135 AND 17‑5‑250 SO AS TO REQUIRE, AMONG OTHERS, CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF DEATHS CAUSED BY OPIATES.

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 17‑5‑135. Every coroner, deputy coroner, and any other employee required to obtain continuing education requirements shall complete at least one hour of continuing education every three years on the identification of opiate‑related deaths. Provided, an individual to whom this section applies shall complete an initial hour of continuing education on opiate‑related deaths within one month of employment, or six months of the effective date of this act. For purposes of this section, ‘opiate’ means opium and natural and synthetic opium derivatives.”

SECTION 2. Article 5, Chapter 5, Title 17 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 17‑5‑250. Every medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, and any other employee required to obtain continuing education requirements shall complete at least one hour of continuing education every three years on the identification of opiate‑related deaths. Provided, an individual to whom this section applies shall complete an initial hour of continuing education on opiate‑related deaths within one month of employment, or six months of the effective date of this act. For purposes of this section, ‘opiate’ means opium and natural and synthetic opium derivatives.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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