**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**A142, R157, H4376**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. B.J. Cox, M.M. Smith, Caskey, T. Moore, Wooten, J.L. Johnson, Davis, Sessions, Guffey, Ligon, O'Neal, Pope, Hart and J. Moore

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Introduced in the House on April 26, 2023

Introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: May 13, 2024, Signed

Summary: Veterans, unclaimed remains

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 4/26/2023 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 15)

 4/26/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** (House Journal‑page 15)

 1/25/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Davis,
 Sessions, Guffey, Ligon, O'Neal, Pope

 1/31/2024 House Committee report: Favorable **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** (House Journal‑page 4)

 2/1/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Hart,
 J. Moore

 2/6/2024 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 47)

 2/6/2024 House Roll call Yeas-116 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 47)

 2/7/2024 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 15)

 2/7/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 2/7/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Family and Veterans' Services** (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 2/28/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Family and Veterans' Services** (Senate Journal‑page 19)

 3/19/2024 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 25)

 3/19/2024 Senate Roll call Ayes-43 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 25)

 3/20/2024 Senate Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal‑page 13)

 5/8/2024 Ratified R 157

 5/13/2024 Signed By Governor

 5/20/2024 Effective date 05/13/24

 5/20/2024 Act No. 142

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4376&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[04/26/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4376_20230426.docx)

[01/31/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4376_20240131.docx)

[02/28/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4376_20240228.docx)

(A142, R157, H4376)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONs 25‑12‑10, 25‑12‑30, and 25‑12‑50, all RELATING TO the DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED human REMAINS OF A deceased VETERAN, so as to provide that the provisions of chapter 12, title 25 also apply to the disposal of unclaimed human remains of a deceased veteran and to provide that the provisions of chapter 12, title 25 are mandatory under certain circumstances; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 17‑5‑590, RELATING TO the DISPOSITION OF REMAINS OF UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODIES, so as to require CorONERS to release certain human remains that have been determined to be those of an unclaimed deceased veteran to a funeral home, funeral ESTABLISHMENT, or mortuary for DISPosition pursuant to chapter 12, title 25.

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

Disposal of unclaimed or cremated human remains of a veteran

SECTION 1. Section 25‑12‑10 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 25‑12‑10. The unclaimed or cremated human remains of a veteran as defined in this chapter must be disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

Authority of coroner or manager of funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary

SECTION 2. Section 25‑12‑30 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 25‑12‑30. A coroner or a manager of a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary, which has held in its possession cremated remains for more than one hundred twenty days from the date of cremation, shall determine, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, if the cremated remains are those of a veteran, and if so, shall dispose of those remains as provided in this chapter.

Disposition of remains of a veteran

SECTION 3. Section 25‑12‑50(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (A) If a coroner or a manager of a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary ascertains the cremated remains in its possession are those of a veteran, and they have not been instructed by the person in control of the disposition of the decedent’s remains to arrange for the final disposal or delivery of the cremated remains, the coroner or the manager of a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary shall dispose of the cremated remains in the manner provided in this chapter or relinquish possession of the cremated remains to a veterans’ service organization.

Disposition of remains of an unclaimed veteran

SECTION 4. Section 17‑5‑590 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 17‑5‑590. (A) If the body of a dead person is unidentifiable, the remains may not be cremated for at least thirty days. The coroner or medical examiner must have the remains buried or interred in a cemetery in the county in which the remains were found.

 (B) If a coroner has possession of human remains that have been identified and the deceased person has been determined to be an unclaimed veteran, then the coroner must release the remains to a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary for disposition pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 12, Title 25.

Time effective

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 8th day of May, 2024.

Approved the 13th day of May, 2024.

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