



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 4188	Introduced on March 20, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Coroners, Disposition of Unidentified or Unclaimed Remains	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Boggs	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	February 3, 2026	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill states that if the body of a dead person is unidentifiable or unclaimed, the remains may be cremated 30 days from the date of death or date of discovery. Currently, unidentifiable remains may not be cremated for at least 30 days. Additionally, this bill adds that unclaimed remains must be buried or interred in a cemetery in the county in which the remains were found. Further, this bill allows a coroner to release the remains of a deceased person to another family member when the next of kin is charged in connection with the death or is otherwise uncooperative in claiming the remains.

RFA contacted all forty-six counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Dorchester, Horry, and Lancaster, and MASC. The counties of Charleston, Dorchester, and Lancaster indicate that the bill will either have no expenditure impact or that the impact will be minimal, if any. Horry County indicated that this bill may result in an undetermined decrease in expenditures. MASC indicates that this bill relates solely to coroner procedures, which is a function of the county level. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on municipalities.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on March 20, 2025

##### State Expenditure

N/A

##### State Revenue

N/A

#### Local Expenditure

This bill states that if the body of a dead person is unidentifiable or unclaimed, the remains may be cremated 30 days from the date of death or date of discovery. Currently, unidentifiable remains may not be cremated for at least 30 days. Additionally, this bill adds that unclaimed remains must be buried or interred in a cemetery in the county in which the remains were found. Further, this bill allows a coroner to release the remains of a deceased person to another family member when the next of kin is charged in connection with the death or is otherwise uncooperative in claiming the remains.

RFA contacted all forty-six counties and MASC regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Dorchester, Horry, and Lancaster, and MASC. The counties of Charleston, Dorchester, and Lancaster indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. Charleston County expresses concern that requiring the counties to have the unclaimed remains buried or interred in a cemetery in the county in which the remains were found could create additional expenses for counties that do not own burial land or have vault space. Additionally, Charleston County indicates that this bill may result in additional expenses for the county related to potentially having to access the vault for cremated remains more frequently. However, this bill does not address the time in which the remains must be buried or interred in a cemetery. Horry county states allowing other family members to take possession of the remains of a deceased person in the circumstances outlined in this bill may result in cost savings for the county. However, the county is unable to determine the decrease in expenditures. MASC indicates that this bill relates solely to coroner procedures, which is a function of the county level. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on municipalities.

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director