

Senate Bill 385

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Black of the 8th, Harper of the 7th, Lucas of the 26th, Ginn of the 47th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to death investigations, so as to allow the chief medical examiner to inter and disinter  
3 unidentified human remains under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 death investigations, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "45-16-51.

10 (a) The chief medical examiner shall be authorized to inter unidentified human remains  
11 after the peace officer in charge has exhausted all efforts in identifying such remains.

12 (b) Notwithstanding Code Section 45-16-45, the chief medical examiner shall have the  
13 authority to disinter remains interred pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section when  
14 the chief medical examiner determines that further information can be obtained or further  
15 testing can be performed that may result in the identification of such remains."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.