

House Bill 825

By: Representatives Williams of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Collins of the 68<sup>th</sup>, Gravley of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Bentley of the 139<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

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17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.