



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 420

SENATE BILL NO. 1170

By Hensley, Crowe, Jackson, Briggs

Substituted for: House Bill No. 629

By Kumar, Staples, Pitts, Jernigan, Powell, Daniel, Swann, Gant, Favors

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to palliative care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) There is created the state palliative care and quality of life task force.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Appropriate" means consistent with:

- (A) Applicable legal, health, and professional standards;
- (B) A patient's clinical and other circumstances; and
- (C) A patient's reasonably known wishes and beliefs;

(2) "Commission" means the Tennessee commission on aging and disability; and

(3) "Palliative care" means an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with chronic life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual. Palliative care includes, but is not limited to:

- (A) Discussions involving a patient's goals for treatment;
- (B) Discussions involving treatment options that are appropriate to the patient, including, where appropriate, hospice care; and
- (C) Comprehensive pain and symptom management.

(c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) One (1) member of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (2) One (1) member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (3) One (1) person with interdisciplinary palliative care medical or nursing experience, appointed by the executive director of the commission;
- (4) One (1) person with experience as a patient and family caregiver, appointed by the executive director of the commission;
- (5) One (1) person from the department of health with knowledge of palliative care appointed by the commissioner of health;

(6) Two (2) healthcare professionals with palliative care work experience and expertise in palliative care delivery models in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, and community settings involving diverse patient populations, appointed by the executive director of the commission;

(7) Two (2) hospice palliative medicine nurses certified to practice in this state, appointed by the executive director of the commission;

(8) The executive director of the Tennessee commission on aging and disability; and

(9) One (1) physician or nurse with expertise in pediatric palliative care, appointed by the executive director of the commission.

(d) The task force shall:

(1) Assess the current status of palliative care in this state;

(2) Examine the existing barriers, services, and resources addressing the needs of persons who could benefit from palliative care; and

(3) Develop recommendations to address problems associated with the availability of palliative care.

(e) The task force shall include an examination of the following in its assessment and recommendations:

(1) Needed state policies or responses, including directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and support to enhance the delivery of palliative care in this state; and

(2) Legislative remedies for consideration in the 110th general assembly.

(f)(1) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for any expenses incurred while participating in the business of the task force.

(2) All legislative members of the task force shall remain members of the task force until the task force reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

(g) The selection of members of the task force shall strive to be inclusive and to reflect the racial, sex, geographic, urban and rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(h) The legislative member with the most seniority in the general assembly shall call the first meeting of the task force at which time the members shall elect a chair and vice chair.

(i) The commission on aging and disability shall provide necessary administrative support for the task force. The chair of the task force may call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance in the work of the task force.

(j) The task force shall hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from the general public as needed.

(k) The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly in the form of a report no later than January 15, 2018. On June 30, 2018, the task force shall terminate and stand dissolved and discharged from any further duties.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new part 26:

68-1-2601.

There is established a statewide palliative care consumer and professional information and education program, referred to in this part as the "program".

68-1-2602.

The purpose of the program is to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in this state by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities.

68-1-2603.

The state palliative care and quality of life task force shall publish information about palliative care and available resources relating to such care on its website, including links to external resources about palliative care for the public, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities. The information and resources shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Continuing educational opportunities for healthcare providers;
- (2) Information about palliative care delivery in the home, primary, secondary, and tertiary environments;
- (3) Best practices for palliative care delivery; and
- (4) Consumer educational materials and referral information for palliative care, including hospice.

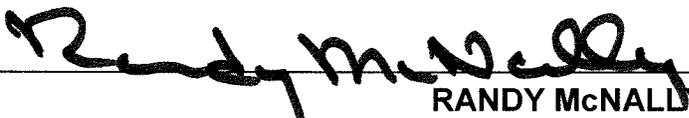
68-1-2604.

The information and education program established by this part shall terminate on June 30, 2018.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 9, 2017

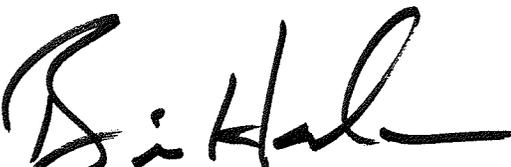


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of May 2017



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR