
HOUSE BILL 2601

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray, Dyer, Cody, Poulsen, Anderson, Butler, Dickerson and Ogden

Read first time 01/16/98. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a commission to study end-of-life
2 issues; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The governor shall establish a
5 commission to study end-of-life issues, to be known as the commission
6 on quality care issues at the end of life. The commission shall study
7 and make recommendations to the governor and legislature on state
8 policies and private sector practices affecting persons approaching the
9 end of life; the effectiveness and adequacy of pain management policies
10 and protocols including palliative care; the sufficiency of advance
11 directives for providing informed consent in furtherance of patient
12 choices; access to hospice and in-home services; natural death and
13 physician-assisted suicide; professional ethics, including the role of
14 health professionals in fulfilling the quality of life and quality of
15 care of terminal patients; and other issues which the commission deems
16 appropriate in meeting the end-of-life challenges of the aging.

17 (2) The governor shall appoint individuals from a variety of
18 disciplines and perspectives, acknowledged in their fields, including
19 health professionals specializing in eldercare, senior advocates,

1 spiritual leaders, educators, legal specialists in elderlaw, long-term
2 care institutions, representative health care delivery systems,
3 including purchasers and insurers, or other individuals with expertise
4 on end-of-life issues. The membership of the commission shall include
5 two members of the senate, one from each of the two largest caucuses,
6 and two members of the house of representatives, one from each of the
7 two largest caucuses, who shall not have a vote. The governor may
8 remove any member for cause and appoint members to fill vacancies. The
9 governor shall appoint a chairperson to coordinate and direct the
10 affairs of the commission, which shall meet at such times and in such
11 places in the state as is necessary to accomplish the mission and
12 intent of the study. The commission may hold meetings, including
13 hearings to receive public testimony, which shall be open to the public
14 in accordance with law; and records of the commission shall be subject
15 to public disclosure in accordance with law. Members shall not receive
16 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized
17 under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (3) The commission shall transmit its report of findings and
19 recommendations to the governor and legislature by December 1, 1998.
20 The commission, in its advisory capacity, may deliberate, make
21 decisions, and make findings and recommendations by consensus or vote,
22 including the expression of minority opinions. A majority of the
23 members shall constitute a quorum.

24 (4) This section expires December 31, 1998.

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