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HOUSE BILL 1876

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Peterson, Rude, Doglio, Parshley, Simmons, Ormsby, Ramel, Hill, Macri, and Pollet

Read first time 02/07/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to requirements for accessing the Washington  
2 death with dignity act; and amending RCW 70.245.010, 70.245.090, and  
3 70.245.230.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.245.010 and 2023 c 38 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Adult" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older.

10 (2) "Attending qualified medical provider" means the qualified  
11 medical provider who has primary responsibility for the care of the  
12 patient and treatment of the patient's terminal disease.

13 (3) "Competent" means that, in the opinion of a court or in the  
14 opinion of the patient's attending qualified medical provider,  
15 consulting qualified medical provider, psychiatrist, or psychologist,  
16 a patient has the ability to make and communicate an informed  
17 decision to health care providers, including communication through  
18 persons familiar with the patient's manner of communicating if those  
19 persons are available.

20 (4) "Consulting qualified medical provider" means a qualified  
21 medical provider who is qualified by specialty or experience to make

1 a professional diagnosis and prognosis regarding the patient's  
2 disease.

3 (5) "Counseling" means one or more consultations as necessary  
4 between a state licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, independent  
5 clinical social worker, advanced social worker, mental health  
6 counselor, or psychiatric advanced practice registered nurse  
7 (~~(practitioner)~~) and a patient for the purpose of determining that  
8 the patient is competent and not suffering from a psychiatric or  
9 psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment.

10 (6) "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified, or  
11 otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care or  
12 dispense medication in the ordinary course of business or practice of  
13 a profession, and includes a health care facility.

14 (7) "Informed decision" means a decision by a qualified patient,  
15 to request and obtain a prescription for medication that the  
16 qualified patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a  
17 humane and dignified manner, that is based on an appreciation of the  
18 relevant facts and after being fully informed by the attending  
19 qualified medical provider of:

20 (a) His or her medical diagnosis;

21 (b) His or her prognosis;

22 (c) The potential risks associated with taking the medication to  
23 be prescribed;

24 (d) The probable result of taking the medication to be  
25 prescribed; and

26 (e) The feasible alternatives including, but not limited to,  
27 comfort care, hospice care, and pain control.

28 (8) "Irremediable pain or suffering" means pain or other physical  
29 symptoms related to a patient's terminal disease that cannot be  
30 reasonably managed or significantly alleviated by available  
31 treatment.

32 (9) "Medically confirmed" means the medical opinion of the  
33 attending qualified medical provider has been confirmed by a  
34 consulting qualified medical provider who has examined the patient  
35 and the patient's relevant medical records.

36 (~~(+9)~~) (10) "Patient" means a person who is under the care of an  
37 attending qualified medical provider.

38 (~~(+10)~~) (11) "Qualified medical provider" means a physician  
39 licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, a physician assistant

1 licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or an advanced practice registered  
2 nurse (~~(practitioner)~~) licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

3 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Qualified patient" means a competent adult who is  
4 a resident of Washington state and has satisfied the requirements of  
5 this chapter in order to obtain a prescription for medication that  
6 the qualified patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a  
7 humane and dignified manner.

8 ~~((12))~~ (13) "Self-administer" means a qualified patient's act  
9 of ingesting medication to end his or her life in a humane and  
10 dignified manner.

11 ~~((13))~~ (14) "Terminal disease" means an incurable and  
12 irreversible disease that has been medically confirmed and will,  
13 within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.245.090 and 2023 c 38 s 10 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) To receive a prescription for medication that the qualified  
17 patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and  
18 dignified manner, a qualified patient shall have made an oral request  
19 and a written request, and reiterate the oral request to his or her  
20 attending qualified medical provider at least seven days after making  
21 the initial oral request.

22 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if, at the  
23 time of the qualified patient's initial oral request in subsection  
24 (1) of this section, the attending qualified medical provider  
25 determines that the qualified patient: (a) Is not expected to survive  
26 for seven days; (b) is not expected to retain the ability to self-  
27 administer the life-ending mediation for seven days; or (c) is  
28 experiencing irremediable pain or suffering, then the qualified  
29 patient is exempt from the seven day waiting period between the first  
30 and second oral requests for medication.

31 (3) At the time the qualified patient makes his or her second  
32 oral request, the attending qualified medical provider shall offer  
33 the qualified patient an opportunity to rescind the request.

34 ~~((3))~~ (4) A transfer of care or medical records does not  
35 restart any waiting period under this section.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.245.230 and 2023 c 38 s 2 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1           (1) Subject to the provisions in subsection (2) of this section,  
2 a qualified patient may select the attending or consulting qualified  
3 medical provider of the qualified patient's choosing.

4           (2)(a) If a qualified patient selects an attending qualified  
5 medical provider who is a licensed professional other than a  
6 physician, the qualified patient must select a physician to serve as  
7 the qualified patient's consulting qualified medical provider.

8           (b) A qualified patient may select a consulting qualified medical  
9 provider who is a licensed professional other than a physician, only  
10 if the qualified patient's attending qualified medical provider is a  
11 physician.

12           (c) ~~((The))~~ If the attending qualified medical provider ~~((and))~~  
13 or the consulting qualified medical provider selected by the  
14 qualified patient is a physician assistant, the other qualified  
15 medical provider may not have a direct supervisory relationship with  
16 ~~((each—other))~~ the physician assistant who is serving as the  
17 attending qualified medical provider or the consulting qualified  
18 medical provider.

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