

Senate File 277 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 277

BY SEGEBART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to palliative care and quality-of-life services
2 and education, and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 231G.1 Definitions.

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
3 requires:

4 1. "*Appropriate*" means consistent with applicable legal,
5 health, and professional standards, the patient's clinical and
6 other circumstances, and the patient's reasonably known wishes
7 and beliefs.

8 2. "*Department*" means the department on aging.

9 3. "*Medical care*" means services provided, requested,
10 or supervised by a physician or advanced registered nurse
11 practitioner.

12 4. "*Palliative care*" means patient-centered and
13 family-centered medical care that optimizes quality of life by
14 anticipating, preventing, and treating the suffering caused by
15 serious illness. "*Palliative care*" includes but is not limited
16 to discussion of the patient's goals for treatment; discussion
17 of treatment options appropriate to the patient, including,
18 where appropriate, hospice care; and comprehensive pain and
19 symptom management. "*Palliative care*" involves, throughout the
20 continuum of illness, the addressing of physical, emotional,
21 social, and spiritual needs while facilitating patient
22 autonomy, access to information, and choice.

23 5. "*Serious illness*" means any medical illness or physical
24 injury or condition that substantially impacts a patient's
25 quality of life for more than a short period of time. "*Serious*
26 *illness*" includes but is not limited to cancer, heart, renal,
27 or liver failure, lung disease, and Alzheimer's disease and
28 related dementias.

29 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 231G.2 Palliative care and quality of
30 life interdisciplinary advisory council established — membership
31 — duties.

32 1. By October 1, 2017, the department shall establish
33 within the department a palliative care and quality of life
34 interdisciplinary advisory council to consult with and advise
35 the department on matters related to the establishment,

1 maintenance, operation, and evaluation of outcomes of
2 palliative care initiatives in the state. The department shall
3 partner with a nationally affiliated nonprofit organization
4 that strives to eliminate cancer in administering the council.

5 2. a. The director of the department shall appoint
6 the members of the advisory council which shall include
7 representatives with interdisciplinary palliative care medical,
8 nursing, social work, pharmacy, or spiritual professional
9 expertise; patient and family caregiver advocates; and any
10 other members the director determines appropriate.

11 b. The membership shall specifically include health
12 professionals having palliative care work experience or
13 expertise in palliative care delivery models in a variety
14 of inpatient, outpatient, and community settings and with a
15 variety of populations including pediatric, youth, and adult
16 populations. At least two advisory council members shall be
17 Medicare-certified hospice and palliative medicine physicians
18 or nurses. One member shall be a representative of a health
19 insurance carrier.

20 3. Advisory council members shall serve for a period of
21 three years and shall serve at the pleasure of the director of
22 the department.

23 4. The members shall elect a chairperson and vice
24 chairperson annually. A majority of the members of the
25 advisory council shall constitute a quorum.

26 5. The advisory council shall meet at least twice annually.

27 6. Advisory council members shall not receive compensation
28 for their services, but are eligible for reimbursement of
29 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
30 their official duties.

31 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 231G.3 Palliative care consumer and**
32 **professional information and education program.**

33 1. By October 1, 2017, the department shall establish
34 within the department a palliative care consumer and
35 professional information and education program to maximize

1 the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state
2 by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and
3 education about palliative care is available to the public,
4 health care providers, and health care facilities. The
5 department shall consult with the palliative care and quality
6 of life interdisciplinary advisory council in developing and
7 administering the program.

8 2. The department shall publish on its internet site
9 information about and resources for palliative care for the
10 public, health care providers, and health care facilities,
11 including links to external resources. Such information
12 shall include but is not limited to continuing education
13 opportunities for health care providers; information about
14 palliative care delivery in the home, and in primary,
15 secondary, and tertiary environments; best practices for
16 palliative care delivery; and consumer educational materials
17 and referral information for palliative care, including
18 hospice.

19 3. The department may develop and implement any other
20 initiatives regarding palliative care services and education
21 the department determines would further the purposes of the
22 program.

23 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
24 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This bill relates to palliative care and quality of life
29 services and education, and establishes a palliative care
30 and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council and
31 a palliative care consumer and professional information and
32 education program within the department on aging (IDA).

33 The bill provides definitions including "medical care",
34 "palliative care", and "serious illness" for the purposes of
35 the bill.

1 The bill directs IDA to establish a palliative care and
2 quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council by October
3 1, 2017, to consult with and advise the department on matters
4 related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, and
5 evaluation of outcomes of palliative care initiatives in
6 the state. The department is to partner with a nationally
7 affiliated nonprofit organization that strives to eliminate
8 cancer in administering the council. The bill directs the
9 director of IDA to appoint the members of the council which
10 shall include representatives with interdisciplinary palliative
11 care medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy, or spiritual
12 professional expertise; patient and family caregiver advocates;
13 and any other members the director determines appropriate. The
14 membership shall specifically include health professionals
15 having palliative care work experience or expertise in
16 palliative care delivery models in a variety of inpatient,
17 outpatient, and community settings and with a variety of
18 populations including pediatric, youth, and adult populations,
19 at least two Medicare-certified hospice and palliative medicine
20 physicians or nurses, and one member who represents health
21 insurance carriers.

22 The bill also directs IDA to establish a palliative
23 care consumer and professional information and education
24 program in the department by October 1, 2017, to maximize the
25 effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state
26 to ensure that comprehensive and accurate information and
27 education about palliative care is available to the public,
28 health care providers, and health care facilities. IDA is
29 directed to consult with the palliative care and quality
30 of life interdisciplinary advisory council in developing
31 and administering the program. IDA shall publish on its
32 internet site information about and resources for palliative
33 care for the public, health care providers, and health care
34 facilities, including links to external resources. The bill
35 authorizes IDA to develop and implement any other initiatives

S.F. 277

1 regarding palliative care services and education the department
2 determines would further the purposes of the program.
3 The bill takes effect upon enactment.