

**House Study Bill 625 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON MEYER)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the definition and provision of palliative  
2 care.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135J.1, subsection 7, Code 2022, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu  
3 thereof the following:

4 7. "*Palliative care*" means specialized medical care for a  
5 patient living with a serious illness that focuses on providing  
6 relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness and related  
7 treatments and meets all of the following criteria:

8 a. Is intended to improve the quality of life for both  
9 the patient living with a serious illness and that patient's  
10 family.

11 b. Is provided by a specially trained palliative care team  
12 working with other professionals providing care to the patient  
13 living with a serious illness to provide additional support.

14 c. Is based on the needs of the patient living with a  
15 serious illness, not on that patient's prognosis.

16 d. Is appropriate for a patient living with a serious  
17 illness at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and  
18 may be provided along with curative treatment.

19 Sec. 2. Section 135J.1, Code 2022, is amended by adding the  
20 following new subsections:

21 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. "*Palliative care team*" means a  
22 physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or  
23 osteopathic medicine and surgery under chapter 148; a  
24 registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, an advanced  
25 registered nurse practitioner, or an advanced practice  
26 registered nurse licensed under chapter 152 or 152E; a social  
27 worker licensed under chapter 154C; and a chaplain.

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 7B. "*Serious illness*" means a health  
29 condition that carries a high risk of mortality and either  
30 negatively impacts a person's daily function or quality of life  
31 or excessively strains the person's caregivers.

32 Sec. 3. Section 135J.3, subsection 4, Code 2022, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 4. Palliative care provided to a hospice patient or a  
35 patient living with a serious illness and such patient's family

1 under the direction of a licensed physician.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill amends the definition of "palliative care" under  
6 Code chapter 135J (licensed hospice programs). The bill also  
7 provides definitions of "palliative care team" and "serious  
8 illness" for the purposes of defining "palliative care" and  
9 makes conforming changes in the Code chapter.