

**House Study Bill 267 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON NORDMAN)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to pediatric palliative care centers.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known as "Mason's  
2 Law".

3 Sec. 2. Section 10A.713, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
4 by adding the following new paragraph:

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Pediatric palliative care centers as  
6 defined in section 135J.1.

7 Sec. 3. Section 135J.1, subsection 4, Code 2025, is amended  
8 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the  
9 following:

10 4. "Hospice patient" or "patient" means an individual who is  
11 described by any of the following:

12 a. The individual has been diagnosed by a physician as  
13 terminally ill, with a probable life expectancy of one year or  
14 less.

15 b. The individual is described by all of the following:

16 (1) The individual is under twenty-one years of age.

17 (2) The individual has been diagnosed with a chronic,  
18 complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten the  
19 individual's life expectancy.

20 (3) The individual is not expected to survive past twenty-one  
21 years of age.

22 Sec. 4. Section 135J.1, subsection 6, Code 2025, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 6. "Hospice program" means a centrally coordinated program of  
25 ~~home and inpatient~~ care provided directly or through an agreement  
26 under the direction of an identifiable hospice administration  
27 providing palliative care and supportive medical and other health  
28 services to terminally ill patients and their families. A  
29 licensed hospice program shall utilize a medically directed  
30 interdisciplinary team and provide care to meet ~~the~~ a unit  
31 of care's physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and other  
32 special needs ~~which are experienced~~ during the final stages of  
33 illness, dying, and bereavement. Hospice care shall be available  
34 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

35 Sec. 5. Section 135J.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. a. *"Pediatric palliative care center"*  
3 means a residential care facility as defined in section 135C.1,  
4 that only serves individuals described in subsection 4, paragraph  
5 "b", and that only provides respite care services as defined in  
6 section 135C.1, and hospice program services.

7 b. Notwithstanding section 135C.1, subsection 21, a pediatric  
8 palliative care center may provide care and services to  
9 individuals who require the services of a registered or licensed  
10 practical nurse on a nonemergency basis.

11 Sec. 6. Section 135J.7, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **135J.7 Rules.**

14 ~~Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the~~ The  
15 department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A necessary to  
16 implement this chapter. ~~Formulation of the rules shall include~~  
17 ~~consultation~~ The department shall consult with Iowa hospice  
18 organization representatives and other persons affected by this  
19 chapter, ~~and the rules shall, at a minimum, provide for all of~~  
20 the following:

21 1. A pediatric palliative care center shall not serve more  
22 than twelve hospice patients at any one time.

23 2. A pediatric palliative care center's interdisciplinary  
24 team may include volunteers who provide a personal presence that  
25 augments other services available to a patient admitted to the  
26 pediatric palliative care center, the patient's family, or the  
27 patient's health care provider.

28 3. A pediatric palliative care center's rooms may be used for  
29 respite care services, end-of-life care, or both.

30 4. A pediatric palliative care center shall have a registered  
31 nurse or licensed practical nurse onsite and available at all  
32 times a patient is at the pediatric palliative care center.

33 5. A pediatric palliative care center shall include adequate  
34 space for the family of a patient to visit the patient, cook for  
35 and eat with the patient, and stay overnight with the patient

1 while the patient is at the pediatric palliative care center.

2 6. A pediatric palliative care center shall not be required  
3 to provide a patient with items for the patient's health, safety,  
4 or daily living needs, including but not limited to durable  
5 medical equipment and medications.

6 7. Any medication brought by a patient to a pediatric  
7 palliative care center as a part of the patient's medical  
8 care plan shall be documented by the pediatric palliative care  
9 center, stored in a secure space, administered by the pediatric  
10 palliative care center's staff as directed in the patient's  
11 medical care plan, and returned to the patient upon the patient's  
12 departure or disposed of upon the patient's death.

13 8. A pediatric palliative care center shall be eligible for  
14 funding available to other licensed residential care facilities  
15 and hospice programs that treat individuals with an illness or  
16 disability, including but not limited to funding from the federal  
17 social services block grant, the state supplementary assistance  
18 program, the hospice respite benefit, home and community-based  
19 services waivers, any funding source under chapter 249A, and any  
20 benefit a nursing facility under chapter 135C may be eligible for  
21 related to respite care services.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 This bill relates to pediatric palliative care centers  
26 (PPCCs).

27 The bill defines "hospice patient" as an individual who is  
28 either an individual diagnosed by a physician as terminally  
29 ill with a probable life expectancy of one year or less, or  
30 an individual under 21 years of age diagnosed with a chronic,  
31 complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten the  
32 individual's life expectancy, and who is not expected to survive  
33 past 21 years of age.

34 The bill defines "pediatric palliative care center" as  
35 a residential care facility that serves individuals under

1 21 years of age, who have been diagnosed with a chronic,  
2 complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten  
3 the individual's life expectancy, and who are not expected to  
4 survive past 21 years of age; and that only provides respite care  
5 services and hospice program services.

6 Under current law, a residential care facility is not  
7 permitted to provide care and services to individuals who  
8 require the services of a registered or licensed practical nurse  
9 on a nonemergency basis. The bill exempts PPCCs from this  
10 restriction. The bill also exempts PPCCs from certificate of  
11 need requirements.

12 The bill requires the department of health and human services  
13 to adopt rules for PPCCs that are consistent with requirements  
14 outlined in the bill.

15 The bill shall be known as Mason's Law.

16 The bill makes a conforming change to Code section 135J.1 to  
17 allow a "hospice program" to take place at a PPCC.