

House File 933 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 933
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 267)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 25, 2025)

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:

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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, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
8 following new subsections:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. "DMEPOS" means the same as defined in 42
10 C.F.R. §424.57(a).

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 2B. "DMEPOS supplier" means the same as
12 defined in 42 C.F.R. §424.57(a).

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. a. "Pediatric palliative care center"
14 means a residential care facility as defined in section 135C.1,
15 that only serves pediatric palliative care patients and that only
16 provides respite care services as defined in section 135C.1, and
17 hospice program services.

18 b. Notwithstanding section 135C.1, subsection 21, a pediatric
19 palliative care center may provide care and services to
20 individuals who require the services of a registered or licensed
21 practical nurse on a nonemergency basis, and may provide
22 accommodation, board, personal assistance, and other essential
23 daily living activities to fewer than three individuals at any
24 one time.

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 8B. "Pediatric palliative care patient"
26 means an individual described by all of the following:

27 a. The individual is under twenty-one years of age.

28 b. The individual has been diagnosed with a chronic,
29 complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten the
30 individual's life expectancy.

31 c. The individual is not expected to survive past twenty-one
32 years of age.

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

35 6. "Hospice program" means a centrally coordinated program of

1 ~~home and inpatient~~ care provided directly or through an agreement
2 under the direction of an identifiable hospice administration
3 providing palliative care and supportive medical and other health
4 services to terminally ill patients and their families. A
5 licensed hospice program shall utilize a medically directed
6 interdisciplinary team and provide care to meet ~~the~~ a unit
7 of care's physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and other
8 special needs ~~which are experienced~~ during the final stages of
9 illness, dying, and bereavement. Hospice care shall be available
10 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

11 Sec. 5. 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 pediatric palliative care 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 pediatric palliative care
26 patient admitted to the pediatric palliative care center, the
27 pediatric palliative care patient's family, or the pediatric
28 palliative care patient's health care provider.

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

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

35 5. A pediatric palliative care center shall employ a medical

1 director.

2 6. A pediatric palliative care center shall contract with a
3 hospice program to assist in the provision of core services to
4 pediatric palliative care patients.

5 7. A pediatric palliative care center shall include adequate
6 space for the family of a pediatric palliative care patient to
7 visit the pediatric palliative care patient, cook for and eat
8 with the pediatric palliative care patient, and stay overnight
9 with the pediatric palliative care patient while the pediatric
10 palliative care patient is at the pediatric palliative care
11 center.

12 8. A pediatric palliative care center shall not be required
13 to provide a pediatric palliative care patient with items for
14 the pediatric palliative care patient's health, safety, or daily
15 living needs, including but not limited to durable medical
16 equipment and medications, provided that, consistent with the
17 pediatric palliative care patient's interdisciplinary team's
18 plan of care for the pediatric palliative care patient and
19 the pediatric palliative care patient's family, the items are
20 provided by any of the following:

21 a. The pediatric palliative care patient.

22 b. The pediatric palliative care patient's family.

23 c. A hospice program contracted with the pediatric palliative
24 care center to provide such items.

25 d. A DMEPOS supplier.

26 9. Any medication brought by a pediatric palliative care
27 patient to a pediatric palliative care center as a part of
28 the pediatric palliative care patient's medical care plan shall
29 be documented by the pediatric palliative care center, stored
30 in a secure space, administered by the pediatric palliative
31 care center's staff as directed in the pediatric palliative
32 care patient's medical care plan, and returned to the pediatric
33 palliative care patient upon the pediatric palliative care
34 patient's departure, or properly disposed of upon the pediatric
35 palliative care patient's death.

1 10. A pediatric palliative care center shall be eligible for
2 funding available to other licensed residential care facilities
3 and hospice programs that treat individuals with an illness or
4 disability, including but not limited to funding from the federal
5 social services block grant, the state supplementary assistance
6 program, the hospice respite benefit, home and community-based
7 services waivers, any funding source under chapter 249A, and any
8 benefit a nursing facility under chapter 135C may be eligible for
9 related to respite care services.

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