

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Senate Bill 748

BY SENATORS MARONEY, TAKUBO, CLINE, PREZIOSO,

ROMANO, PLYMALE, AND STOLLINGS

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect 90 days from passage]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §16-60-1, §16-60-2, and §16-60-3, all relating to increasing awareness of
3 palliative care services; defining terms; and requiring the State Advisory Coalition on
4 Palliative Care, in conjunction with the Bureau for Public Health to develop education
5 materials.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 60. PALLIATIVE CARE.

§16-60-1. Purpose and findings.

1 (a) The purpose of this article is to increase awareness regarding the palliative care
2 services in West Virginia.

3 (b) The Legislature finds that palliative care access remains a challenge across the state
4 and increasing awareness of the availability of this service will align with many of the state's goals
5 to improve patients' health care experience and care quality.

§16-60-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 "Palliative care" means an interdisciplinary team-based model of care process designed
3 to relieve suffering and improve quality of life for patients and families facing serious, though not
4 necessarily terminal, illness. The care should be available at any stage of illness from birth to
5 advanced age and may be offered simultaneously with disease modifying interventions, including
6 attempts for cure or remission.

7 "Interdisciplinary team" means a care team comprised of medical and nonmedical
8 disciplines with specialty training or certification in palliative care and may include volunteers and
9 lay workers. This team includes, at a minimum, the following: (1) A physician; (2) an advanced
10 practice registered nurse or a registered nurse; (3) a social worker; and may include (4) a member
11 of the clergy; (5) a counselor; and (6) a consulting pharmacist.

§16-60-3. Development of educational materials and database.

- 1 (a) The State Advisory Coalition on Palliative Care, working in conjunction with the Bureau
- 2 for Public Health, shall develop a work group to create the content of educational materials
- 3 regarding palliative care for distribution to providers and to the general public. These materials
- 4 should at a minimum provide an overview of the different models of palliative care services offered
- 5 throughout the continuum of care and a description of the interdisciplinary team.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Chairman, Senate Committee

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Chairman, House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

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Day of, 2020.

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Governor