

1 HB291  
2 156133-1  
3 By Representatives McClendon, Beech, Treadaway, Patterson,  
4 Lee, Forte, McClurkin, Weaver, Johnson (R) and Millican  
5 RFD: Health  
6 First Read: 16-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish within the State  
9 Health Department a State Advisory Council on  
10 Palliative Care and Quality of Life. The council  
11 would be appointed by the State Health Officer to  
12 be composed of interdisciplinary health care  
13 professionals and other persons having experience  
14 with palliative care. The council would consult  
15 with the department on the delivery of palliative  
16 care in this state. In addition, the bill would  
17 provide for the department to establish a  
18 palliative care education program.

19  
20 A BILL  
21 TO BE ENTITLED  
22 AN ACT

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24 Relating to the State Health Department and  
25 palliative care; to establish a State Advisory Council on  
26 Palliative Care and Quality of Life; to provide for the  
27 appointment of the members and the duties of the council; and

1 to provide for the establishment of a statewide palliative  
2 care education program within the department.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. The purpose of this act is to improve  
5 quality and delivery of patient centered and family focused  
6 palliative care in this state by establishing a State Advisory  
7 Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life within the  
8 State Health Department and to provide for the establishment  
9 within the department of a palliative care consumer and  
10 professional information and education program.

11 Section 2. (a) Not later than 90 days after the  
12 effective date of this act, the State Health Department shall  
13 establish a State Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory  
14 Council within the department.

15 (b) The council membership shall be appointed by the  
16 State Health Officer and shall include interdisciplinary  
17 palliative care medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and  
18 spiritual professional expertise; patient and family caregiver  
19 advocate representation; and any other relevant appointees the  
20 State Health Officer determines appropriate. Membership shall  
21 specifically include health professionals having palliative  
22 care work experience or expertise in palliative care delivery  
23 models in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, and community  
24 settings such as acute care, long-term care, and hospice and  
25 with a variety of populations, including pediatric, youth, and  
26 adults. At least one council member shall be a board-certified  
27 hospice and palliative medicine physician and one member a

1 licensed registered nurse. Council members shall be appointed  
2 for a term of three years, but may be replaced at the  
3 discretion of the State Health Officer. The members shall  
4 elect a chair and vice chair whose duties shall be established  
5 by the council. The council shall fix a time and place for  
6 regular meetings and shall meet not less than twice yearly.

7 (c) Council members shall receive no compensation  
8 for their services.

9 (d) The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory  
10 Council shall consult with and advise the State Health Officer  
11 and the department on matters related to the establishment,  
12 maintenance, operation, and outcome evaluation of palliative  
13 care initiatives in this state.

14 Section 3. There is created a statewide Palliative  
15 Care Information and Education Program in the State Health  
16 Department. The purpose of the palliative care information and  
17 education program is to maximize the effectiveness of  
18 palliative care initiatives in the state by ensuring that  
19 comprehensive and accurate information and education about  
20 palliative care is available to the public, health care  
21 providers, and health care facilities. The department shall  
22 publish on its website information and resources, including  
23 links to external resources, about palliative care for the  
24 public, health care providers, and health care facilities.  
25 This information shall include, but not be limited to,  
26 continuing educational opportunities for health care  
27 providers; information about palliative care delivery in the

1 home and in other primary, secondary, and tertiary  
2 environments; best practices for palliative care delivery; and  
3 consumer educational materials and referral information for  
4 palliative care, including hospice. The department may develop  
5 and implement any other initiatives regarding palliative care  
6 services and education that the department determines would  
7 further the purposes of this section.

8 (b) The department shall consult with the Palliative  
9 Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council in implementing this  
10 section.

11 Section 4. This act shall become effective  
12 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
13 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.