



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 1540***

LCO No. 6497



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
PEDIATRIC HOSPICE WORKING GROUP.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29 of public act 24-19 is repealed and the following  
2 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
4 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall  
5 establish a working group to examine hospice services for pediatric  
6 patients across the state. The working group shall include, but need not  
7 be limited to, the following members:

8 (1) At least one representative of each pediatric hospice association in  
9 the state;

10 (2) One representative of each organization licensed as a hospice by  
11 the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b of the  
12 general statutes;

13 (3) At least one representative of an association of hospitals in the

14 state;

15 (4) One representative each of two children's hospitals in the state;

16 (5) One pediatric oncologist;

17 (6) One pediatric intensivist;

18 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
20 relating to public health;

21 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
22 designee; and

23 (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
24 designee.

25 (b) [The] (1) On and before March 1, 2025, the working group shall be  
26 responsible for the following:

27 [(1)] (A) Reviewing existing hospice services for pediatric patients  
28 across the state;

29 [(2)] (B) Making recommendations for appropriate levels of hospice  
30 services for pediatric patients across the state; and

31 [(3)] (C) Evaluating payment and funding options for pediatric  
32 hospice care.

33 (2) On and after March 1, 2025, and before July 1, 2026, the working  
34 group shall be responsible for developing recommendations for the  
35 establishment of a Children's Health, Advocacy, Management and  
36 Palliative Care program and, within such program, a Pediatric Palliative  
37 and Hospice Care Center of Excellence pilot program, as described in  
38 the working group's report submitted pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
39 subsection (f) of this section, including, but not limited to,  
40 recommendations regarding (A) appropriations necessary to establish  
41 such program and pilot program, (B) requirements for the operation of

42 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, staff and facility  
43 requirements, (C) education and curriculum requirements for nurses  
44 participating in the pilot program or providing pediatric palliative or  
45 hospice care services, and (D) any licensing or certification requirements  
46 necessary for the operation of the pilot program or expanding the  
47 provision of pediatric palliative or hospice care services in the state.

48 (c) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
49 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall  
50 schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not  
51 later than [sixty days after the effective date of this section] July 20, 2024.

52 (d) The members of the working group shall elect two chairpersons  
53 from among the members of the working group. Not later than thirty  
54 days after the effective date of this section, the chairpersons of the  
55 working group shall schedule a meeting of the working group to initiate  
56 work on the responsibilities described in subdivision (2) of subsection  
57 (b) of this section.

58 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
60 health shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

61 (f) (1) Not later than March 1, 2025, the chairpersons of the working  
62 group shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
63 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
64 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health  
65 concerning the findings of the working group.

66 (2) Not later than March 1, 2026, the chairpersons of the working  
67 group shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
68 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
69 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health  
70 concerning the recommendations developed pursuant to subdivision (2)  
71 of subsection (b) of this section.

72 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the

73 Commissioner of Public Health shall, in collaboration with hospitals  
 74 and hospice agencies in the state, establish a Children's Health,  
 75 Advocacy, Management and Palliative Care program and, within such  
 76 program, a Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care Center of Excellence  
 77 pilot program. Such pilot program shall (1) utilize best practices to  
 78 support the expansion of pediatric palliative and hospice care in the  
 79 state, and (2) include tracking of patient metrics to predict the scope of  
 80 future pediatric palliative and hospice care services needs in the state.  
 81 The commissioner may contract with a hospice agency in the state to  
 82 operate such pilot program. Not later than January 1, 2027, the  
 83 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
 84 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee  
 85 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
 86 health regarding such pilot program. Such report shall include, but need  
 87 not be limited to, information regarding the number of pediatric  
 88 patients that received hospice care under the pilot program, a summary  
 89 of any relevant pilot program feedback received by the commissioner  
 90 from any patient, patient's family member, health care provider,  
 91 hospital or hospice agency and legislative recommendations for the  
 92 expansion of the Children's Health, Advocacy, Management and  
 93 Palliative Care program or the Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care  
 94 Center of Excellence pilot program.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |                   |
| Section 1                                                                     | <i>from passage</i> | PA 24-19, Sec. 29 |
| Sec. 2                                                                        | <i>from passage</i> | New section       |

***PH***

***Joint Favorable C/R***

***APP***