



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1540

January Session, 2025



**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 Section 29 of public act 24-19 is repealed and the following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.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 24-19, Sec. 29
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<i>PH</i>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP
<i>APP</i>	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.</i>	