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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to palliative care; creating s.
3 381.825, F.S.; defining terms; requiring the
4 Department of Health to establish a palliative care
5 consumer and professional information and education
6 program; specifying the purpose of the program;
7 requiring the department to publish certain
8 educational information and referral materials about
9 palliative care on its website; authorizing the
10 department to develop and implement other service and
11 education initiatives regarding palliative care;
12 requiring the department to consult with the
13 Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary
14 Task Force; creating the Palliative Care and Quality
15 of Life Interdisciplinary Task Force within the
16 department; specifying the purpose of the task force;
17 providing for membership by a specified time;
18 requiring the task force to adopt certain internal
19 organizational procedures; requiring the department to
20 provide staff, information, and other assistance, as
21 necessary, to the task force; authorizing the
22 reimbursement of task force members for certain
23 expenses; requiring the department to set regular
24 meeting times for the task force; requiring reports to
25 the Governor and Legislature by specified dates;
26 providing for future repeal of the task force;

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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27 providing an effective date.

28
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30
31 Section 1. Section 381.825, Florida Statutes, is created
32 to read:

33 381.825 Palliative care consumer and professional
34 information and education program.—

35 (1) As used in this section, the term:

36 (a) "Appropriate" means consistent with applicable legal,
37 health, and professional standards; consistent with the
38 patient's clinical and other circumstances; and consistent with
39 the patient's reasonably known wishes and beliefs.

40 (b) "Medical care" means services provided, requested, or
41 supervised by a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced
42 registered nurse practitioner.

43 (c) "Palliative care" means patient-centered and family-
44 centered medical care offered throughout the continuum of an
45 illness which optimizes quality of life by anticipating,
46 preventing, and treating the suffering caused by a serious
47 illness. Palliative care involves addressing physical,
48 emotional, social, and spiritual needs and facilitating patient
49 autonomy, access to information, and choice. The term includes,
50 but is not limited to, discussions of the patient's goals for
51 treatment; discussion of treatment options appropriate to the
52 patient, including, if appropriate, hospice care; and

53 comprehensive pain and symptom management.

54 (d) "Serious illness" means a medical illness or physical
55 injury or condition that substantially impacts quality of life
56 for more than a short period of time. The term includes, but is
57 not limited to, cancer, renal or liver failure, heart or lung
58 disease, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

59 (2) The department shall establish a palliative care
60 consumer and professional information and education program. The
61 purpose of the program is to maximize the effectiveness of
62 palliative care initiatives in this state by making
63 comprehensive and accurate information and education about
64 palliative care available to the public, health care
65 practitioners, and health care facilities.

66 (3) The department shall publish on its website
67 information and resources, including links to external
68 resources, about palliative care which shall include, but not be
69 limited to, continuing education opportunities for health care
70 practitioners; information about palliative care delivery in the
71 home and in primary, secondary, and tertiary care settings; best
72 practices for palliative care delivery; and consumer educational
73 materials and referral information for palliative care,
74 including hospice care.

75 (4) The department may develop and implement other
76 initiatives regarding palliative care services and education to
77 further the purposes of this section.

78 (5) The department shall consult with the Palliative Care

79 and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Task Force in implementing
80 this section.

81 Section 2. Palliative Care and Quality of Life
82 Interdisciplinary Task Force.—There is established within the
83 Department of Health a Palliative Care and Quality of Life
84 Interdisciplinary Task Force, which is a task force as defined
85 in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes.

86 (1) The primary purpose of the task force is to consult
87 with and advise the department on matters relating to the
88 establishment, maintenance, operation, and outcome evaluation of
89 palliative care initiatives in this state.

90 (2) The task force shall consist of 11 members, 5 of whom
91 are appointed by the Governor, 3 of whom are appointed by the
92 President of the Senate, and 3 of whom are appointed by the
93 Speaker of the House of Representatives. All appointments shall
94 be made by December 31, 2015. The task force membership shall
95 include:

96 (a) Professionals who have expertise in various aspects of
97 palliative care, including, but not limited to, professionals
98 representing the fields of interdisciplinary palliative care;
99 medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and spiritual
100 counseling; and patient and family caregiving or advocacy. The
101 appointing officials, in consultation with the State Surgeon
102 General, shall ensure that representation on the task force
103 reflects a broad perspective regarding palliative care in a
104 variety of inpatient, outpatient, and community settings, such

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105 as acute care, long-term care, and hospice care, and a variety
106 of populations, including pediatric, youth, and adult.

107 (b) One member who is a designee of the American Cancer
108 Society, appointed by the Governor.

109 (c) One member who is a designee of the Florida Hospice
110 and Palliative Care Association, appointed by the Governor.

111 (d) One member who is a designee of the Department of
112 Veterans' Affairs, appointed by the Governor.

113 (e) At least two members who are board-certified hospice
114 and palliative medicine physicians, physician assistants, or
115 nurses, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one
116 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

117 (3) The task force shall adopt internal organizational
118 procedures as necessary for its efficient organization which
119 must, at a minimum, require the task force to elect a chair and
120 vice chair whose duties shall be established by the task force.

121 (4) The department shall provide such staff, information,
122 and other assistance as is reasonably necessary to assist the
123 task force in carrying out its responsibilities.

124 (5) Members of the task force shall serve without
125 compensation but may receive reimbursement as provided in s.
126 112.061, Florida Statutes, for travel and other necessary
127 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

128 (6) The department shall establish a time and place for
129 regular meetings of the task force, which shall meet at least
130 twice a year.

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131 (7) The task force shall submit a preliminary report to
132 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
133 the House of Representatives by January 15, 2017, detailing its
134 recommendations for the establishment, maintenance, operation,
135 and outcome evaluation of palliative care initiatives in this
136 state and its recommendation for any statutory changes to be
137 considered by the Legislature. The task force shall also submit
138 a followup report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
139 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31,
140 2018, detailing the implementation, by the department or by
141 legislative action, of the recommendations in the preliminary
142 report.

143 (8) This section expires December 31, 2018.

144 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.