

Bill as
Introduced

HB 403 - AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0355

01/09

HOUSE BILL

403

AN ACT

establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Weed, Ches 16; Rep. Watrous, Merr 16; Rep. Winters, Hills 18; Rep. Berch, Ches 1; Rep. Warden, Hills 39; Rep. O'Flaherty, Hills 12

COMMITTEE:

Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

1 V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
2 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
3 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2013.

4 2 Repeal. RSA 126-W:1, relative to the commission to study death with dignity for persons
5 suffering from a terminal condition, is repealed.

6 3 Effective Date.

7 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2013.

8 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendments

Revised 2.7.13



Amendment to HB 403

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study end of life decisions.

4

5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

6

7 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study end of life decisions.

8 2 Membership and Compensation.

9 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

10 *Five* (a) ~~Four~~ members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
11 of representatives.

12 *Two* (b) ~~Three~~ members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

13 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
14 the duties of the committee.

15 3 Duties. The committee shall study end of life decisions.

16 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
17 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
18 member. ~~The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this~~
19 section. *Four* ~~Five~~ members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

20 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
21 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
22 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2013.

23 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



Amendment to HB 403

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11 of representatives.

12 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

13 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
14 the duties of the committee.

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16 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
17 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
18 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
19 section. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

20 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
21 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
22 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2013.

23 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

2013-0221h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study end of life decisions.

Speakers

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: January 29, 2013

LOB ROOM: 208 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:03 pm

Time Adjourned: 1:39 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Marjorie Smith, Wall, P. Sullivan, Horrigan, Watrous, Hackel, Woodbury, Berch, Phillips, Gale, Heffron, Rowe, Luther, Sylvia Hopper, Peterson, Takesian, D. Thompson, Kappler, Hagan and Hess.

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Weed, Ches 16; Rep. Watrous, Merr 16; Rep. Winters, Hills 18; Rep. Berch, Ches 1; Rep. Warden, Hills 39; Rep. O'Flaherty, Hills 12

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Charles Weed, prime sponsor
Introduced the bill to committee.

Rep. Bill Nelson, oppose
He has devoted past six (6) years since retiring from teaching to focus on the needs of sick and dying elderly.

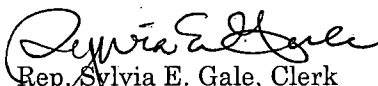
***Meredith Cook**, Manchester Catholic Diocese, oppose
On behalf of Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester.

***Rep. Kathleen Sousa**
Body of information currently exists in legislative archives compiled as a result of previously filed legislation.

Nancy Elliott, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition International - oppose
Likening "death with dignity" to adult/elderly abuse. Previous bills with similar intent have failed in the New Hampshire House of Representatives twice.

Sara McNeil, RN, representing self - supports
As a Registered Nurse she would recommend addition of a nurse to the composition of the study committee.

Respectfully submitted,


Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: {Type HEARING DATE here} 11/29/13

LOB ROOM: 208 Time Public Hearing Called to Order: {Time} 1:03 pm

Time Adjourned: {Time} 1:39 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Marjorie Smith, Wall, P. Sullivan, Horrigan, Watrous, Hackel, Woodbury, Berch, Phillips, Gale, Heffron, Rowe, Luther, Sylvia, Hopper, Peterson, Takesian, D. Thompson, Kappler and Hagan, Hess

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Weed, Ches 16; Rep. Watrous, Merr 16; Rep. Winters, Hills 18; Rep. Berch, Ches 1; Rep. Warden, Hills 39; Rep. O'Flaherty, Hills 12

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. A. Weed - prime sponsor - presented bill to Cmte.

Rep. Bill Nelson - opposed to bill - has devoted past 6 years, since retiring from teaching, to focus on the needs of sick & dying elderly.

* Meredith Cook - March Catholic Diocese on behalf of Bishop - in opposition to this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Kathleen Sousa - body of information

Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk

currently exists in legislative Archives compiled as a result of previously filed legislation

Nancy Elliott - opposed to bill

Don't
↓

↓
Nancy Elliott "Dignity" death
with dignity " to adult/elderly abuse.
→ previous bills with similar intent
have failed in NH House twice.

Sara McNeil - supports this
bill (Registered Nurse)
would recommend addition
of a nurse to composition
of study commission.

Testimony



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Secretariat for Administration

January 29, 2013

The Honorable Nancy Cossette
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 403 (Establishing a Commission to Study Death with Dignity for Persons Suffering from a Terminal Condition)

Dear Representative Cossette and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As the Director of the Office of Public Policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop Peter Libasci, I write to express our **opposition to HB 403**. This bill proposes to establish a commission to study so-called "death with dignity" for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort surrounded by loved ones – that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.

Today, however, many people fear the process of dying. They are afraid of being kept alive past life's natural limits by burdensome medical technology. They fear experiencing intolerable pain and suffering, losing control over bodily functions, or lingering with severe dementia. They worry about being abandoned or becoming a burden on others.

Our society can be judged on how we respond to these fears. A caring community devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives. The healing art of medicine is an important part of this assistance. Even when a cure is not possible, medicine plays a critical role in providing "palliative care" – alleviating pain and other symptoms and meeting basic needs. Such care should combine medical skill with attention to the emotional as well as spiritual needs of those facing the end of life.

This study commission seeks to respond to these fears in a radically different way. It uses the term "death with dignity" to describe a self-inflicted death, generally using a drug overdose prescribed by a doctor for the purpose of suicide. While some may argue there is no harm in studying physician-assisted suicide, passing this bill would send the message suicide has a place in our society, and suicide is a terrible tragedy our society should work to prevent.

Physician-assisted suicide also violates the Hippocratic Oath that has guided physicians for millennia: "I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan." Proponents know these facts, so they avoid terms such as "assisting suicide" and instead use euphemisms such as "aid in dying."



Proponents will claim physician-assisted suicide enhances choices or freedom for people with serious health conditions, but several factors call this into question:

- Medical professionals recognize that people who take their own lives commonly suffer from a mental illness, such as clinical depression. People who request drugs are vulnerable. They need care and protection. To offer them lethal drugs is not a victory for freedom but a serious risk of neglect. Such abandonment is especially irresponsible when society increasingly is aware of elder abuse, our limited resources for those with mental illnesses, and other forms of mistreatment and exploitation of vulnerable persons.
- Even apparently free choices may be unduly influenced by the biases and wishes of others. Our culture places an excessively high premium on productivity and autonomy, which tends to discount the lives of those who have a disability or are dependent on others. If these persons say they want to die, others may be tempted to regard this not as a call for help but as the reasonable response to what they agree is a meaningless life. Those who choose to live may then be seen as selfish or irrational, as a needless burden on others, and even be encouraged to view themselves in that way.
- The founders of our country declared that each human being has certain inalienable rights the government must protect, and life is the first of these named rights. The campaign for assisted suicide is a threat to authentic human freedom.

There is a better way – what Pope John Paul II called “the way of love and true mercy – a readiness to surround patients with love, support, and companionship, providing the assistance needed to ease their physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering.

Catholic teaching affirms the sacredness and dignity of every human life from conception to natural death. We urge you to report HB 403 as inexpedient to legislate because we, as a society, can respond to New Hampshire citizens at the end of life with care and compassion, not with death as the solution. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Cook".

Meredith P. Cook, Esq.
Director, Office of Public Policy

MPC/kjl

SB 17 – AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0857

01/03

Re *AB*
Fahim Saad

SENATE BILL 17

AN ACT establishing a commission to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives.

SPONSORS: Sen. Gilmour, Dist 12; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Stiles, Dist 24

COMMITTEE: Health, Education and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

13-0857

01/03

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT establishing a commission to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Chapter; Commission to Study Palliative Care and Associated Quality of Life Initiatives. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 126-V the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 126-W

**COMMISSION TO STUDY PALLIATIVE CARE AND
ASSOCIATED QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES**

126-W:1 Commission to Study Palliative Care and Associated Quality of Life Initiatives; Membership; Duties.

I. There is established a commission to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

- (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.
- (d) A licensed hospice and palliative care physician, appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.
- (e) A licensed hospice and palliative care nurse, appointed by the New Hampshire Nurses' Association.
- (f) A licensed social worker specializing in palliative care, appointed by the New Hampshire chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
- (g) A representative of a hospital with a dedicated palliative care program, appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.
- (h) A representative of a Medicare certified home health and hospice agency, appointed by the Home Care Association of New Hampshire.
- (i) A representative of the New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, appointed by the organization.
- (j) A representative of spiritual care professionals specializing in palliative care, appointed by the New Hampshire Council of Churches.
- (k) A representative of a nursing home facility, appointed by the New Hampshire Health Care Association.
- (l) Two public members, appointed by the governor.

II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

III. The commission shall study the current state of palliative care and quality of life initiatives statewide and make recommendations to the general court relative to improvements and best practices in consumer and professional information, educational opportunities, and access to palliative care.

IV. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the

president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2013.

2 Repeal. RSA 126-W:1, relative to the commission to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2013.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: February 5, 2013

LOB ROOM: 208

Recessed executive session, to be reconvened 9:30 am, Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Peterson

Seconded by Rep. Thompson

Vote: 6-12 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

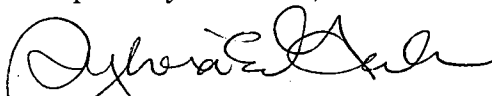
Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: {Type VOTE}

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,


Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: ~~{Type DATE}~~ 2-5-13

LOB ROOM: 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #: bc

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Peterson

Seconded by Rep. Thompson

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.) 6-12

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Recessed
to 9:30 AM
2/7/13
for proposed
amendment

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: {Type VOTE}

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/7/2013 3:40:38 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2013 SESSION

JUDICIARY

Bill #: HB 403 Title: establishing a commission to study death with dignity...
PH Date: 1/129/13 Exec Session Date: 2/15/13
Motion: ITL Amendment #: _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Smith, Marjorie K, Chairman		12
Wall, Janet G, V Chairman		1
Hackett, Paul L <u>Carey, Laurie</u>		2
Watrous, Rick H		3
Sullivan, Peter M		
Horrigan, Timothy O		4
Berch, Paul S		5
Gale, Sylvia E, Clerk		6
Heffron, Frank H		7
Phillips, Larry R		8
Woodbury, David		9
Rowe, Robert H,	1	
Hagan, Joseph M	2	
Peterson, Lenette M,	3	
Hopper, Gary S		
Kappler, Lawrence M	4	
Luther, Robert A		10
Sylvia, Michael J	5	
Takesian, Charlene F		11
Thompson, David H	6	
TOTAL VOTE:	6	12

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: February 7, 2013

LOB ROOM: 208

Recessed executive session, on 2-5-13.

Reconvene 9:30 am, Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Watrous	OLS Document #:	2013	0211h
Sponsor: Rep. Woodbury	OLS Document #:		
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:		

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.) Adopt amendment 0211h

Moved by Rep. Peterson

Seconded by Rep. Thompson

Vote: 9-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Watrous

Seconded by Rep. Woodbury

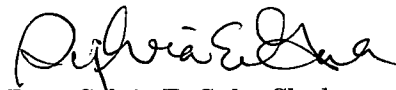
Vote: 10-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,


Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 403

BILL TITLE: establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

DATE: February 7, 2013

LOB ROOM: 208

Recessed executive session, on 2-5-13.

Reconvene 9:30 am, Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. *Watrous / Woodbury* OLS Document #: *2013-0211 h*
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.) **AMENDMENT**

Moved by Rep. Peterson

Seconded by Rep. Thompson

Vote: ~~6-12~~ (Please attach record of roll call vote.) *9-7 (2.7.13)*

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. *Watrous*

Seconded by Rep. *Woodbury*

Vote: *10-7* (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: {Type ~~VOTE~~ *NO*}

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Sylvia E. Gale, Clerk



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/10/2013 11:55:21 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2013 SESSION

JUDICIARY

Bill #: HB 403 Title: enacting a study comm
PH Date: 1/29/13 ^{Recessed} Exec Session Date: 2/07/13
Motion: Amendment Amendment #: 0211h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Smith, Marjorie K, Chairman	9	
Wall, Janet G, V-Chairman	1	
Hackel, Paul L		
Watrous, Rick H	2	
Sullivan, Peter M		
Horrigan, Timothy O	7	
Berch, Paul S	3	
Gale, Sylvia E, Clerk	4	
Heffron, Frank H		1
Phillips, Larry R	5	
Woodbury, David	6	
Rowe, Robert H,		2
Hagan, Joseph M		
Peterson, Lenette M,		3
Hopper, Gary S	7	
Kappler, Lawrence M		4
Luther, Robert A		5
Sylvia, Michael J	8	
Takesian, Charlene F		6
Thompson, David H		7
TOTAL VOTE:	9	7



2013 SESSION

JUDICIARY

Bill #: H3403 Title: Study Committee end of life
PH Date: 1, 29, 13 Exec Session Date: 2, 7, 13
Motion: OTP-A Amendment #: 02114

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Smith, Marjorie K, Chairman	10	
Wall, Janet G, V Chairman	1	
Hackel, Paul L		
Watrous, Rick H	2	
Sullivan, Peter M		
Horrigan, Timothy O	3	
Berch, Paul S	4	
Gale, Sylvia E, Clerk	5	
Heffron, Frank H	6	
Phillips, Larry R	7	
Woodbury, David	8	
Rowe, Robert H,	—	1
Hagan, Joseph M		
Peterson, Lenette M,		2
Hopper, Gary S		3
Kappler, Lawrence M		4
Luther, Robert A		5
Sylvia, Michael J	9	
Takesian, Charlene F		6
Thompson, David H		7
TOTAL VOTE:	10	7

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 12, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on JUDICIARY to which
was referred HB 403,**

**AN ACT establishing a commission to study death with
dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the
following amendment, and the recommendation that
the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick H Watrous

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **JUDICIARY**

Bill Number: **HB 403**

Title: **establishing a commission to study death with
dignity for persons suffering from a terminal
condition.**

Date: **February 12, 2013**

Consent Calendar: **NO**

Recommendation: **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

In its existing medical directive law, RSA 137-J, the state of New Hampshire recognizes that "a person has a right, founded in the autonomy and sanctity of the person, to control the decisions relating to the rendering of his or her own medical care." As New Hampshire is rapidly aging, and modern medicine becomes both more expensive and intrusive, end of life care should be periodically examined by the legislature so that our citizens maintain control over what medicine and procedures they wish to receive. This bill, as amended by the committee, would establish a legislative committee to study end of life decisions. The bill originally sought to establish a commission, but the committee strongly felt that keeping the responsibility of the study within the legislature would assure a more efficient process in which interested parties of varied perspectives would be welcomed to share information. As amended, the bill mandates that the legislative study committee will report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2013.

Vote 10-7

Rep. Rick H Watrous
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

HB 403, establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Rick H Watrous for the **Majority** of JUDICIARY. In its existing medical directive law, RSA 137-J, the state of New Hampshire recognizes that "a person has a right, founded in the autonomy and sanctity of the person, to control the decisions relating to the rendering of his or her own medical care." As New Hampshire is rapidly aging, and modern medicine becomes both more expensive and intrusive, end of life care should be periodically examined by the legislature so that our citizens maintain control over what medicine and procedures they wish to receive. This bill, as amended by the committee, would establish a legislative committee to study end of life decisions. The bill originally sought to establish a commission, but the committee strongly felt that keeping the responsibility of the study within the legislature would assure a more efficient process in which interested parties of varied perspectives would be welcomed to share information. As amended, the bill mandates that the legislative study committee will report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2013. **Vote 10-7.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

MAJORITY REPORT

HB 403, establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.

RECOMMENDATION: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

VOTE: 10-7

In its existing medical directive law, RSA 137-J, the state of New Hampshire recognizes that "a person has a right, founded in the autonomy and sanctity of the person, to control the decisions relating to the rendering of his or her own medical care." As New Hampshire is rapidly aging, and modern medicine becomes both more expensive and intrusive, end of life care should be periodically examined by the legislature so that our citizens maintain control over what medicine and procedures they wish to receive. This bill, as amended by the committee, would establish a legislative committee to study end of life decisions. The bill originally sought to establish a commission, but the committee strongly felt that keeping the responsibility of the study within the legislature would assure a more efficient process in which interested parties of varied perspectives would be welcomed to share information. As amended, the bill mandates that the legislative study committee will report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2013.

Rep. Rick Watrous

OK
MKS

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 12, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on JUDICIARY to which
was referred HB 403,**

**AN ACT establishing a commission to study death with
dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition.**

**Having considered the same, and being unable to agree
with the Majority, report with the following Resolution:**

RESOLVED, That it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Robert H Rowe

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **JUDICIARY**

Bill Number: **HB 403**

Title: **establishing a commission to study death with
dignity for persons suffering from a terminal
condition.**

Date: **February 12, 2013**

Consent Calendar: **NO**

Recommendation: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill came before the Judiciary Committee to study death with dignity, which the minority believes is euphemism for state sponsored suicide. The title for the bill has been changed to end of life decisions. The bill remains a study bill but offers no direction. The minority does not believe the committee will study subjects such as wills, trusts, estate planning, estate taxes but rather only the original purpose – euthanasia. If a full study of issues involved at end of life is to be undertaken, additional time and experts are necessary unless the parties chosen for the committee will study only the original purpose. – Euthanasia.

Rep. Robert H Rowe
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

HB 403, establishing a commission to study death with dignity for persons suffering from a terminal condition. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Robert H Rowe for the **Minority** of JUDICIARY. This bill came before the Judiciary Committee to study death with dignity, which the minority believes is euphemism for state sponsored suicide. The title for the bill has been changed to end of life decisions. The bill remains a study bill but offers no direction. The minority does not believe the committee will study subjects such as wills, trusts, estate planning, estate taxes but rather only the original purpose – euthanasia. If a full study of issues involved at end of life is to be undertaken, additional time and experts are necessary unless the parties chosen for the committee will study only the original purpose. – Euthanasia.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

MINORITY REPORT

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RECOMMENDATION: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

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OK

MKS