

Senate Bill 500

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 9 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to hospice care, so as to provide that hospice administrators are not required to be
3 health care professionals or trained in health services administration; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 9 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 hospice care, is amended by revising Code Section 31-7-175, relating to administration of
9 such article, as follows:

10 "31-7-175.

11 (a) The administration of this article is vested in the Department of Community Health
12 which shall:

13 (1) Prepare and furnish all forms necessary under the provisions of this article in relation
14 to the application for licensure or renewals thereof;

15 (2) After consultation with appropriate public interest groups, adopt rules within the
16 standards of this article necessary to effect the purposes of this article; and

17 (3) Establish comprehensive rules and regulations for the licensure of hospices.

18 (b) Rules promulgated by the department shall include but not be limited to the following:

19 (1) The qualifications of professional and ancillary personnel in order to furnish adequate
20 hospice care; provided, however, that the department shall not require that the hospice
21 administrator be a licensed health care professional or an individual with education,
22 training, and experience in health services administration;

23 (2) Comprehensive standards for the organization and quality of patient care;

24 (3) Procedures for maintaining records;

25 (4) Comprehensive standards for inpatient facilities, to include specifications that the
26 hospice retain primary responsibility for the coordination of inpatient hospice care;

- 27 (5) Provision for contractual arrangements for professional and ancillary hospice
28 services; and
29 (6) Provisions for the imposition of administrative fines for any violations of any
30 provisions of this article or of department rules or regulations."

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SECTION 2.

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.