

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 323

Approved by the Governor May 09, 2017

Introduced by Kolterman, 24; Howard, 9; Bostelman, 23.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act.  
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that palliative care provides health care that improves the quality of life of a patient and his or her family as they face problems associated with life-threatening illness and is a critical part of health care delivery in the state.

Sec. 3. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program. The department shall consult with the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council created in section 4 of this act regarding the program. The department shall make information regarding the program available on its web site on or before June 30, 2018. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Continuing education opportunities regarding palliative care for health care professionals;

(2) Delivery of palliative care in the home and in primary, secondary, and tertiary environments;

(3) Best practices in palliative care delivery;

(4) Educational materials for consumers of palliative care;

(5) Referral information for palliative care; and

(6) Palliative care delivery systems.

Sec. 4. (1) The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council is created. The council shall consult with and advise the Department of Health and Human Services on matters relating to palliative care initiatives. The council shall:

(a) Survey palliative care providers regarding best practices and recommendations;

(b) Work with the department; and

(c) Make recommendations to the department regarding information on the web site pursuant to section 3 of this act as standards of care change.

(2) The council shall be composed of nine members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. At least two of the members shall be physicians or nurses certified under the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Certification Program administered by the American Board of Internal Medicine. One member shall be an employee of the department familiar with hospice and palliative medicine. The remaining members shall (a) have palliative care work experience, (b) have experience with palliative care delivery models in a variety of settings, such as acute care, long-term care, and hospice care, and with a variety of populations, including pediatric patients, youth patients, and adult patients, or (c) be representatives of palliative care patients and their family caregivers.

(3) The council shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 but shall not receive any other compensation for such services.

(4) The department shall provide a place and time for the council to meet and provide staffing assistance as necessary for the meetings.