

New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act S3151 (Savino) / A2383 (Paulin)

The legislation would allow:

A terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request life-ending medication from a doctor that the person can take at a time of his or her choosing, or never, should suffering become unbearable, so long as she or he can self-administer it.

The bill contains the following safeguards:

- Terminal illness and six month prognosis must be confirmed by two doctors
- If either doctor has concerns about the patient's capacity to make an informed decision, they must make a referral to a mental health professional and medication can't be prescribed until capacity is determined
- Two people must witness the written request, one of whom can't be someone who stands to benefit from the estate; neither the doctor nor the professional who may provide competency determination can witness
- Prescribing doctors must comply with extensive medical record documentation requirements & make records available to Dep't of Health
- Immunity from civil & criminal penalties and professional malpractice for those who comply with all aspects of the law
- Criminal law prosecution for those who violate the law
- Life insurance payments can't be denied to the families of those who use the law
- No physician or facility can be required to participate; no patient can be coerced or forced to choose aid in dying
- Unused medication must be disposed of according to Dep't of Health guidelines
- Department of Health is required to issue publicly available annual report



For more information about New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act and the campaign in New York State, please email NY@compassionandchoices.org