

Bill Summary:

Indiana, End of Life Options, HB 1011

Summary

This legislation allows a terminally ill, mentally capable adult, with a prognosis of six months or less to live, the option to request, obtain and take medication — should they choose — to die peacefully in their sleep if their suffering becomes unbearable.

The bill is modeled after the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which has been in practice for 25 years without a single instance of abuse or coercion.

Eligibility Criteria

Just like the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, to be eligible, a person must be:

- An adult, aged 18 or older,
- Terminally ill with a prognosis of 6 months or less to live, and
- Mentally capable of making an informed healthcare decision.

Individuals are not eligible for medical aid in dying solely because of age or disability.

Key Provisions

- The individual must be able to self-administer the medication. Self-administration does not include administration by intravenous (IV) injection or infusion of the patient by another person, including a healthcare provider.
- Two healthcare providers must confirm that the person is terminally ill with a prognosis of six months or less to live, mentally capable and not being coerced.
- A terminally ill person can withdraw their request for medication, not take the medication once they have it or otherwise change their mind at any point.
- The attending healthcare provider must inform the requesting individual about all of their end-of-life care options, including comfort care, hospice and pain control.
- There is a mandatory mental health evaluation if either healthcare provider has concerns about the patient's capacity to make an informed health care decision; the prescription can't be written until the mental health provider confirms capacity.
- Healthcare providers who participate and comply with all aspects of the law are given civil and criminal immunity.

- Anyone attempting to coerce a patient will face criminal prosecution.
- Life insurance payments cannot be denied to family members of those who use the law.
- No physician, health provider or pharmacist is required to participate.
- Unused medication must be disposed of according to the guidelines specified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Additional Regulatory Requirements

- The individual must make two separate requests for the medication, with a 15-day waiting period between the first and second request.
- A written request is also required. Two people must witness the written request, one of whom cannot be a relative or someone who stands to benefit from the person's estate.
- Prescribing healthcare providers must comply with medical record documentation requirements and make records available to the state department of health.
- The state department of health is required to issue a publicly available annual report. Identifying information about individual patients and doctors is kept confidential.

Additional Information About the Bill:

Primary Sponsor:

- Rep. Matt Pierce (Democrat)

Legislation

- [HB 1011](#)

Compassion & Choices Website:

<https://compassionandchoices.org/in-your-state/indiana/>

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