AN ACT relating to patient quality of life.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

As used in Sections 1 to 4 of this Act:

(1) "Cabinet" means the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;

(2) "Council" means the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council established under Section 2 of this Act;

(3) "Health facility" has the same meaning as in KRS 216B.015;

(4) "Life-preserving care" means health care, nutrition, or hydration the withholding or withdrawal of which, in reasonable medical judgment, would result in or hasten death of a patient;

(5) "Medical care" means services provided, requested, or supervised by a physician licensed pursuant to KRS Chapter 311 or advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to KRS Chapter 314;

(6) "Palliative care" means patient- and family-centered medical care that anticipates, prevents, and treats suffering caused by serious illness and involves addressing the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of a patient and facilitating patient autonomy, access to information, and choice. Causing or hastening death shall not be deemed a method for anticipating, preventing, or treating suffering as described in this subsection;

(7) "Reasonable medical judgment" means a medical judgment made by a reasonably prudent physician knowledgeable about the patient's case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the medical conditions involved; and

(8) "Serious illness" means any medical illness, physical injury, or condition that causes substantial suffering for more than a short period of time, including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, lung disease, cancer, or
SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) **The Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council** is hereby established to improve the quality and delivery of patient- and family-centered care throughout the Commonwealth and to advise the cabinet on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, and outcomes evaluation of palliative care initiatives. The council shall be attached to and administered by the cabinet.

(2) The Governor shall appoint the members of the council to serve three (3) year terms. The council shall consist of ten (10) voting members, and may include nonvoting members who are relevant cabinet representatives designated by the Governor. Voting members shall be:

(a) Two (2) members from interdisciplinary medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and spiritual professions with palliative care work experience or expertise;

(b) Two (2) members who are either licensed or certified hospice and palliative medicine physicians licensed pursuant to KRS Chapter 311 or advanced practice registered nurses licensed pursuant to KRS Chapter 314;

(c) One (1) member who has pediatric palliative care expertise;

(d) One (1) member who is a patient or family caregiver advocate;

(e) One (1) member recommended to the Governor by the Statewide Independent Living Council;

(f) One (1) member recommended to the Governor by the American Cancer Society;

(g) One (1) member recommended to the Governor by the Kentucky Right to Life Association; and

(h) One (1) member recommended to the Governor by the Long-Term Care
Appointed members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with KRS 45.101 and administrative regulations promulgated thereunder.

Members of the council shall elect a chair and vice chair whose duties shall be established by the council.

The time and place for regularly scheduled meetings shall be established by a majority vote of the council, but there shall be at least two (2) meetings per year.

The chair or any three (3) voting members shall provide two (2) weeks' notice to the members regarding an upcoming meeting.

SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The statewide Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program is hereby established within the cabinet.

(2) The goals of the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program shall be to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care are available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

(3) The cabinet shall publish on its Web site information and resources, including links to external resources, about palliative care for the public, health care providers, and health facilities. This shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Continuing education opportunities for health care providers;

(b) Information about palliative care delivery in the home, primary, secondary, and tertiary environments;
(c) Best practices for palliative care delivery; and

(d) Consumer educational materials and referral information for palliative care, including hospice.

(4) (a) The council shall have the authority to review, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding all elements of the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, the content of the Web site information and resources described in subsection (3) of this section, and best practices for palliative care delivery and any grants to develop or implement them.

(b) Any evaluations or recommendations shall require the affirmative vote in person, by electronic means, or by proxy of three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the council.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the council shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the commissioner of the Department for Public Health and to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare.

➤ SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A health facility may:

(a) Establish a system for identifying patients or residents who could benefit from palliative care;

(b) Provide information about and facilitate access to palliative care services for patients or residents with serious illnesses; and

(c) Ensure that the provision of palliative care is not conditioned on the forgoing of life-preserving care, except to the extent required by federal law.

(2) In carrying out this section, the cabinet shall take into account factors that may impact the development of such a system and its ability to facilitate access to

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palliative care, including:

(a) The size of the organization;

(b) Access and proximity to palliative care services;

(c) The availability of palliative care practitioners and related work staff; and

(d) Geographic factors.