

SB 178 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows designated health care representative to elect hospice treatment on behalf of incapacitated individual with terminal condition in the absence of a valid advance directive. Defines hospice treatment as focused on palliative conditions, including care for acute pain and symptom management, rather than curative measures provided to an individual with a terminal condition.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Minimal expenditure impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

An “advance directive” is a document that contains health care instructions and/or grants of authority, such as designating a representative to make health care decisions, or power of attorney, on behalf of an incapacitated person. Life-sustaining health care decisions may be made on behalf of an incapacitated person with a terminal condition, pursuant to an advance directive and/or by authorized individuals, such as a guardian, appointed or designated health care representative, the person's spouse, the person's parent or adult child, and/or attending health care providers.

Along with other life-sustaining treatment decisions that may be made on behalf of an incapacitated person without an advance directive, Senate Bill 178 A allows an authorized health care representative to elect hospice treatment.

1st Chamber vote (Senate): Ayes, 27, Nays, 3.