

3910

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

April 3, 2009

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Introduced by Sen. DUANE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to revising the order of persons with priority for organ donation and consent for organ donations

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 4301 of the public health law, as amended by chap-  
2     ter 62 of the laws of 1994 and subdivisions 1 and 3 as amended by chap-  
3     ter 639 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:  
4     S 4301. Persons who may execute an anatomical gift. 1. Any individual  
5     of sound mind and eighteen years of age or more may give all or any part  
6     of his or her body for any purpose specified in section four thousand  
7     three hundred two of this article, the gift to take effect upon death.  
8     In any case where the donor has properly executed an organ donor card,  
9     driver's license authorization to make an anatomical gift, pursuant to  
10    paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section five hundred four of the  
11    vehicle and traffic law, registered in the New York state organ and  
12    tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of this  
13    article, or has otherwise given written authorization for organ or  
14    tissue donation, authorization for donation shall not be rescinded by an  
15    objection by a member of any of the classes specified in paragraphs (a)  
16    through [(f)] (I) of subdivision two of this section, except upon a  
17    showing that the donor revoked the authorization.  
18    2. Any of the following persons, in the order of priority stated, may,  
19    when persons in prior classes are not REASONABLY available, WILLING, AND  
20    ABLE TO ACT, at the time of death, and in the absence of actual notice  
21    of contrary indications by the decedent, or actual notice of opposition  
22    by a member of the same class or prior class specified in paragraph (a),  
23    (b), (c), (d) [or], (e), (F), (G), (H) OR (I) of this subdivision, or  
24    reason to believe that an anatomical gift is contrary to the decedent's

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 religious or moral beliefs, give all or any part of the decedent's body  
2 for any purpose specified in section four thousand three hundred two of  
3 this article:

4 (a) THE PERSON DESIGNATED AS THE DECEDENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT UNDER  
5 ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE-C OF THIS CHAPTER, SUBJECT TO ANY WRITTEN STATEMENT  
6 IN THE HEALTH CARE PROXY FORM,

7 (B) THE PERSON DESIGNATED AS THE DECEDENT'S AGENT IN A WRITTEN INSTRU-  
8 MENT UNDER ARTICLE FORTY-TWO OF THIS CHAPTER, SUBJECT TO ANY WRITTEN  
9 STATEMENT IN THE WRITTEN INSTRUMENT,

10 (C) the spouse,

11 (D) THE DOMESTIC PARTNER,

12 [(b)] (E) a son or daughter eighteen years of age or older,

13 [(c)] (F) either parent,

14 [(d)] (G) a brother or sister eighteen years of age or older,

15 [(e)] (H) a guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of his  
16 death,

17 [(f)] (I) any other person authorized or under the obligation to  
18 dispose of the body.

19 3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "REASONABLY AVAILABLE" MEANS  
20 THAT A PERSON TO BE CONTACTED CAN BE CONTACTED WITHOUT UNDUE EFFORT AND  
21 WILLING AND ABLE TO ACT IN A TIMELY MANNER CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING  
22 MEDICAL CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR THE MAKING OF AN ANATOMICAL GIFT.

23 4. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DOMESTIC PARTNER" MEANS A PERSON  
24 WHO, WITH RESPECT TO ANOTHER PERSON:

25 (A) IS FORMALLY A PARTY IN A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP OR SIMILAR RELATION-  
26 SHIP WITH THE OTHER PERSON, ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF THE  
27 UNITED STATES OR ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION, OR REGISTERED  
28 AS THE DOMESTIC PARTNER OF THE PERSON WITH ANY REGISTRY MAINTAINED BY  
29 THE EMPLOYER OF EITHER PARTY OR ANY STATE, MUNICIPALITY, OR FOREIGN  
30 JURISDICTION; OR

31 (B) IS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A BENEFICIARY OR COVERED PERSON UNDER  
32 THE OTHER PERSON'S EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR HEALTH INSURANCE; OR

33 (C) IS DEPENDENT OR MUTUALLY INTERDEPENDENT ON THE OTHER PERSON FOR  
34 SUPPORT, AS EVIDENCED BY THE TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATING A  
35 MUTUAL INTENT TO BE DOMESTIC PARTNERS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:  
36 COMMON OWNERSHIP OR JOINT LEASING OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY; COMMON  
37 HOUSEHOLDING, SHARED INCOME OR SHARED EXPENSES; CHILDREN IN COMMON;  
38 SIGNS OF INTENT TO MARRY OR BECOME DOMESTIC PARTNERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (A)  
39 OR (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION; OR THE LENGTH OF THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
40 OF THE PERSONS.

41 EACH PARTY TO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE  
42 DOMESTIC PARTNER OF THE OTHER PARTY. "DOMESTIC PARTNER" SHALL NOT  
43 INCLUDE A PERSON WHO IS RELATED TO THE OTHER PERSON BY BLOOD IN A MANNER  
44 THAT WOULD BAR MARRIAGE TO THE OTHER PERSON IN NEW YORK STATE. "DOMESTIC  
45 PARTNER" SHALL ALSO NOT INCLUDE ANY PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN  
46 YEARS OF AGE OR WHO IS THE ADOPTED CHILD OF THE OTHER PERSON OR WHO IS  
47 RELATED BY BLOOD IN A MANNER THAT WOULD BAR MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK STATE  
48 TO A PERSON WHO IS THE LAWFUL SPOUSE OF THE OTHER PERSON.

49 5. The donee shall not accept the gift under the following circum-  
50 stances:

51 (a) the donee has actual notice of contrary indication by the dece-  
52 dent;

53 (b) where the donor has not properly executed an organ donor card,  
54 driver's license authorization to make an anatomical gift, pursuant to  
55 paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section five hundred four of the  
56 vehicle and traffic law, registered in the New York state organ and

1 tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of this  
2 article, or otherwise given written authorization for organ or tissue  
3 donation, or has revoked any such authorization, and the gift is opposed  
4 by a person or persons in the highest priority available of the classes  
5 specified in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) [or], (e), (F), (G), (H) OR  
6 (I) of subdivision two of this section; or

7 (c) the donee has reason to believe that an anatomical gift is contra-  
8 ry to the decedent's religious or moral beliefs.

9 [4.] 6. A gift of all or part of a body authorizes any examination  
10 necessary to assure medical acceptability of gift for the purposes  
11 intended.

12 [5.] 7. The rights of the donee created by the gift are paramount to  
13 the rights of others except as provided by section four thousand three  
14 hundred eight of this article.

15 8. THE PERSON WHO DOCUMENTS THE MAKING, AMENDING OR REVOKING OF AN  
16 ANATOMICAL GIFT, ACTING REASONABLY AND IN GOOD FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
17 THIS ARTICLE, MAY ACCEPT AN ANATOMICAL GIFT UNDER THIS ARTICLE MADE BY A  
18 PERSON WHO REPRESENTS THAT HE OR SHE IS ENTITLED TO CONSENT TO THE  
19 DONATION.

20 S 2. Section 4351 of the public health law, as added by chapter 668 of  
21 the laws of 1997 and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 639 of the laws  
22 of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

23 S 4351. Duties of hospital administrators, organ procurement organiza-  
24 tions, eye banks and tissue banks. 1. (a) When the death of a person in  
25 a hospital has occurred or is imminent, the hospital shall contact the  
26 federally designated organ procurement organization in order to make a  
27 preliminary determination of the suitability of the person for organ  
28 donation, except where not required by paragraph (c) of this subdivi-  
29 sion.

30 (b) Where contact with the federally designated organ procurement  
31 organization is not required under criteria developed regionally by the  
32 federally designated organ procurement organization subject to the  
33 approval of such criteria by the department, the hospital shall contact  
34 the appropriate eye bank or tissue bank, except where not required by  
35 paragraph (c) of this subdivision.

36 (c) The federally designated organ procurement organization, in  
37 consultation with the tissue procurement providers, may issue criteria  
38 under which a hospital shall not be required to make the contact under  
39 this subdivision.

40 (d) All hospitals shall select at least one eye bank or tissue bank  
41 for the procurement of tissue, as defined in section forty-three hundred  
42 sixty of this chapter. A hospital shall notify the federally designated  
43 organ procurement organization of its choice of tissue procurement  
44 providers. If a hospital selects more than one eye bank or tissue bank  
45 as a procurement provider, it may specify a rotation of referrals for  
46 purposes of tissue procurement.

47 2. Where the federally designated organ procurement organization, eye  
48 bank or tissue bank is contacted, it shall, in consultation with the  
49 hospital, after appropriate medical screening (which may include sero-  
50 logical testing if applicable) determine suitability for organ, eye and  
51 tissue donation, as appropriate. Where a federally designated organ  
52 procurement organization is contacted, it shall contact the appropriate  
53 eye bank or tissue bank with respect to suitability for eye or tissue  
54 donation.

55 3. If the federally designated organ procurement organization, eye  
56 bank or tissue bank determines that organ, eye or tissue donation,

1 respectively, is not appropriate based on established medical criteria,  
2 this shall be noted by hospital personnel on the patient's record, and  
3 no further action with respect to organ, eye or tissue donation, respec-  
4 tively, is necessary.

5 4. Where a patient is a suitable candidate for organ, eye or tissue  
6 donation and where the patient has not properly executed an organ donor  
7 card, driver's license authorization to make an anatomical gift, pursu-  
8 ant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section five hundred four of  
9 the vehicle and traffic law, registered in the New York state organ and  
10 tissue registry under section forty-three hundred ten of this article,  
11 or otherwise given written authorization for organ, eye or tissue  
12 donation, the hospital or its designee shall cause a timely request to  
13 be made to any of the following persons, in order of priority stated,  
14 when persons in prior classes are not REASONABLY available, WILLING, AND  
15 ABLE TO ACT, and in the absence of actual notice of contrary intentions  
16 by the decedent, or actual notice of opposition by a person or persons  
17 in the highest priority available of the classes specified in paragraph  
18 (a), (b), (c), (d), [or] (e), (F), (G) OR (H) of this subdivision, or  
19 other reason to believe that an anatomic gift is contrary to the  
20 decedent's religious beliefs, to consent to the gift of all or any part  
21 of the decedent's body for any purpose specified in article forty-three  
22 of this chapter:

23 (a) THE PERSON DESIGNATED AS THE DECEDENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT UNDER  
24 ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE-C OF THIS CHAPTER, SUBJECT TO ANY WRITTEN STATEMENT  
25 IN THE HEALTH CARE PROXY FORM;

26 (B) THE PERSON DESIGNATED AS THE DECEDENT'S AGENT IN A WRITTEN INSTRU-  
27 MENT UNDER ARTICLE FORTY-TWO OF THIS CHAPTER, SUBJECT TO ANY WRITTEN  
28 STATEMENT IN THE WRITTEN INSTRUMENT;

29 (C) the spouse;

30 (D) THE DOMESTIC PARTNER;

31 [(b)] (E) a son or daughter eighteen years of age or older;

32 [(c)] (F) either parent;

33 [(d)] (G) a brother or sister eighteen years of age or older;

34 [(e)] (H) a guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of his  
35 or her death.

36 5. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "REASONABLY AVAILABLE" MEANS  
37 THAT A PERSON TO BE CONTACTED CAN BE CONTACTED WITHOUT UNDUE EFFORT AND  
38 WILLING AND ABLE TO ACT IN A TIMELY MANNER CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING  
39 MEDICAL CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR THE MAKING OF AN ANATOMICAL GIFT.

40 6. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DOMESTIC PARTNER" MEANS A PERSON  
41 WHO, WITH RESPECT TO ANOTHER PERSON:

42 (A) IS FORMALLY A PARTY IN A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP OR SIMILAR RELATION-  
43 SHIP WITH THE OTHER PERSON, ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF THE  
44 UNITED STATES OR ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION, OR REGISTERED  
45 AS THE DOMESTIC PARTNER OF THE PERSON WITH ANY REGISTRY MAINTAINED BY  
46 THE EMPLOYER OF EITHER PARTY OR ANY STATE, MUNICIPALITY, OR FOREIGN  
47 JURISDICTION; OR

48 (B) IS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A BENEFICIARY OR COVERED PERSON UNDER  
49 THE OTHER PERSON'S EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR HEALTH INSURANCE; OR

50 (C) IS DEPENDENT OR MUTUALLY INTERDEPENDENT ON THE OTHER PERSON FOR  
51 SUPPORT, AS EVIDENCED BY THE TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATING A  
52 MUTUAL INTENT TO BE DOMESTIC PARTNERS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:  
53 COMMON OWNERSHIP OR JOINT LEASING OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY; COMMON  
54 HOUSEHOLDING, SHARED INCOME OR SHARED EXPENSES; CHILDREN IN COMMON;  
55 SIGNS OF INTENT TO MARRY OR BECOME DOMESTIC PARTNERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (A)

1 OR (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION; OR THE LENGTH OF THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
2 OF THE PERSONS.

3 EACH PARTY TO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE  
4 DOMESTIC PARTNER OF THE OTHER PARTY. "DOMESTIC PARTNER" SHALL NOT  
5 INCLUDE A PERSON WHO IS RELATED TO THE OTHER PERSON BY BLOOD IN A MANNER  
6 THAT WOULD BAR MARRIAGE TO THE OTHER PERSON IN NEW YORK STATE. "DOMESTIC  
7 PARTNER" SHALL ALSO NOT INCLUDE ANY PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN  
8 YEARS OF AGE OR WHO IS THE ADOPTED CHILD OF THE OTHER PERSON OR WHO IS  
9 RELATED BY BLOOD IN A MANNER THAT WOULD BAR MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK STATE  
10 TO A PERSON WHO IS THE LAWFUL SPOUSE OF THE OTHER PERSON.

11 7. The person initiating the request shall be designated by a hospital  
12 and shall be a representative of a federally designated organ procure-  
13 ment organization, eye bank, tissue bank, or a designated requestor. As  
14 used in this section a "designated requestor" shall mean a person who  
15 has completed a course provided by a federally designated organ procure-  
16 ment organization, eye bank or tissue bank, whichever is applicable, on  
17 how to approach potential donor families and request organ, eye, or  
18 tissue donation.

19 [6.] 8. Any employee or agent of a federally designated organ procure-  
20 ment organization, eye bank or tissue bank acting pursuant to this  
21 section shall be held to the same standard of confidentiality as that  
22 imposed on employees of the hospital.

23 [7.] 9. THE PERSON WHO DOCUMENTS THE MAKING, AMENDING OR REVOKING OF  
24 AN ANATOMICAL GIFT, ACTING REASONABLY AND IN GOOD FAITH IN ACCORDANCE  
25 WITH THIS ARTICLE, MAY ACCEPT AN ANATOMICAL GIFT UNDER THIS ARTICLE MADE  
26 BY A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS THAT HE OR SHE IS ENTITLED TO CONSENT TO THE  
27 DONATION.

28 10. The provisions of subdivision three of section forty-three hundred  
29 six of this chapter shall apply to this section. To the extent permissi-  
30 ble under such subdivision, any person or organization acting pursuant  
31 to this section, shall be legally responsible for any negligent or  
32 intentional act or omission committed by such entity or its employees or  
33 agents.

34 [8.] 11. A gift made pursuant to the request required by this section  
35 shall be executed pursuant to applicable provisions of article forty-  
36 three of this chapter.

37 [9.] 12. The commissioner shall establish regulations concerning the  
38 training of persons who may be designated to perform the request, and  
39 the procedures to be employed in making it.

40 [10.] 13. The commissioner shall establish such additional regulations  
41 as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

42 S 3. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 5 of section 2981 of the public  
43 health law, as added by chapter 540 of the laws of 2000, is amended to  
44 read as follows:

45 (f) A health care proxy may include the principal's wishes or  
46 instructions regarding organ and tissue donation AND MAY LIMIT THE  
47 HEALTH CARE AGENT'S AUTHORITY TO CONSENT TO ORGAN OR TISSUE DONATION OR  
48 DESIGNATE ANOTHER PERSON TO DO SO, UNDER ARTICLE FORTY-THREE OF THIS  
49 CHAPTER. Failure to state wishes or instructions shall not be construed  
50 to imply a wish not to donate.

51 S 4. Section 4201 of the public health law is amended by adding a new  
52 subdivision 4-a to read as follows:

53 4-A. A WRITTEN INSTRUMENT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY LIMIT THE DISPOSITION  
54 OF REMAINS AGENT'S AUTHORITY TO CONSENT TO ORGAN OR TISSUE DONATION OR  
55 DESIGNATE ANOTHER PERSON TO DO SO, UNDER ARTICLE FORTY-THREE OF THIS

1 CHAPTER. FAILURE TO STATE WISHES OR INSTRUCTIONS SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED  
2 TO IMPLY A WISH NOT TO DONATE.  
3 S 5. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
4 have become a law.