S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5329

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 16, 2013

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the surrogate's court procedure act, in relation to making technical corrections thereto relating to the care of persons with developmental disabilities; and to repeal article 29-B of the public health law relating to orders not to resuscitate for residents of mental hygiene facilities

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

Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 2994-cc of the public health law, as added by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

5. Consent by a patient or a surrogate for a patient in a [mental hygiene] facility OPERATED, CERTIFIED OR FUNDED BY THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH shall be governed by [article twenty-nine-B of] this [chapter] ARTICLE. CONSENT BY A PATIENT OR A SURROGATE FOR A PATIENT WHO HAS A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWENTY-TWO OF SECTION 1.03 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW, AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING DECISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-B OF THE SURROGATE'S COURT PROCEDURE ACT, SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH SECTION.

S 2. Section 2994-ff of the public health law, as added by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

S 2994-ff. Interinstitutional transfer. If a patient with a nonhospital order not to resuscitate is admitted to a hospital, the order shall be treated as an order not to resuscitate for a patient transferred from another hospital, and shall be governed by article twenty-nine-CC of this chapter[, except that any such order for a patient admitted to a mental hygiene facility shall be governed by article twenty-nine-B of this chapter].

S 3. Article 29-B of the public health law is REPEALED.

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

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S 4. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 and subdivision 4 of section 2994-b of the public health law, as added by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

(c) If a health care decision for a patient cannot be made under [paragraphs] PARAGRAPH (a) or (b) of this subdivision, but consent for the decision may be provided pursuant to the [mental hygiene law] SURROGATE'S COURT PROCEDURE ACT, or regulations of the office of mental health or the office [of mental retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, then the decision shall be governed by such [statute] ACT or regulations and not by this article.

4. If, after reasonable efforts, it is determined that a health care decision for the patient cannot be made pursuant to subdivision two or three of this section, then the health care decision shall be made pursuant to this article, PROVIDED THAT THE OPTION OF SEEKING A DECISION BY FILING A DECLARATION WITH A SURROGATE DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE EIGHTY OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW SHALL REMAIN AVAILABLE.

S 5. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 2994-d of the public health law, as added by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, is amended and a new subparagraph (iii) is added to read as follows:

(ii) The provision of treatment would involve such pain, suffering or other burden that it would reasonably be deemed inhumane or extraordinarily burdensome under the circumstances and the patient has an irreversible or incurable condition, as determined by an attending physician with the independent concurrence of another physician to a reasonable degree of medical certainty and in accord with accepted medical standards[.]; OR

(III) IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO ENTER AN ORDER NOT TO RESUSCITATE, OR TO WITHHOLD INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION WHICH CONSTITUTES LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT, THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN DETERMINES TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAINTY AND IN ACCORD WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS THAT ANY OR ALL OF SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE MEDICALLY FUTILE AND THAT SUCH TREATMENT WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CARDIAC AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OR THAT THE PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE REPEATED ARRESTS IN A SHORT TIME PERIOD BEFORE DEATH OCCURS.

S 6. Section 1750-b of the surrogate's court procedure act, as added by chapter 500 of the laws of 2002, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 105 of the laws of 2007, the opening paragraph and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 1, and the opening paragraph of subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) and clause A of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (e) of subdivision 4 as amended by section 18 of part J of chapter 56 of the laws of 2012 and paragraph (d) of subdivision 5 as added by chapter 262 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

S 1750-b. Health care decisions for [mentally retarded] persons WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1. Scope of authority. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY" SHALL BE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWENTY-TWO OF SECTION 1.03 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW. Unless specifically prohibited by the court after consideration of the determination, if any, regarding a [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S capacity to make health care decisions, which is required by section seventeen hundred fifty of this article, the guardian of such person appointed pursuant to section seventeen hundred fifty of this article shall have the authority to make any and all health care decisions, as

defined by subdivision six of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law, on behalf of the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY that such person could make if such person had capacity. Such decisions may include decisions to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment. For purposes of this section, "life-sustaining treatment" means medical treatment, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION IN THE EVENT SUCH PERSON HAS SEVERE RESPIRATORY INSUFFICIENCY, and nutrition and hydration provided by means of medical treatment, which is OR WOULD BE sustaining life functions and without which, according to reasonable medical judgment, the patient will die within a relatively short time period. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is presumed to be life-sustaining treatment without the necessity of a medical judgment by an attending physician. The provisions of this article are not intended to permit or promote suicide, assisted suicide or euthanasia; accordingly, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a guardian to consent to any act or omission to which the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY could not consent if such person had capacity.

(a) For the purposes of making a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment pursuant to this section, in the case of a person for whom no guardian has been appointed pursuant to section seventeen hundred fifty or seventeen hundred fifty-a of this article, a "guardian" shall also mean a family member of a person who [(i) has mental retardation, or (ii)] has a developmental disability[, as defined in section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law,] which [(A) includes mental retardation, or (B)] results in [a similar] impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior so that such person is incapable of managing himself or herself, and/or his or her affairs by reason of such developmental disability. Qualified family members shall be included in a prioritized list of said family members pursuant to regulations established by the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities. Such family members must have a significant and ongoing involvement in a person's life so as to have sufficient knowledge of their needs and, when reasonably known or ascertainable, the person's wishes, including moral and religious beliefs. In the case of a person who was a resident of the former Willowbrook state school on March seventeenth, nineteen hundred seventy-two and those individuals who were in community care status on that date and subsequently returned to Willowbrook or a related facility, who are fully represented by the consumer advisory board and who have no guardians appointed pursuant to this article or have no qualified family members to make such a decision, then a "guardian" shall also mean the Willowbrook consumer advisory board. A decision of such family member or the Willowbrook consumer advisory board to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment shall be subject to all of the protections, procedures and safeguards which apply to the decision of a guardian to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment pursuant to this section.

In the case of a person for whom no guardian has been appointed pursuant to this article or for whom there is no qualified family member or the Willowbrook consumer advisory board available to make such a decision, AND EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO WITHHOLD CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION OR INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT ANY OR ALL SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE MEDICALLY FUTILE, a "guardian" shall also mean, notwithstanding the definitions in section 80.03 of the mental hygiene law, a surrogate decision-making committee, as defined in article eighty of the mental hygiene law. All declarations and proce-

dures, including expedited procedures, to comply with this section shall be established by regulations promulgated by the [commission on quality of care and advocacy for persons with disabilities] JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

IN THE CASE OF A PERSON DETERMINED TO LACK CAPACITY TO MAKE HIS OR HER OWN HEALTH CARE DECISIONS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION, AND FOR WHOM NO GUARDIAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE OR FOR WHOM THERE IS NO QUALIFIED FAMILY MEMBER OR THE WILLOWBROOK CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD AVAILABLE TO MAKE A DECISION IN WHICH THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, WITH THE WRITTEN CONCURRENCE OF ANOTHER PHYSICIAN WITH WHOM SUCH ATTENDING PHYSICIAN SHALL CONSULT, DETERMINES TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAINTY AND SO NOTES IN THE PERSON'S MEDICAL CHART THAT CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION WOULD BE MEDICALLY FUTILE, AS SUCH TERM IS DEFINED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR-D OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, AN ORDER DIRECTING SUCH WITHHOLDING OF LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN THE PERSON'S MEDICAL CHART, SUBJECT TO THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND SAFEGUARDS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH (E) OF SUBDIVISION FOUR, AND SUBDIVISIONS FIVE AND SIX OF THIS SECTION.

(b) Regulations establishing the prioritized list of qualified family members required by paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall be developed by the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities in conjunction with parents, advocates and family members of persons [who are mentally retarded] WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY. Regulations to implement the authority of the Willowbrook consumer advisory board pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision may be promulgated by the commissioner of [the office of mental retardation and] developmental disabilities with advice from the Willowbrook consumer advisory board.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the formal determinations required pursuant to section seventeen hundred fifty of this article shall only apply to guardians appointed pursuant to section seventeen hundred fifty or seventeen hundred fifty-a of this article.

(D) A PATIENT FOUND BY THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN TO HAVE CAPACITY TO MAKE HIS OR HER OWN HEALTH CARE DECISIONS, PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS SECTION, SHALL, UPON NOTICE TO THE MENTAL HYGIENE LEGAL SERVICE AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY OPERATED, LICENSED OR AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, IN WHICH FACILITY THE PATIENT RESIDES OR FROM WHICH HE OR SHE WAS TRANSFERRED, MAY MAKE HIS OR HER OWN DECISIONS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT.

(E) A PATIENT WHO HAS A VALID HEALTH CARE PROXY AT THE TIME OF A HEALTH CARE DECISION, INCLUDING A DECISION INVOLVING LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT, SHALL HAVE ALL SUCH DECISIONS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE-C OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW. IF FOR ANY REASON THE AGENT OR AN ALTERNATE AGENT CANNOT ACT OR IS UNWILLING TO ACT, AND THE PATIENT IS OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE A DECISION AS TO LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ANY GUARDIAN OR PERSON OR ENTITY ENTITLED TO EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY OF A GUARDIAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION MAY MAKE SUCH DECISION.

2. Decision-making standard. (a) The guardian shall base all advocacy and health care decision-making solely and exclusively on the best interests of the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY and, when reasonably known or ascertainable with reasonable dili-

gence, on the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S wishes, including moral and religious beliefs.

(b) An assessment of the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S best interests shall include consideration of:

(i) the dignity and uniqueness of every person;

(ii) the preservation, improvement or restoration of the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S health;

(iii) the relief of the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S suffering by means of palliative care and pain management;

(iv) the unique nature of [artificially provided] nutrition or hydration PROVIDED BY MEANS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT, and the effect it may have on the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; and

(v) the entire medical condition of the person.

(c) No health care decision shall be influenced in any way by:

(i) a presumption that persons with [mental retardation] A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY are not entitled to the full and equal rights, equal protection, respect, medical care and dignity afforded to persons without [mental retardation or developmental disabilities] A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; or

(ii) financial considerations of the guardian, as such considerations affect the guardian, a health care provider or any other party.

3. Right to receive information. Subject to the provisions of sections 33.13 and 33.16 of the mental hygiene law, the guardian shall have the right to receive all medical information and medical and clinical records necessary to make informed decisions regarding the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S health care.

4. Life-sustaining treatment. The guardian shall have the affirmative obligation to advocate for the full and efficacious provision of health care, including life-sustaining treatment. In the event that a guardian [makes] INITIATES a decision to withdraw or withhold life-sustaining treatment from a [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY:

(a) The attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law, must confirm to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY lacks capacity to make health care decisions. The determination thereof shall be included in the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S medical record, and shall contain such attending physician's opinion regarding the cause and nature of the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S incapacity as well as its extent and probable duration. The attending physician who makes the confirmation shall consult with another physician, or a licensed psychologist, to further confirm the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S lack of capacity. The attending physician who makes the confirmation, or the physician or licensed psychologist with whom the attending physician consults, must (i) be employed by a developmental disabilities services office named in section 13.17 of the mental hygiene law or employed by the office for people with developmental disabilities to provide treatment and care to people with developmental disabilities, or (ii) have been employed for a minimum of two years to render care and service in a facility or program operated, licensed or authorized by the office [of mental retardation and] FOR

PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, or (iii) have been approved by the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities in accordance with regulations promulgated by such commissioner. Such regulations shall require that a physician or licensed psychologist possess specialized training or three years experience in treating [mental retardation] PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. A record of such consultation shall be included in the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S medical record.

(b) The attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law, with the concurrence of another physician with whom such attending physician shall consult, must determine to a reasonable degree of medical certainty and note on the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S chart that:

(i) the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY has a medical condition as follows:

A. a terminal condition, as defined in subdivision twenty-three of section twenty-nine hundred sixty-one of the public health law; or

B. permanent unconsciousness; or

C. a medical condition other than such person's [mental retardation] DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY which requires life-sustaining treatment, is irreversible and which will continue indefinitely; [and] OR

D. IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO WITHHOLD CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, OR INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION, WHERE ANY OR ALL OF SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE MEDICALLY FUTILE WITHIN THE MEANING OF SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR-D OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW; AND

(ii) EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO WITHHOLD CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, OR INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION BY REASON OF MEDICAL FUTILITY, the life-sustaining treatment would impose an extraordinary burden on such person, in light of:

A. such person's medical condition, other than such person's [mental retardation] DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; and

B. the expected outcome of the life-sustaining treatment, notwithstanding such person's [mental retardation] DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; and

(iii) in the case of a decision to withdraw or withhold [artificially provided] nutrition or hydration PROVIDED BY MEANS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT:

A. there is no reasonable hope of maintaining life; or

B. the [artificially provided] nutrition or hydration PROVIDED BY MEANS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT poses an extraordinary burden.

(c) The guardian shall THEREAFTER express a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment either:

(i) in writing, dated and signed in the presence of one witness eighteen years of age or older who shall sign the decision, and presented to the attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law; or

(ii) orally, to two persons eighteen years of age or older, at least one of whom is the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law.

(d) The attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law, who is provided with the decision of a guardian shall include the decision in the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S medical chart, and shall either:

(i) promptly issue an order to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment from the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, and inform the staff responsible for such person's care, if any, of the order; or

(ii) promptly object to such decision, in accordance with subdivision five of this section.

(e) At least forty-eight hours prior to the implementation of a decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment, or at the earliest possible time prior to the implementation of a decision to withhold life-sustaining treatment, the attending physician shall notify:

(i) the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, except if the attending physician determines, in writing and in consultation with another physician or a licensed psychologist, that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the person would suffer immediate and severe injury from such notification. The attending physician who makes the confirmation, or the physician or licensed psychologist with whom the attending physician consults, shall:

A. be employed by a developmental disabilities services office named in section 13.17 of the mental hygiene law or employed by the office for people with developmental disabilities to provide treatment and care to people with developmental disabilities, or

B. have been employed for a minimum of two years to render care and service in a facility operated, licensed or authorized by the office [of mental retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, or

C. have been approved by the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities in accordance with regulations promulgated by such commissioner. Such regulations shall require that a physician or licensed psychologist possess specialized training or three years experience in treating [mental retardation] PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S. A record of such consultation shall be included in the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S medical record;

(ii) if the person is in or was transferred from a residential facility operated, licensed or authorized by the office [of mental retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, the chief executive officer of the agency or organization operating such facility and the mental hygiene legal service; and

(iii) if the person is not in and was not transferred from such a facility or program, the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities, or his or her designee.

(F) FOR A PATIENT RESIDING IN A FACILITY OPERATED, LICENSED OR AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AS TO WHOM AN ORDER TO WITHHOLD CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, INTUBATION AND/OR MECHANICAL VENTILATION HAS BEEN ENTERED, THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN SHALL REVIEW WHETHER THE ORDER IS STILL APPROPRIATE AT SUCH TIMES AND IN SUCH MANNER AS IS PRESCRIBED BY SUBDIVISION FOUR OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR-DD OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW.

5. Objection to health care decision. (a) Suspension. A health care decision made pursuant to subdivision four of this section shall be suspended, pending DISPUTE MEDIATION AND POSSIBLE judicial review, except if the suspension would in reasonable medical judgment be likely to result in the death of the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, in the event of an objection to that decision at any time by:

(i) the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY on whose behalf such decision was made; or

(ii) a parent or adult sibling who either resides with or has maintained substantial and continuous contact with the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; or

(iii) the attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law; or

(iv) any other health care practitioner providing services to the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, who is licensed pursuant to article one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thirty-one-B[, one hundred thirty-two, one hundred thirty-three, one hundred thirty-six,] OR one hundred thirty-nine[, one hundred forty-one, one hundred forty-three, one hundred forty-four, one hundred fifty-three, one hundred fifty-four, one hundred fifty-six, one hundred fifty-nine or one hundred sixty-four] of the education law; or

(v) the chief executive officer identified in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision four of this section; or

(vi) if the person is in or was transferred from a residential facility or program operated, approved or licensed by the office [of mental retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities, the mental hygiene legal service; or

(vii) if the person is not in and was not transferred from such a facility or program, the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities, or his or her designee.

(b) Form of objection. Such objection shall occur orally or in writing.

(c) Notification. In the event of the suspension of a health care decision pursuant to this subdivision, the objecting party shall promptly notify the guardian and the other parties identified in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, and the attending physician shall record such suspension in the [mentally retarded person's] PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY'S medical chart.

(d) Dispute mediation. In the event of an objection pursuant to this subdivision, at the request of the objecting party or person or entity authorized to act as a guardian under this section, except a surrogate decision making committee established pursuant to article eighty of the mental hygiene law, such objection shall be referred to [a dispute mediation system, established pursuant to section two thousand nine hundred seventy-two] AN ETHICS COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR-M of the public health law, or similar entity for mediating disputes in a hospice, such as a patient's advocate's office, hospital chaplain's office [or ethics committee], as described in writing and adopted by the governing authority of such hospice, for non-binding mediation. In the event that such dispute cannot be resolved within seventy-two hours or no such mediation entity exists or is reasonably available for mediation of a dispute, the objection [shall] MAY proceed to judicial review pursuant to this subdivision. The party requesting mediation shall provide notification to those parties entitled to notice pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

6. Special proceeding authorized. The guardian, the attending physician, as defined in subdivision two of section twenty-nine hundred eighty of the public health law, the chief executive officer identified in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision four of this section, the mental hygiene legal service (if the person is in or was transferred from a residential facility or program operated, approved or licensed by the office [of mental retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities) or the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities or his or her designee (if the person is

not in and was not transferred from such a facility or program) may commence a special proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction with respect to any dispute arising under this section, including objecting to the withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment because such withdrawal or withholding is not in accord with the criteria set forth in this section.

7. Provider's obligations. (a) A health care provider shall comply with the health care decisions made by a guardian in good faith pursuant to this section, to the same extent as if such decisions had been made by the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, if such person had capacity.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subdivision, nothing in this section shall be construed to require a private hospital to honor a guardian's health care decision that the hospital would not honor if the decision had been made by the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, if such person had capacity, because the decision is contrary to a formally adopted written policy of the hospital expressly based on religious beliefs or sincerely held moral convictions central to the hospital's operating principles, and the hospital would be permitted by law to refuse to honor the decision if made by such person, provided:

(i) the hospital has informed the guardian of such policy prior to or upon admission, if reasonably possible; and

(ii) the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, is transferred promptly to another hospital that is reasonably accessible under the circumstances and is willing to honor the guardian's decision. If the guardian is unable or unwilling to arrange such a transfer, the hospital's refusal to honor the decision of the guardian shall constitute an objection pursuant to subdivision five of this section.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subdivision, nothing in this section shall be construed to require an individual health care provider to honor a guardian's health care decision that the individual would not honor if the decision had been made by the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, if such person had capacity, because the decision is contrary to the individual's religious beliefs or sincerely held moral convictions, provided the individual health care provider promptly informs the guardian and the facility, if any, of his or her refusal to honor the guardian's decision. In such event, the facility shall promptly transfer responsibility for the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY to another individual health care provider willing to honor the guardian's decision. The individual health care provider shall cooperate in facilitating such transfer of the patient.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other paragraph of this subdivision, if a guardian directs the provision of life-sustaining treatment, the denial of which in reasonable medical judgment would be likely to result in the death of the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, a hospital or individual health care provider that does not wish to provide such treatment shall nonetheless comply with the guardian's decision pending either transfer of the [mentally retarded] person WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY to a willing hospital or individual health care provider, or judicial review.

(e) [Nothing] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, NOTHING in this section shall affect or diminish the authority of a surrogate decision-making panel to render decisions

regarding major medical treatment pursuant to article eighty of the mental hygiene law.

8. Immunity. (a) Provider immunity. No health care provider or employee thereof shall be subjected to criminal or civil liability, or be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct, for honoring reasonably and in good faith a health care decision by a guardian, or for other actions taken reasonably and in good faith pursuant to this section.

(b) Guardian immunity. No guardian shall be subjected to criminal or civil liability for making a health care decision reasonably and in good faith pursuant to this section.

S 7. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.