

9648

I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 14, 2014

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Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the surrogate's court procedure act, in relation to restoring medical futility as a basis for both surrogate consent to a do not resuscitate order and for a do not resuscitate order for a patient without a surrogate

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

1     Section 1. Legislative findings. Under New York's former do not resus-  
2     citate (hereinafter "DNR") law, article 29-B of the public health law, a  
3     surrogate could consent to a DNR order if the patient met any one of  
4     four clinical criteria, one of which was a finding by two physicians  
5     that resuscitation was "medically futile," which was defined to mean  
6     that resuscitation "will be unsuccessful in restoring cardiac and  
7     respiratory function or that the patient will experience repeated arrest  
8     in a short time period before death occurs." The former DNR law also  
9     allowed a DNR order to be entered for a patient who did not have a  
10    surrogate on that basis. That law applied to all patients, including  
11    developmentally disabled patients.

12    In 2010, the former DNR law was superseded by the Family Health Care  
13    Decisions Act (hereinafter "FHCD") which established standards for the  
14    withdrawal or withholding of a broad range of life-sustaining treat-  
15    ments. Accordingly, the FHCD did not have a standard specifically  
16    relating to medically futile resuscitation. Similarly, Surrogate's Court  
17    Procedure Act (hereinafter "SCPA") S1750-b does not have a standard  
18    specifically relating to medically futile resuscitation for develop-  
19    mentally disabled patients.

20    The legislature finds that the broader FHCD and SCPA S1750-b stand-  
21    ards are difficult to apply to situations in which resuscitation would  
22    be medically futile. Accordingly, this bill restores the former DNR  
23    law's medical futility standard as an alternative basis for writing a  
24    DNR order under the FHCD and under SCPA S1750-b.

25    S 2. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of  
26    section 2994-d of the public health law, as added by chapter 8 of the

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

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1 laws of 2010, are amended and a new subparagraph (iii) is added to read  
2 as follows:

3 (i) Treatment would be an extraordinary burden to the patient and an  
4 attending physician determines, with the independent concurrence of  
5 another physician, that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty and  
6 in accord with accepted medical standards, (A) the patient has an  
7 illness or injury which can be expected to cause death within six  
8 months, whether or not treatment is provided; or (B) the patient is  
9 permanently unconscious; [or]

10 (ii) The provision of treatment would involve such pain, suffering or  
11 other burden that it would reasonably be deemed inhumane or extraor-  
12 dinarily burdensome under the circumstances and the patient has an irre-  
13 versible or incurable condition, as determined by an attending physician  
14 with the independent concurrence of another physician to a reasonable  
15 degree of medical certainty and in accord with accepted medical stand-  
16 ards[.]; OR

17 (III) WITH RESPECT TO A DECISION TO ENTER AN ORDER NOT TO RESUSCITATE,  
18 AN ATTENDING PHYSICIAN DETERMINES, WITH THE INDEPENDENT CONCURRENCE OF A  
19 SECOND PHYSICIAN, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAINTY, THAT IN  
20 THE EVENT OF A CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST, RESUSCITATION WOULD BE  
21 UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CARDIAC AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OR THAT THE  
22 PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE REPEATED ARREST IN A SHORT TIME PERIOD BEFORE  
23 DEATH OCCURS.

24 S 3. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 2994-g of the public  
25 health law, as added by chapter 8 of the laws of 2010, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (b) If the attending physician, with independent concurrence of a  
28 second physician designated by the hospital, determines to a reasonable  
29 degree of medical certainty that:

30 (i) (A) life-sustaining treatment offers the patient no medical bene-  
31 fit because the patient will die imminently, even if the treatment is  
32 provided; and

33 [(ii)] (B) the provision of life-sustaining treatment would violate  
34 accepted medical standards, then such treatment may be withdrawn or  
35 withheld from an adult patient who has been determined to lack deci-  
36 sion-making capacity pursuant to section twenty-nine hundred ninety-  
37 four-c of this article, without judicial approval. This paragraph shall  
38 not apply to any treatment necessary to alleviate pain or discomfort; OR

39 (II) IN THE EVENT OF CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST, RESUSCITATION WILL  
40 BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CARDIAC AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OR THAT  
41 THE PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE REPEATED ARREST IN A SHORT TIME PERIOD  
42 BEFORE DEATH OCCURS, THEN AN ORDER NOT TO RESUSCITATE MAY BE ENTERED FOR  
43 AN ADULT PATIENT WHO HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO LACK DECISION-MAKING CAPACI-  
44 TY PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR-C OF THIS ARTI-  
45 CLE, WITHOUT JUDICIAL APPROVAL.

46 S 4. Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of  
47 section 1750-b of the surrogate's court procedure act, as added by chap-  
48 ter 500 of the laws of 2002, are amended to read as follows:

49 (i) the mentally retarded person has a medical condition as follows:

50 A. a terminal condition, [as defined in subdivision twenty-three of  
51 section twenty-nine hundred sixty-one of the public health law] WHICH  
52 SHALL MEAN AN ILLNESS OR INJURY FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RECOVERY, AND  
53 WHICH CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO CAUSE DEATH WITHIN ONE YEAR; or

54 B. permanent unconsciousness; or

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

4 D. IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO ENTER AN ORDER NOT TO RESUSCITATE,  
5 THAT IN THE EVENT OF CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST SUCH RESUSCITATION  
6 WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CARDIAC AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OR  
7 THAT THE PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE REPEATED ARREST IN A SHORT TIME PERIOD  
8 BEFORE DEATH OCCURS; AND

9 (ii) EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A DECISION TO ENTER AN ORDER NOT TO RESUS-  
10 CITIZE BASED ON CLAUSE D OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, the  
11 life-sustaining treatment would impose an extraordinary burden on such  
12 person, in light of:

13 A. such person's medical condition, other than such person's mental  
14 retardation; and

15 B. the expected outcome of the life-sustaining treatment, notwith-  
16 standing such person's mental retardation; and

17 S 5. Subdivision 4 of section 1750-b of the surrogate's court proce-  
18 dure act is amended by adding new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

19 (F) IN THE CASE OF A PERSON FOR WHOM "GUARDIAN" MEANS A SURROGATE  
20 DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AN ORDER NOT TO  
21 RESUSCITATE MAY BE ENTERED, WITHOUT REVIEW OR APPROVAL BY SUCH COMMIT-  
22 TEE, IF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN DETERMINES, WITH THE INDEPENDENT CONCUR-  
23 RENCE OF A SECOND PHYSICIAN, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAIN-  
24 TY, THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST RESUSCITATION  
25 WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CARDIAC AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OR  
26 THAT THE PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE REPEATED ARREST IN A SHORT TIME PERIOD  
27 BEFORE DEATH OCCURS.

28 S 6. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
29 have become a law.