

STATE OF NEW YORK

2445--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 20, 2023

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, SCARCELLA-SPANTON, BRISPORT, BROUK, COMRIE, COONEY, FERNANDEZ, GIANARIS, GONZALEZ, HARCKHAM, JACKSON, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, MYRIE, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to a terminally ill patient's request for and use of medication for medical aid in dying

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "medical
2 aid in dying act".

3 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 28-F to
4 read as follows:

ARTICLE 28-F

MEDICAL AID IN DYING

Section 2899-d. Definitions.

8 2899-e. Request process.

9 2899-f. Attending physician responsibilities.

10 2899-g. Right to rescind request; requirement to offer opportunity to rescind.

11 2899-h. Consulting physician responsibilities.

12 2899-i. Referral to mental health professional.

13 2899-j. Medical record documentation requirements.

14 2899-k. Form of written request and witness attestation.

15 2899-l. Protection and immunities.

16 2899-m. Permissible refusals and prohibitions.

17 2899-n. Relation to other laws and contracts.

18 2899-o. Safe disposal of unused medications.

19 2899-p. Death certificate.

20 2899-q. Reporting.

21
EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02188-04-3

1 2899-r. Penalties.

2 2899-s. Severability.

3 § 2899-d. Definitions. As used in this article:

4 1. "Adult" means an individual who is eighteen years of age or older.

5 2. "Attending physician" means the physician who has primary responsi-
6 bility for the care of the patient and treatment of the patient's termi-
7 nal illness or condition.

8 3. "Decision-making capacity" means the ability to understand and
9 appreciate the nature and consequences of health care decisions, includ-
10 ing the benefits and risks of and alternatives to any proposed health
11 care, including medical aid in dying, and to reach an informed decision.

12 4. "Consulting physician" means a physician who is qualified by
13 specialty or experience to make a professional diagnosis and prognosis
14 regarding a person's terminal illness or condition.

15 5. "Health care facility" means a general hospital, nursing home, or
16 residential health care facility as defined in section twenty-eight
17 hundred one of this chapter, or a hospice as defined in section four
18 thousand two of this chapter; provided that for the purposes of section
19 twenty eight hundred ninety-nine-m of this article, "hospice" shall
20 refer only to a facility providing in-patient hospice care or a hospice
21 residence.

22 6. "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified, or
23 authorized by law to administer health care or dispense medication in
24 the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

25 7. "Informed decision" means a decision by a patient who is suffering
26 from a terminal illness or condition to request and obtain a
27 prescription for medication that the patient may self-administer to end
28 the patient's life that is based on an understanding and acknowledgment
29 of the relevant facts and that is made voluntarily, of the patient's own
30 volition and without coercion, after being fully informed of:

31 (a) the patient's medical diagnosis and prognosis;

32 (b) the potential risks associated with taking the medication to be
33 prescribed;

34 (c) the probable result of taking the medication to be prescribed;

35 (d) the possibility that the patient may choose not to obtain the
36 medication, or may obtain the medication but may decide not to self-ad-
37 minister it; and

38 (e) the feasible alternatives and appropriate treatment options,
39 including but not limited to palliative care and hospice care.

40 8. "Medical aid in dying" means the medical practice of a physician
41 prescribing medication to a qualified individual that the individual may
42 choose to self-administer to bring about death.

43 9. "Medically confirmed" means the medical opinion of the attending
44 physician that a patient has a terminal illness or condition and has
45 made an informed decision which has been confirmed by a consulting
46 physician who has examined the patient and the patient's relevant
47 medical records.

48 10. "Medication" means medication prescribed by a physician under this
49 article.

50 11. "Mental health professional" means a licensed physician, who is a
51 dipomate or eligible to be certified by a national board of psychiatry,
52 psychiatric nurse practitioner, or psychologist, licensed or certified
53 under the education law acting within his or her scope of practice and
54 who is qualified, by training and experience, certification, or board
55 certification or eligibility, to make a determination under section
56 twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-i of this article.

1 12. "Palliative care" means health care treatment, including interdis-
2 ciplinary end-of-life care, and consultation with patients and family
3 members, to prevent or relieve pain and suffering and to enhance the
4 patient's quality of life, including hospice care under article forty of
5 this chapter.

6 13. "Patient" means a person who is eighteen years of age or older
7 under the care of a physician.

8 14. "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in
9 New York state.

10 15. "Qualified individual" means a patient with a terminal illness or
11 condition, who has decision-making capacity, has made an informed deci-
12 sion, and has satisfied the requirements of this article in order to
13 obtain a prescription for medication.

14 16. "Self-administer" means a qualified individual's affirmative,
15 conscious, and voluntary act to ingest medication under this article.
16 Self-administration does not include lethal injection or lethal
17 infusion.

18 17. "Terminal illness or condition" means an incurable and irrevers-
19 ible illness or condition that has been medically confirmed and will,
20 within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months.

21 § 2899-e. Request process. 1. Oral and written request. A patient
22 wishing to request medication under this article shall make an oral
23 request and submit a written request to the patient's attending physi-
24 cian.

25 2. Making a written request. A patient may make a written request for
26 and consent to self-administer medication for the purpose of ending his
27 or her life in accordance with this article if the patient:

28 (a) has been determined by the attending physician to have a terminal
29 illness or condition and which has been medically confirmed by a
30 consulting physician; and

31 (b) based on an informed decision, expresses voluntarily, of the
32 patient's own volition and without coercion the request for medication
33 to end his or her life.

34 3. Written request signed and witnessed. (a) A written request for
35 medication under this article shall be signed and dated by the patient
36 and witnessed by at least two adults who, in the presence of the
37 patient, attest that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief the
38 patient has decision-making capacity, is acting voluntarily, is making
39 the request for medication of his or her own volition and is not being
40 coerced to sign the request. The written request shall be in substan-
41 tially the form described in section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-k
42 of this article.

43 (b) Both witnesses shall be adults who are not:

44 (i) a relative of the patient by blood, marriage or adoption;

45 (ii) a person who at the time the request is signed would be entitled
46 to any portion of the estate of the patient upon death under any will or
47 by operation of law; or

48 (iii) an owner, operator, employee or independent contractor of a
49 health care facility where the patient is receiving treatment or is a
50 resident.

51 (c) The attending physician, consulting physician and, if applicable,
52 the mental health professional who provides a decision-making capacity
53 determination of the patient under this article shall not be a witness.

54 4. No person shall qualify for medical aid in dying under this article
55 solely because of age or disability.

1 5. Requests for a medical aid-in-dying prescription must be made by
2 the qualified individual and may not be made by any other individual,
3 including the qualified individual's health care agent, or other agent
4 or surrogate, or via advance healthcare directive.

5 § 2899-f. Attending physician responsibilities. 1. The attending
6 physician shall examine the patient and his or her relevant medical
7 records and:

8 (a) make a determination of whether a patient has a terminal illness
9 or condition, has decision-making capacity, has made an informed deci-
10 sion and has made the request voluntarily of the patient's own volition
11 and without coercion;

12 (b) inform the patient of the requirement under this article for
13 confirmation by a consulting physician, and refer the patient to a
14 consulting physician upon the patient's request;

15 (c) refer the patient to a mental health professional pursuant to
16 section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-i of this article if the
17 attending physician believes that the patient may lack decision-making
18 capacity to make an informed decision;

19 (d) provide information and counseling under section twenty-nine
20 hundred ninety-seven-c of this chapter;

21 (e) ensure that the patient is making an informed decision by discuss-
22 ing with the patient: (i) the patient's medical diagnosis and prognosis;
23 (ii) the potential risks associated with taking the medication to be
24 prescribed; (iii) the probable result of taking the medication to be
25 prescribed; (iv) the possibility that the patient may choose to obtain
26 the medication but not take it; (v) the feasible alternatives and appro-
27 priate treatment options, including but not limited to (1) information
28 and counseling regarding palliative and hospice care and end-of-life
29 options appropriate to the patient, including but not limited to: the
30 range of options appropriate to the patient; the prognosis, risks and
31 benefits of the various options; and the patient's legal rights to
32 comprehensive pain and symptom management at the end of life; and (2)
33 information regarding treatment options appropriate to the patient,
34 including the prognosis, risks and benefits of the various treatment
35 options;

36 (f) offer to refer the patient for other appropriate treatment
37 options, including but not limited to palliative care and hospice care;

38 (g) provide health literate and culturally appropriate educational
39 material regarding hospice and palliative care that has been prepared by
40 the department in consultation with representatives of hospice and
41 palliative care providers from all regions of New York state, and that
42 is available on the department's website for access and download,
43 provided, however, an otherwise eligible patient cannot be denied care
44 under this article if these materials are not developed by the effective
45 date of this article;

46 (h) discuss with the patient the importance of:

47 (i) having another person present when the patient takes the medica-
48 tion and the restriction that no person other than the patient may
49 administer the medication;

50 (ii) not taking the medication in a public place; and

51 (iii) informing the patient's family of the patient's decision to
52 request and take medication that will end the patient's life; a patient
53 who declines or is unable to notify family shall not have his or her
54 request for medication denied for that reason;

55 (i) inform the patient that he or she may rescind the request for
56 medication at any time and in any manner;

1 (j) fulfill the medical record documentation requirements of section
2 twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-j of this article; and

3 (k) ensure that all appropriate steps are carried out in accordance
4 with this article before writing a prescription for medication.

5 2. Upon receiving confirmation from a consulting physician under
6 section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-h of this article and subject
7 to section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-i of this article, the
8 attending physician who determines that the patient has a terminal
9 illness or condition, has decision-making capacity and has made a volun-
10 tary request for medication as provided in this article, may personally,
11 or by referral to another physician, prescribe or order appropriate
12 medication in accordance with the patient's request under this article,
13 and at the patient's request, facilitate the filling of the prescription
14 and delivery of the medication to the patient.

15 3. In accordance with the direction of the prescribing or ordering
16 physician and the consent of the patient, the patient may self-adminis-
17 ter the medication to himself or herself. A health care professional or
18 other person shall not administer the medication to the patient.

19 § 2899-g. Right to rescind request; requirement to offer opportunity
20 to rescind. 1. A patient may at any time rescind his or her request for
21 medication under this article without regard to the patient's decision-
22 making capacity.

23 2. A prescription for medication may not be written without the
24 attending physician offering the qualified individual an opportunity to
25 rescind the request.

26 § 2899-h. Consulting physician responsibilities. Before a patient who
27 is requesting medication may receive a prescription for medication under
28 this article, a consulting physician must:

29 1. examine the patient and his or her relevant medical records;

30 2. confirm, in writing, to the attending physician and the patient,
31 whether: (a) the patient has a terminal illness or condition; (b) the
32 patient is making an informed decision; (c) the patient has decision-
33 making capacity, or provide documentation that the consulting physician
34 has referred the patient for a determination under section twenty-eight
35 hundred ninety-nine-i of this article; and (d) the patient is acting
36 voluntarily, of the patient's own volition and without coercion.

37 § 2899-i. Referral to mental health professional. 1. If the attending
38 physician or the consulting physician determines that the patient may
39 lack decision-making capacity to make an informed decision due to a
40 condition, including, but not limited to, a psychiatric or psychological
41 disorder, or other condition causing impaired judgement, the attending
42 physician or consulting physician shall refer the patient to a mental
43 health professional for a determination of whether the patient has deci-
44 sion-making capacity to make an informed decision. The referring physi-
45 cian shall advise the patient that the report of the mental health
46 professional will be provided to the attending physician and the
47 consulting physician.

48 2. A mental health professional who evaluates a patient under this
49 section shall report, in writing, to the attending physician and the
50 consulting physician, his or her independent conclusions about whether
51 the patient has decision-making capacity to make an informed decision,
52 provided that if, at the time of the report, the patient has not yet
53 been referred to a consulting physician, then upon referral the attend-
54 ing physician shall provide the consulting physician with a copy of the
55 mental health professional's report. If the mental health professional
56 determines that the patient lacks decision-making capacity to make an

1 informed decision, the patient shall not be deemed a qualified individ-
 2 ual, and the attending physician shall not prescribe medication to the
 3 patient.

4 3. A determination made pursuant to this section that an adult patient
 5 lacks decision-making capacity shall not be construed as a finding that
 6 the patient lacks decision-making capacity for any other purpose.

7 § 2899-j. Medical record documentation requirements. An attending
 8 physician shall document or file the following in the patient's medical
 9 record:

10 1. the dates of all oral requests by the patient for medication under
 11 this article;

12 2. the written request by the patient for medication under this arti-
 13 cle, including the declaration of witnesses and interpreter's declara-
 14 tion, if applicable;

15 3. the attending physician's diagnosis and prognosis, determination of
 16 decision-making capacity, and determination that the patient is acting
 17 voluntarily, of the patient's own volition and without coercion, and has
 18 made an informed decision;

19 4. if applicable, written confirmation of decision-making capacity
 20 under section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-i of this article; and

21 5. a note by the attending physician indicating that all requirements
 22 under this article have been met and indicating the steps taken to carry
 23 out the request, including a notation of the medication prescribed or
 24 ordered.

25 § 2899-k. Form of written request and witness attestation. 1. A
 26 request for medication under this article shall be in substantially the
 27 following form:

28 REQUEST FOR MEDICATION TO END MY LIFE

29 I, _____, am an adult who has decision-
 30 making capacity, which means I understand and appreciate the nature and
 31 consequences of health care decisions, including the benefits and risks
 32 of and alternatives to any proposed health care, and to reach an
 33 informed decision and to communicate health care decisions to a physi-
 34 cian.

35 I have been diagnosed with _____ (insert diagnosis), which my
 36 attending physician has determined is a terminal illness or condition,
 37 which has been medically confirmed by a consulting physician.

38 I have been fully informed of my diagnosis and prognosis, the nature
 39 of the medication to be prescribed and potential associated risks, the
 40 expected result, and the feasible alternatives and treatment options
 41 including but not limited to palliative care and hospice care.

42 I request that my attending physician prescribe medication that will
 43 end my life if I choose to take it, and I authorize my attending physi-
 44 cian to contact another physician or any pharmacist about my request.

45 INITIAL ONE:

46 () I have informed or intend to inform one or more members of my
 47 family of my decision.

48 () I have decided not to inform any member of my family of my deci-
 49 sion.

50 () I have no family to inform of my decision.

51 I understand that I have the right to rescind this request or decline
 52 to use the medication at any time.

53 I understand the importance of this request, and I expect to die if I
 54 take the medication to be prescribed. I further understand that although

1 most deaths occur within three hours, my death may take longer, and my
2 attending physician has counseled me about this possibility.

3 I make this request voluntarily, of my own volition and without being
4 coerced, and I accept full responsibility for my actions.

5 Signed: _____

6 Dated: _____

7 DECLARATION OF WITNESSES

8 I declare that the person signing this "Request for Medication to End
9 My Life":

10 (a) is personally known to me or has provided proof of identity;

11 (b) voluntarily signed the "Request for Medication to End My Life" in
12 my presence or acknowledged to me that he or she signed it; and

13 (c) to the best of my knowledge and belief, has decision-making capac-
14 ity and is making the "Request for Medication to End My Life" voluntar-
15 ily, of his or her own volition and is not being coerced to sign the
16 "Request for Medication to End My Life".

17 I am not the attending physician or consulting physician of the person
18 signing the "Request for Medication to End My Life" or, if applicable,
19 the mental health professional who provides a decision-making capacity
20 determination of the person signing the "Request for Medication to End
21 My Life" at the time the "Request for Medication to End My Life" was
22 signed.

23 I further declare under penalty of perjury that the statements made
24 herein are true and correct and false statements made herein are punish-
25 able.

26 Witness 1, Date: _____

27 (Printed name)

28 (Address)

29 (Telephone number)

30 I further declare that I am not (i) related to the above-named patient
31 by blood, marriage or adoption, (ii) entitled at the time the patient
32 signed the "Request for Medication to End My Life" to any portion of the
33 estate of the patient upon his/her death under any will or by operation
34 of law, or (iii) an owner, operator, employee or independent contractor
35 of a health care facility where the patient is receiving treatment or is
36 a resident.

37 Witness 2, Date: _____

38 (Printed name)

39 (Address)

40 (Telephone number)

41 I further declare that I am not (i) related to the above-named patient
42 by blood, marriage or adoption, (ii) entitled at the time the patient

1 signed the "Request for Medication to End My Life" to any portion of the
2 estate of the patient upon his/her death under any will or by operation
3 of law, or (iii) an owner, operator, employee or independent contractor
4 of a health care facility where the patient is receiving treatment or is
5 a resident.

6 2. (a) The "Request for Medication to End My Life" shall be written in
7 the same language as any conversations, consultations, or interpreted
8 conversations or consultations between a patient and at least one of his
9 or her attending or consulting physicians.

10 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the written
11 "Request for Medication to End My Life" may be prepared in English even
12 when the conversations or consultations or interpreted conversations or
13 consultations were conducted in a language other than English or with
14 auxiliary aids or hearing, speech or visual aids, if the English
15 language form includes an attached declaration by the interpreter of the
16 conversation or consultation, which shall be in substantially the
17 following form:

18 INTERPRETER'S DECLARATION

19 I, _____ (insert name of interpreter) _____, (mark as applica-
20 ble):

21 () for a patient whose conversations or consultations or interpreted
22 conversations or consultations were conducted in a language other than
23 English and the "Request for Medication to End My Life" is in English: I
24 declare that I am fluent in English and (insert target language). I have
25 the requisite language and interpreter skills to be able to interpret
26 effectively, accurately and impartially information shared and communi-
27 cations between the attending or consulting physician and (name of
28 patient).

29 I certify that on (insert date), at approximately (insert time), I
30 interpreted the communications and information conveyed between the
31 physician and (name of patient) as accurately and completely to the best
32 of my knowledge and ability and read the "Request for Medication to End
33 My Life" to (name of patient) in (insert target language).

34 (Name of patient) affirmed to me his/her desire to sign the "Request
35 for Medication to End My Life" voluntarily, of (name of patient)'s own
36 volition and without coercion.

37 () for a patient with a speech, hearing or vision disability: I
38 declare that I have the requisite language, reading and/or interpreter
39 skills to communicate with the patient and to be able to read and/or
40 interpret effectively, accurately and impartially information shared and
41 communications that occurred on (insert date) between the attending or
42 consulting physician and (name of patient).

43 I certify that on (insert date), at approximately (insert time), I
44 read and/or interpreted the communications and information conveyed
45 between the physician and (name of patient) impartially and as accurate-
46 ly and completely to the best of my knowledge and ability and, where
47 needed for effective communication, read or interpreted the "Request for
48 Medication to End My Life" to (name of patient).

49 (Name of patient) affirmed to me his/her desire to sign the "Request
50 for Medication to End My Life" voluntarily, of (name of patient)'s own
51 volition and without coercion.

52 I further declare under penalty of perjury that (i) the foregoing is
53 true and correct; (ii) I am not (A) related to (name of patient) by
54 blood, marriage or adoption, (B) entitled at the time (name of patient)

1 signed the "Request for Medication to End My Life" to any portion of the
 2 estate of (name of patient) upon his/her death under any will or by
 3 operation of law, or (C) an owner, operator, employee or independent
 4 contractor of a health care facility where (name of patient) is receiv-
 5 ing treatment or is a resident, except that if I am an employee or inde-
 6 pendent contractor at such health care facility, providing interpreter
 7 services is part of my job description at such health care facility or I
 8 have been trained to provide interpreter services and (name of patient)
 9 requested that I provide interpreter services to him/her for the
 10 purposes stated in this Declaration; and (iii) false statements made
 11 herein are punishable.

12 Executed at (insert city, county and state) on this (insert day of
 13 month) of (insert month), (insert year).

14 _____ (Signature of Interpreter)
 15 _____ (Printed name of Interpreter)
 16 _____ (ID # or Agency Name)
 17 _____ (Address of Interpreter)
 18 _____ (Language Spoken by Interpreter)

19 (c) An interpreter whose services are provided under paragraph (b) of
 20 this subdivision shall not (i) be related to the patient who signs the
 21 "Request for Medication to End My Life" by blood, marriage or adoption,
 22 (ii) be entitled at the time the "Request for Medication to End My Life"
 23 is signed by the patient to any portion of the estate of the patient
 24 upon death under any will or by operation of law, or (iii) be an owner,
 25 operator, employee or independent contractor of a health care facility
 26 where the patient is receiving treatment or is a resident; provided that
 27 an employee or independent contractor whose job description at the
 28 health care facility includes interpreter services or who is trained to
 29 provide interpreter services and who has been requested by the patient
 30 to serve as an interpreter under this article shall not be prohibited
 31 from serving as a witness under this article.

32 § 2899-l. Protection and immunities. 1. A physician, pharmacist, other
 33 health care professional or other person shall not be subject to civil
 34 or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action by any govern-
 35 ment entity for taking any reasonable good-faith action or refusing to
 36 act under this article, including, but not limited to: (a) engaging in
 37 discussions with a patient relating to the risks and benefits of end-of-
 38 life options in the circumstances described in this article, (b) provid-
 39 ing a patient, upon request, with a referral to another health care
 40 provider, (c) being present when a qualified individual self-administers
 41 medication, (d) refraining from acting to prevent the qualified individ-
 42 ual from self-administering such medication, or (e) refraining from
 43 acting to resuscitate the qualified individual after he or she self-ad-
 44 ministers such medication.

45 2. Nothing in this section shall limit civil or criminal liability for
 46 negligence, recklessness or intentional misconduct.

47 § 2899-m. Permissible refusals and prohibitions. 1. (a) A physician,
 48 nurse, pharmacist, other health care provider or other person shall not

1 be under any duty, by law or contract, to participate in the provision
2 of medication to a patient under this article.

3 (b) If a health care provider is unable or unwilling to participate in
4 the provision of medication to a patient under this article and the
5 patient transfers care to a new health care provider, the prior health
6 care provider shall transfer or arrange for the transfer, upon request,
7 of a copy of the patient's relevant medical records to the new health
8 care provider.

9 2. (a) A private health care facility may prohibit the prescribing,
10 dispensing, ordering or self-administering of medication under this
11 article while the patient is being treated in or while the patient is
12 residing in the health care facility if:

13 (i) the prescribing, dispensing, ordering or self-administering is
14 contrary to a formally adopted policy of the facility that is expressly
15 based on sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions central
16 to the facility's operating principles; and

17 (ii) the facility has informed the patient of such policy prior to
18 admission or as soon as reasonably possible.

19 (b) Where a facility has adopted a prohibition under this subdivision,
20 if a patient who wishes to use medication under this article requests,
21 the patient shall be transferred promptly to another health care facili-
22 ty that is reasonably accessible under the circumstances and willing to
23 permit the prescribing, dispensing, ordering and self-administering of
24 medication under this article with respect to the patient.

25 3. Where a health care facility has adopted a prohibition under this
26 subdivision, any health care provider or employee or independent
27 contractor of the facility who violates the prohibition may be subject
28 to sanctions otherwise available to the facility, provided the facility
29 has previously notified the health care provider, employee or independ-
30 ent contractor of the prohibition in writing.

31 § 2899-n. Relation to other laws and contracts. 1. (a) A patient who
32 requests medication under this article shall not, because of that
33 request, be considered to be a person who is suicidal, and self-adminis-
34 tering medication under this article shall not be deemed to be suicide,
35 for any purpose.

36 (b) Action taken in accordance with this article shall not be
37 construed for any purpose to constitute suicide, assisted suicide,
38 attempted suicide, promoting a suicide attempt, euthanasia, mercy kill-
39 ing, or homicide under the law, including as an accomplice or accessory
40 or otherwise.

41 2. (a) No provision in a contract, will or other agreement, whether
42 written or oral, to the extent the provision would affect whether a
43 person may make or rescind a request for medication or take any other
44 action under this article, shall be valid.

45 (b) No obligation owing under any contract shall be conditioned or
46 affected by the making or rescinding of a request by a person for medi-
47 cation or taking any other action under this article.

48 3. (a) A person and his or her beneficiaries shall not be denied bene-
49 fits under a life insurance policy for actions taken in accordance with
50 this article.

51 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or contract, the sale,
52 procurement or issuance of a life or health insurance or annuity policy,
53 or the rate charged for a policy, shall not be conditioned upon or
54 affected by a patient making or rescinding a request for medication
55 under this article.

1 4. An insurer shall not provide any information in communications made
2 to a patient about the availability of medication under this article
3 absent a request by the patient or by his or her attending physician
4 upon the request of such patient. Any communication shall not include
5 both the denial of coverage for treatment and information as to the
6 availability of medication under this article.

7 5. The sale, procurement, or issue of any professional malpractice
8 insurance policy or the rate charged for the policy shall not be condi-
9 tioned upon or affected by whether the insured does or does not take or
10 participate in any action under this article.

11 § 2899-o. Safe disposal of unused medications. A person who has
12 custody or control of any unused medication prescribed under this arti-
13 cle after the death of the qualified individual shall personally deliver
14 the unused medication for disposal to the nearest qualified facility
15 that properly disposes of controlled substances or shall dispose of it
16 by lawful means in accordance with regulations made by the commissioner,
17 regulations made by or guidelines of the commissioner of education, or
18 guidelines of a federal drug enforcement administration approved take-
19 back program. A qualified facility that properly disposes of controlled
20 substances shall accept and dispose of any medication delivered to it as
21 provided hereunder regardless of whether such medication is a controlled
22 substance. The commissioner may make regulations as may be appropriate
23 for the safe disposal of unused medications prescribed, dispensed or
24 ordered under this article as provided in this section.

25 § 2899-p. Death certificate. 1. If otherwise authorized by law, the
26 attending physician may sign the qualified individual's death certifi-
27 cate.

28 2. The cause of death listed on a qualified individual's death certifi-
29 cate who dies after self-administering medication under this article
30 will be the underlying terminal illness or condition.

31 § 2899-q. Reporting. 1. The commissioner shall annually review a
32 sample of the records maintained under sections twenty-eight hundred
33 ninety-nine-j and twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine-p of this article.
34 The commissioner shall adopt regulations establishing reporting require-
35 ments for physicians taking action under this article to determine
36 utilization and compliance with this article. The information collected
37 under this subdivision shall not constitute a public record available
38 for public inspection and shall be confidential and collected and main-
39 tained in a manner that protects the privacy of the patient, his or her
40 family, and any health care provider acting in connection with such
41 patient under this article, except that such information may be
42 disclosed to a governmental agency as authorized or required by law
43 relating to professional discipline, protection of public health or law
44 enforcement.

45 2. The commissioner shall prepare a report annually containing rele-
46 vant data regarding utilization and compliance with this article and
47 shall send such report to the legislature, and post such report on the
48 department's website.

49 § 2899-r. Penalties. 1. Nothing in this article shall be construed to
50 limit professional discipline or civil liability resulting from conduct
51 in violation of this article, negligent conduct, or intentional miscon-
52 duct by any person.

53 2. Conduct in violation of this article shall be subject to applicable
54 criminal liability under state law, including, where appropriate and
55 without limitation, offenses constituting homicide, forgery, coercion,
56 and related offenses, or federal law.

1 § 2899-s. Severability. If any provision of this article or any appli-
2 cation of any provision of this article, is held to be invalid, or to
3 violate or be inconsistent with any federal law or regulation, that
4 shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of
5 this article, or of any other application of any provision of this arti-
6 cle, which can be given effect without that provision or application;
7 and to that end, the provisions and applications of this article are
8 severable.

9 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.