

HOUSE BILL 1068

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By: **Delegates Smigiel, Glass, and Serafini**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Death With Dignity Laws – Study

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of authorizing mentally competent, terminally ill adult patients in the State to request and receive prescription medication to end their lives; requiring the study to include an analysis of certain information; requiring the Department to submit the results of the study to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on death with dignity laws.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study regarding the feasibility of authorizing mentally competent, terminally ill adult patients in the State to request and receive prescription medication to end their lives.

(b) The study conducted under this section shall include an analysis of death with dignity laws and reports on the usage of these laws from other states, including Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

(c) On or before December 1, 2014, the Department shall report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the results of the study conducted under this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

