

SENATE BILL 100

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J3

2000 Regular Session  
(01r0623)

**ENROLLED BILL**  
-- Finance/Environmental Matters --

Introduced by **Senator Hollinger**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Patient Care Advisory Committees - Consultation and Evidentiary Use of**  
3 **Advice**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a patient care advisory committee to consult with a  
5 medical professional familiar with pediatric end-of-life care under certain  
6 circumstances; ~~authorizing the written advice of a patient care advisory~~  
7 ~~committee to be admitted into evidence in a certain guardianship or juvenile~~  
8 ~~proceeding~~; and generally relating to patient care advisory committees.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Health - General  
11 Section 19-372 and 19-374  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

**Article - Health - General**

2 19-372.

3 (a) (1) Each advisory committee shall consist of at least 4 members,  
4 including:

5 (i) A physician not directly involved with the care of the patient in  
6 question;

7 (ii) A registered nurse not directly involved with the care of the  
8 patient in question;

9 (iii) A social worker; and

10 (iv) The chief executive officer or a designee from each hospital and  
11 each related institution represented on that advisory committee.

12 (2) The advisory committee may consist of as many other individuals as  
13 each represented hospital and related institution may choose, including:

14 (i) Representatives of the community; and

15 (ii) Ethical advisors or clergy.

16 (3) As part of the advisory committee's deliberations, the advisory  
17 committee, in appropriate cases, shall consult:

18 (i) All members of the patient's treatment team;

19 (ii) The patient; [and]

20 (iii) The patient's family; AND

21 (IV) IN A CASE INVOLVING THE OPTIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE AND  
22 TREATMENT OF A CHILD WITH A LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION, A MEDICAL  
23 PROFESSIONAL FAMILIAR WITH PEDIATRIC END-OF-LIFE CARE, IF A MEDICAL  
24 PROFESSIONAL WITH THIS EXPERTISE IS NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE  
25 COMMITTEE.

26 (b) The petitioner may be accompanied by any persons the petitioner desires.  
27 19-374.

28 (a) On the request of a petitioner, an advisory committee shall give advice  
29 concerning the options for medical care and treatment of an individual with a  
30 life-threatening condition.

31 (b) (1) The advisory committee shall make a good faith effort to notify a  
32 patient, a patient's immediate family members, a patient's guardians, and an

1 individual with a power of attorney to make a decision with a medical consequence for  
2 a patient, of the individual's right:

3 (i) To be a petitioner;

4 (ii) To meet with the advisory committee concerning the options for  
5 medical care and treatment; and

6 (iii) To receive an explanation of the basis of the advisory  
7 committee's advice.

8 (2) Any information or document that indicates the wishes of the patient  
9 shall take precedence in the deliberations of the advisory committee.

10 (c) An advisory committee or a member of an advisory committee who gives  
11 advice in good faith may not be held liable in court for the advice given.

12 (d) A person that assists one or more hospitals or related institutions in the  
13 establishment of an advisory committee may not be held liable in court for any advice  
14 given in good faith by that person, the related institution, the advisory committee, or  
15 any member of the advisory committee and the committee and its members may not  
16 be held liable for any advice given in good faith.

17 (e) (1) The proceedings and deliberations of an advisory committee are  
18 confidential as provided in § 14-501 of the Health Occupations Article.

19 (2) The advice of an advisory committee concerning a patient's medical  
20 care and treatment shall become part of the patient's medical record and is  
21 confidential under §§ 4-301 and 4-302 of this article.

22 ~~(3) THE WRITTEN ADVICE OF A PATIENT CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~  
23 ~~MAY BE ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE IN A GUARDIANSHIP OR JUVENILE PROCEEDING~~  
24 ~~IN WHICH:~~

25 ~~(I) THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE IS AT ISSUE; AND~~

26 ~~(II) A GUARDIAN SEEKS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE~~  
27 ~~COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE PROCESS OF DECISION MAKING ABOUT THE~~  
28 ~~PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE.~~

29 (f) A hospital or related institution may not be held liable in a civil action for  
30 failing to carry out the advice of an advisory committee concerning a patient's medical  
31 care if the advice given is inconsistent with the written policies of the hospital or  
32 related institution.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2000.

