

HOUSE BILL 797

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By: **Delegate Frush**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2007

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Study of Health Care Services for Children with Life-Threatening Medical**
3 **Conditions**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End
5 of Life and the Maryland Health Care Commission to jointly undertake a
6 certain study relating to services for children with life-threatening medical
7 conditions; requiring the Council and the Commission to report the effect of
8 certain programs that provide assistance for children with life-threatening
9 medical conditions, analyze the impact of certain programs in other states,
10 consult with certain persons, and make certain recommendations; requiring the
11 Council and the Commission to report to the Governor and the General
12 Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the study of
13 health care services for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

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

16 (a) The State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life and the
17 Maryland Health Care Commission shall jointly study the current services and
18 potential care delivery alternatives available for the care of children with
19 life-threatening medical conditions.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) As part of the study, the Council and the Commission shall:

2 (1) Describe the extent to which, under the Maryland Medical
3 Assistance Program and privately funded health insurance or similar benefits,
4 children who are diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition are currently
5 able to receive appropriate and timely palliative care services related to the symptoms
6 of the condition, the side effects from treatment, and the psychological, social, and
7 spiritual problems resulting from the condition or treatment;

8 (2) Analyze the impact in states that adopted the Children's Hospice
9 International Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families ("CHI
10 PACC") or other palliative care demonstration projects, including whether a CHI
11 PACC program results in the reallocation of resources for more effective care within
12 the parameters of overall budgetary neutrality;

13 (3) Consult with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the
14 Maryland Insurance Administration, the Hospice Network of Maryland, the Pediatric
15 Palliative Care Coalition of Maryland, organizations that represent health care
16 providers, and any other person that the Council and the Commission deem
17 appropriate in connection with the study; and

18 (4) Present any recommendations that the Council or the Commission
19 deems appropriate and feasible, including a potential CHI PACC or other
20 demonstration project in this State, to advance the goal of improving health care
21 services for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

22 (c) On or before December 1, 2007, the Council and the Commission shall
23 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
24 Article, the General Assembly on the results of the study.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 July 1, 2007.