

# SENATE BILL 562

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CF HB 498

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By: **Senators Kelley and Lee**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Reassigned: Finance, February 2, 2017

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Decisions Act – Advance Directives and Surrogate Decision Making**  
3 **– Disqualified Individuals**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain individuals from serving as a health care agent  
5 under certain circumstances; establishing a certain exception; prohibiting certain  
6 individuals from making decisions about health care for certain individuals ~~who have~~  
7 ~~been certified to be incapable of making an informed decision~~; under certain  
8 circumstances; providing that a health care provider may only be required to make  
9 a certain inquiry under certain circumstances; requiring a person who obtains  
10 certain information that would prohibit an individual from serving as a health care  
11 agent or making health care decisions for a certain individual to provide that  
12 information to a certain health care provider or a certain health care facility; defining  
13 a certain term; and generally relating to the Health Care Decisions Act and decision  
14 making by health care agents and surrogates.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Health – General  
17 Section 5–602(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Health – General  
22 Section 5–602(b) and 5–605(a)

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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 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Health – General**

6 5–602.

7 (a) (1) Any competent individual may, at any time, make a written or  
8 electronic advance directive regarding the provision of health care to that individual, or the  
9 withholding or withdrawal of health care from that individual.

10 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the absence of a validly  
11 executed or witnessed advance directive, any authentic expression made by an individual  
12 while competent of the individual’s wishes regarding health care for the individual shall be  
13 considered.

14 (b) (1) **(I)** In this subsection[, “disqualified person” means:] **THE**  
15 **FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

16 **(II) “DISQUALIFIED PERSON” MEANS:**

17 **[(i)] 1.** An owner, operator, or employee of a health care facility  
18 from which the declarant is receiving health care; or

19 **[(ii)] 2.** A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an owner, operator, or  
20 employee of a health care facility from which the declarant is receiving health care.

21 **(III) “PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF” HAS THE MEANING**  
22 **STATED IN § 4–501 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.**

23 (2) Any competent individual may, at any time, make a written or  
24 electronic advance directive appointing an agent to make health care decisions for the  
25 individual under the circumstances stated in the advance directive.

26 (3) **(I)** A disqualified person may not serve as a health care agent unless  
27 the person:

28 **[(i)] 1.** Would qualify as a surrogate decision maker under  
29 § 5–605(a) of this subtitle; or

30 **[(ii)] 2.** Was appointed by the declarant before the date on which  
31 the declarant received, or contracted to receive, health care from the facility.

1 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT SERVE AS A HEALTH CARE AGENT  
2 IF:

3 1. THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERIM,  
4 TEMPORARY, OR FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER AND THE DECLARANT IS A PERSON  
5 ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF UNDER THE ORDER; OR

6 2. ~~THE~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III)  
7 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SPOUSE OF THE DECLARANT AND:

8 A. THE INDIVIDUAL AND DECLARANT HAVE EXECUTED A  
9 SEPARATION AGREEMENT; OR

10 B. THE INDIVIDUAL OR DECLARANT HAS FILED AN  
11 APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE.

12 (III) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY SERVE AS A HEALTH CARE AGENT FOR  
13 A DECLARANT AFTER THE DATE OF THE EXECUTION OF A SEPARATION AGREEMENT  
14 OR THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE IF THE DECLARANT:

15 1. IS ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE  
16 INDIVIDUAL'S APPOINTMENT AS THE DECLARANT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT; OR

17 2. HAS OTHERWISE INDICATED AN INTENT TO HAVE THE  
18 INDIVIDUAL SERVE AS THE DECLARANT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT.

19 (4) An agent appointed under this subtitle has decision making priority  
20 over any individuals otherwise authorized under this subtitle to make health care decisions  
21 for a declarant.

22 (5) (I) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY ONLY BE REQUIRED TO  
23 MAKE A REASONABLE INQUIRY AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION OF A DECLARANT TO A  
24 HEALTH CARE FACILITY OR AT THE TIME A NEW HEALTH CARE AGENT IS IDENTIFIED  
25 TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM SERVING  
26 AS A HEALTH CARE AGENT FOR THE DECLARANT UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(II) OF THIS  
27 SUBSECTION.

28 (II) A PERSON WHO OBTAINS NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD  
29 PROHIBIT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM SERVING AS A DECLARANT'S HEALTH CARE AGENT  
30 UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE THE  
31 INFORMATION TO ANY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR HEALTH CARE FACILITY  
32 PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE DECLARANT.

1 (a) (1) (I) In this subsection[, “unavailable” means:] **THE FOLLOWING**  
2 **WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

3 (II) **“PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF” HAS THE MEANING**  
4 **STATED IN § 4–501 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.**

5 (III) **“UNAVAILABLE” MEANS:**

6 [(i)] 1. After reasonable inquiry, a health care provider is  
7 unaware of the existence of a health care agent or surrogate decision maker;

8 [(ii)] 2. After reasonable inquiry, a health care provider cannot  
9 ascertain the whereabouts of a health care agent or surrogate decision maker;

10 [(iii)] 3. A health care agent or surrogate decision maker has not  
11 responded in a timely manner, taking into account the health care needs of the individual,  
12 to a written or oral message from a health care provider;

13 [(iv)] 4. A health care agent or surrogate decision maker is  
14 incapacitated; or

15 [(v)] 5. A health care agent or surrogate decision maker is  
16 unwilling to make decisions concerning health care for the individual.

17 (2) [The] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
18 following individuals or groups, in the specified order of priority, may make decisions about  
19 health care for a person who has been certified to be incapable of making an informed  
20 decision and who has not appointed a health care agent in accordance with this subtitle or  
21 whose health care agent is unavailable. Individuals in a particular class may be consulted  
22 to make a decision only if all individuals in the next higher class are unavailable:

23 (i) A guardian for the patient, if one has been appointed;

24 (ii) The patient’s spouse or domestic partner;

25 (iii) An adult child of the patient;

26 (iv) A parent of the patient;

27 (v) An adult brother or sister of the patient; or

28 (vi) A friend or other relative of the patient who meets the  
29 requirements of paragraph (3) of this subsection.

30 (3) A friend or other relative may make decisions about health care for a  
31 patient under paragraph (2) of this subsection if the person:

- 1 (i) Is a competent individual; and
- 2 (ii) Presents an affidavit to the attending physician stating:
- 3 1. That the person is a relative or close friend of the patient;
- 4 and
- 5 2. Specific facts and circumstances demonstrating that the
- 6 person has maintained regular contact with the patient sufficient to be familiar with the
- 7 patient's activities, health, and personal beliefs.

8 **(4) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE**

9 **FOR A PATIENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:**

10 **(I) THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERIM,**

11 **TEMPORARY, OR FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER AND THE PATIENT IS A PERSON**

12 **ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF UNDER THE ORDER; OR**

13 **(II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SPOUSE OF THE PATIENT AND:**

14 1. **THE INDIVIDUAL AND PATIENT HAVE EXECUTED A**

15 **SEPARATION AGREEMENT; OR**

16 2. **THE INDIVIDUAL OR PATIENT HAS FILED AN**

17 **APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE.**

18 **[(4)] (5)** The attending physician shall include the affidavit presented

19 under paragraph (3) of this subsection in the patient's medical record.

20 **(6) (I) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY ONLY BE REQUIRED TO**

21 **MAKE A REASONABLE INQUIRY AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION OF A PATIENT TO A**

22 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY OR AT THE TIME A NEW HEALTH CARE AGENT IS IDENTIFIED**

23 **TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING**

24 **HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR THE PATIENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS**

25 **SUBSECTION.**

26 **(II) A PERSON WHO OBTAINS NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD**

27 **PROHIBIT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM MAKING HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR A PATIENT**

28 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION**

29 **TO ANY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR HEALTH CARE FACILITY PROVIDING SERVICES**

30 **TO THE PATIENT.**

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

32 October 1, 2017.