

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 323**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Kolterman, 24; Howard, 9; Bostelman, 23.

Read first time January 12, 2017

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the
- 2 Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act.

3           Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that palliative care provides health  
4 care that improves the quality of life of a patient and his or her family  
5 as they face problems associated with life-threatening illness and is a  
6 critical part of health care delivery in the state.

7           Sec. 3. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish  
8 the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education  
9 Program. The department shall consult with the Palliative Care and  
10 Quality of Life Advisory Council created in section 4 of this act  
11 regarding the program. The department shall make information regarding  
12 the program available on its web site on or before June 30, 2018. The  
13 information shall include, but not be limited to:

14           (1) Continuing education opportunities regarding palliative care for  
15 health care professionals;

16           (2) Delivery of palliative care in the home and in primary,  
17 secondary, and tertiary environments;

18           (3) Best practices in palliative care delivery;

19           (4) Educational materials for consumers of palliative care;

20           (5) Referral information for palliative care; and

21           (6) Palliative care delivery systems.

22           Sec. 4. (1) The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory  
23 Council is created. The council shall consult with and advise the  
24 Department of Health and Human Services on matters relating to palliative  
25 care initiatives. The council shall:

26           (a) Survey palliative care providers regarding best practices and  
27 recommendations;

28           (b) Work with the department; and

29           (c) Make recommendations to the department regarding information on  
30 the web site pursuant to section 3 of this act as standards of care  
31 change.

1           (2) The council shall be composed of nine members appointed by the  
2 Governor for three-year terms. At least two of the members shall be  
3 physicians or nurses certified under the Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
4 Certification Program administered by the American Board of Internal  
5 Medicine. One member shall be an employee of the department familiar with  
6 hospice and palliative medicine. The remaining members shall (a) have  
7 palliative care work experience, (b) have experience with palliative care  
8 delivery models in a variety of settings, such as acute care, long-term  
9 care, and hospice care, and with a variety of populations, including  
10 pediatric patients, youth patients, and adult patients, or (c) be  
11 representatives of palliative care patients and their family caregivers.

12           (3) The council shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The  
13 members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The members shall  
14 be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in  
15 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 but shall not receive any other compensation  
16 for such services.

17           (4) The department shall provide a place and time for the council to  
18 meet and provide staffing assistance as necessary for the meetings.