LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 1, 2017?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would allow a physician licensed in Massachusetts to prescribe medication, at the termination of a patient’s request, to end that patient’s life. To qualify, a patient would have to be an adult resident who (1) is medically determined to be terminally ill and communicating health-care decision, (2) has been diagnosed by attending and consulting physicians as having an incurable, irreversible disease that will, within reasonable medical judgment, cause death within six months, and (3) voluntarily states in writing that he wishes to die and has made an informed decision. The proposed law would require the patient to sign a document, the form of which is to be determined by the health-care facility where the patient resides. The proposed law would allow the attending physician to prescribe the medication, and the physician would be required to inform the patient of the potential life-saving treatments that are available as alternatives. The proposed law would also require the patient to fill the prescription with two pharmacists, and the medication would have to be dispensed directly to the patient, or the patient’s agent, but not by mail or courier.

The proposed law would make it punishable by imprisonment and/or fines, for anyone to (1) cause a patient to request medication, (2) force a request, or (3) compel a rejection of a request. The proposed law would also require the patient’s physician to notify the Department of Public Health at least 48 hours before the medication is prescribed.

Yes: NO

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 1, 2017?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate state criminal and civil penalties for the medical use of marijuana by qualifying patients. To qualify, a patient must have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition, including cancer, glaucoma, HIV-positive status or AIDS, hepatitis C, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, ALS, or multiple sclerosis. A patient would also have to obtain a written statement from a physician, with whom the patient has a bona fide physician-patient relationship, that the patient has a specific debilitating medical condition and would likely benefit from the medical use of marijuana. The proposed law would allow patients to possess up to a 60-day supply of marijuana for their personal medical use. The state Department of Public Health (DPH) would decide what amount would be a 60-day supply. A patient would be required to possess a personal registry, at least 21 years old, who could assist with the patient’s medical use of marijuana, but would be prohibited from converting that marijuana to cash. Patients and caregivers would be required to register with DPH by submitting the physician’s certification.

The proposed law would also require the process to treat patients and process provide medical marijuana to patients. A treatment center would have to apply for a dispensary registration by: (1) paying a fee to offset DPH’s administrative costs; (2) identifying its location and any additional location, if any, where marijuana would be grown; and (3) obtaining an operating license, consistent with rules to be issued by DPH, including continuing education and storage of marijuana. A treatment center would be required to register with DPH before making or altering medical use of marijuana. In 2013, there would be no more than 25 treatment centers, with at least one but no more than five centers in each county. In later years, DPH would modify the number of centers.

Yes: NO

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 1, 2017?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would allow DPRI to issue a registration to a qualifying patient whose access to a treatment center is limited by financial hardship, physical inaccessibility, or some other reason.

Yes: NO

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

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