

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1146

4
5 By: Representative J. Jeffress
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF PHYSICIAN
10 ASSISTED SUICIDE; TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

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14 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF
15 PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE. "

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 (a) For purposes of this act, "physician assisted suicide" means a
21 physician or health care provider participating in a medical procedure or
22 prescribing any drug, compound or substance that terminates the life of a
23 patient.

24 (b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any physician or health care provider to
25 commit the offense of physician assisted suicide by prescribing any drug,
26 compound or substance to a patient with the express purpose of ending the life
27 of the patient.

28 (2) It shall be unlawful for any physician or health care provider
29 to commit the offense of physician assisted suicide by assisting in any act
30 intended to cause the death of a patient.

31 (c) Any physician or health care provider violating the provisions of
32 subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed guilty of a Class C felony.

33 (d) Nothing in this act shall prohibit physicians or health care
34 providers from carrying out Advanced Directives, Living Wills, and other
35 orders expressed by a competent adult or legal guardian, nor shall this act
36 prohibit physicians from prescribing any drug, compound or substance for the

1 purpose of palliative care and pain management care.

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3 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
4 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
5 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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7 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
8 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
9 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
10 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
11 act are declared to be severable.

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13 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
14 hereby repealed.