

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 1320

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to certain advance directives for medical treatment and
3 medical treatment decisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 166.002, Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended by amending Subdivision (7) and adding Subdivision (15) to
7 read as follows:

8 (7) "Health care or treatment decision" means consent,
9 refusal to consent, or withdrawal of consent to health care,
10 treatment, service, or a procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat
11 an individual's physical or mental condition, including such a
12 decision on behalf of a minor.

13 (15) "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation" means any
14 medical intervention used to restore circulatory or respiratory
15 function that has ceased.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 166, Health and Safety
17 Code, is amended by adding Section 166.010 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 166.010. APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW RELATING TO
19 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. This chapter is subject to applicable
20 federal law and regulations relating to child abuse and neglect to
21 the extent applicable to the state based on its receipt of federal
22 funds.

23 SECTION 3. Section 166.044, Health and Safety Code, is
24 amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

1 (e) A physician, nurse, or other person acting under the
2 direction of a physician who participates in the withholding or
3 withdrawal of cardiopulmonary resuscitation from a patient who, in
4 reasonable medical judgment, has a terminal or irreversible
5 condition is not civilly or criminally liable for failure to
6 provide resuscitation if, in reasonable medical judgment, in the
7 event of cardiopulmonary arrest, the patient's death would occur
8 within minutes to hours regardless of the provision of
9 resuscitation. Nothing in this section may be construed to limit
10 the authority of a physician, nurse, or other person to comply with
11 an otherwise valid and applicable patient's directive to physicians
12 or out-of-hospital do-not-resuscitate order, or the decision of a
13 competent patient or the person responsible for the health care
14 decisions of the patient, that authorizes a do-not-resuscitate
15 order under other circumstances.

16 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 166.046, Health and
17 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 166.046. PROCEDURE IF NOT EFFECTUATING A DIRECTIVE OR
19 TREATMENT DECISION.

20 SECTION 5. Section 166.046, Health and Safety Code, is
21 amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (e) and adding
22 Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

23 (a) If an attending physician refuses to honor a patient's
24 advance directive or a health care or treatment decision made by or
25 on behalf of a patient [~~under Section 166.039~~], the physician's
26 refusal shall be reviewed by an ethics or medical committee. The
27 attending physician may not be a member of that committee. The

1 patient shall be given life-sustaining treatment during the review.

2 (b) The patient or the person responsible for the health
3 care decisions of the individual who has made the decision
4 regarding the directive or treatment decision:

5 (1) shall be informed of the committee review process
6 not less than 48 hours before the meeting called to discuss the
7 patient's directive, unless the time period is waived by mutual
8 agreement; ~~and~~

9 (2) at the time of being so informed, shall be
10 provided:

11 (A) a copy of the appropriate statement set forth
12 in Section 166.052; and

13 (B) a copy of the registry list of health care
14 providers and referral groups that have volunteered their readiness
15 to consider accepting transfer or to assist in locating a provider
16 willing to accept transfer that is posted on the website maintained
17 by the Texas Health Care Information Council under Section 166.053;
18 and

19 (3) is entitled to:

20 (A) attend the meeting; and

21 (B) receive a written explanation of the decision
22 reached during the review process.

23 (e) If the patient or the person responsible for the health
24 care decisions of the patient is requesting life-sustaining
25 treatment that the attending physician has decided and the review
26 process has affirmed ~~have decided~~ is inappropriate treatment, the
27 patient shall be given available life-sustaining treatment pending

1 transfer under Subsection (d). The patient is responsible for any
2 costs incurred in transferring the patient to another facility.
3 The physician and the health care facility are not obligated to
4 provide life-sustaining treatment after the 10th day after the
5 written decision required under Subsection (b) is provided to the
6 patient or the person responsible for the health care decisions of
7 the patient unless ordered to do so under Subsection (g).

8 (e-1) If during a previous admission to a facility a
9 patient's attending physician and the review process under
10 Subsection (b) have determined that life-sustaining treatment is
11 inappropriate, and the patient is readmitted to the same facility
12 within six months from the date of the decision reached during the
13 review process conducted upon the previous admission, Subsections
14 (b)-(e) need not be followed if the patient's attending physician
15 and a consulting physician who is a member of the ethics or medical
16 committee of the facility document on the patient's readmission
17 that the patient's condition either has not improved or has
18 deteriorated since the review process was conducted.

19 SECTION 6. Subchapter B, Chapter 166, Health and Safety
20 Code, is amended by adding Sections 166.052 and 166.053 to read as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 166.052. STATEMENTS EXPLAINING PATIENT'S RIGHT TO
23 TRANSFER. (a) In cases in which the attending physician refuses
24 to honor an advance directive or treatment decision requesting the
25 provision of life-sustaining treatment, the statement required by
26 Section 166.046(b)(2)(A) shall be in substantially the following
27 form:

1 When There Is A Disagreement About Medical Treatment: The
2 Physician Recommends Against Life-Sustaining Treatment That You
3 Wish To Continue

4 You have been given this information because you have
5 requested life-sustaining treatment,* which the attending
6 physician believes is not appropriate. This information is being
7 provided to help you understand state law, your rights, and the
8 resources available to you in such circumstances. It outlines the
9 process for resolving disagreements about treatment among
10 patients, families, and physicians. It is based upon Section
11 166.046 of the Texas Advance Directives Act, codified in Chapter
12 166 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

13 When an attending physician refuses to comply with an advance
14 directive or other request for life-sustaining treatment because of
15 the physician's judgment that the treatment would be inappropriate,
16 he or she will request that the case be reviewed by an ethics or
17 medical committee. Life-sustaining treatment will be provided
18 through the review.

19 You will receive notification of this review at least 48
20 hours before a meeting of the committee related to your case. You
21 are entitled to attend the meeting. With your agreement, the
22 meeting may be held sooner than 48 hours, if possible.

23 If you wish, you are entitled to receive a written
24 explanation of the decision reached during the review process.

25 If after this review process both the attending physician and
26 the ethics or medical committee conclude that life-sustaining
27 treatment is inappropriate and yet you continue to request such

1 treatment, then the following procedure will occur:

2 1. The physician, with the help of the health care facility,
3 will assist you in trying to find a physician and facility willing
4 to provide the requested treatment.

5 2. You are being given a list of health care providers and
6 referral groups that have volunteered their readiness to consider
7 accepting transfer, or to assist in locating a provider willing to
8 accept transfer, maintained by the Texas Health Care Information
9 Council. You may wish to contact providers or referral groups on
10 the list or others of your choice to get help in arranging a
11 transfer.

12 3. The patient will continue to be given the requested
13 life-sustaining treatment until he or she can be transferred to a
14 willing provider for up to 10 days from the time you were given the
15 committee's written decision that life-sustaining treatment is not
16 appropriate.

17 4. If a transfer can be arranged, the patient will be
18 responsible for the costs of the transfer.

19 5. If a provider cannot be found willing to give the
20 requested treatment within 10 days, life-sustaining treatment may
21 be withdrawn on the 11th day unless a court of law has granted an
22 extension.

23 6. You may ask the appropriate district or county court to
24 extend the 10-day period if the court finds that there is a
25 reasonable expectation that a physician or health care facility
26 willing to provide life-sustaining treatment will be found if the
27 extension is granted. You will probably need a lawyer's help if you

1 wish to consider seeking this type of extension.

2 * "Life-sustaining treatment" means treatment that, based on
3 reasonable medical judgment, sustains the life of a patient and
4 without which the patient will die. The term includes both
5 life-sustaining medications and artificial life support, such as
6 mechanical breathing machines, kidney dialysis treatment, and
7 artificial nutrition and hydration. The term does not include the
8 administration of pain management medication or the performance of
9 a medical procedure considered to be necessary to provide comfort
10 care, or any other medical care provided to alleviate a patient's
11 pain.

12 (b) In cases in which the attending physician refuses to
13 comply with an advance directive or treatment decision requesting
14 the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, the
15 statement required by Section 166.046(b)(2)(A) shall be in
16 substantially the following form:

17 When There Is A Disagreement About Medical Treatment: The
18 Physician Recommends Life-Sustaining Treatment That You Wish To
19 Stop

20 You have been given this information because you have
21 requested the withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining
22 treatment* and the attending physician refuses to comply with that
23 request. The information is being provided to help you understand
24 state law, your rights, and the resources available to you in such
25 circumstances. It outlines the process for resolving disagreements
26 about treatment among patients, families, and physicians. It is
27 based upon Section 166.046 of the Texas Advance Directives Act,

1 codified in Chapter 166 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

2 When an attending physician refuses to comply with an advance
3 directive or other request for withdrawal or withholding of
4 life-sustaining treatment for any reason, he or she will request
5 that the case be reviewed by an ethics or medical committee.
6 Life-sustaining treatment will be provided through the review.

7 You will receive notification of this review at least 48
8 hours before a meeting of the committee related to your case. You
9 are entitled to attend the meeting. With your agreement, the
10 meeting may be held sooner than 48 hours, if possible.

11 If you wish, you are entitled to receive a written
12 explanation of the decision reached during the review process.

13 If you or the attending physician do not agree with the
14 decision reached during the review process, and the attending
15 physician still refuses to comply with your request to withhold or
16 withdraw life-sustaining treatment, then the following procedure
17 will occur:

18 1. The physician, with the help of the health care facility,
19 will assist you in trying to find a physician and facility willing
20 to withdraw or withhold the life-sustaining treatment.

21 2. You are being given a list of health care providers and
22 referral groups that have volunteered their readiness to consider
23 accepting transfer, or to assist in locating a provider willing to
24 accept transfer, maintained by the Texas Health Care Information
25 Council. You may wish to contact providers or referral groups on
26 the list or others of your choice to get help in arranging a
27 transfer.

1 * "Life-sustaining treatment" means treatment that, based on
2 reasonable medical judgment, sustains the life of a patient and
3 without which the patient will die. The term includes both
4 life-sustaining medications and artificial life support, such as
5 mechanical breathing machines, kidney dialysis treatment, and
6 artificial nutrition and hydration. The term does not include the
7 administration of pain management medication or the performance of
8 a medical procedure considered to be necessary to provide comfort
9 care, or any other medical care provided to alleviate a patient's
10 pain.

11 (c) An attending physician or health care facility may, if
12 it chooses, include any additional information concerning the
13 physician's or facility's policy, perspective, experience, or
14 review procedure.

15 Sec. 166.053. REGISTRY TO ASSIST TRANSFERS. (a) The Texas
16 Health Care Information Council shall maintain a registry listing
17 the identity of and contact information for health care providers
18 and referral groups, situated inside and outside this state, that
19 have voluntarily notified the council they may consider accepting
20 or may assist in locating a provider willing to accept transfer of a
21 patient under Section 166.045 or 166.046.

22 (b) The listing of a provider or referral group in the
23 registry described in this section does not obligate the provider
24 or group to accept transfer of or provide services to any particular
25 patient.

26 (c) The Texas Health Care Information Council shall post the
27 current registry list on its website in a form appropriate for easy

1 comprehension by patients and persons responsible for the health
2 care decisions of patients and shall provide a clearly identifiable
3 link from its home page to the registry page. The list shall
4 separately indicate those providers and groups that have indicated
5 their interest in assisting the transfer of:

6 (1) those patients on whose behalf life-sustaining
7 treatment is being sought;

8 (2) those patients on whose behalf the withholding or
9 withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is being sought; and

10 (3) patients described in both Subdivisions (1) and
11 (2).

12 (d) The registry list described in this section shall
13 include the following disclaimer:

14 "This registry lists providers and groups
15 that have indicated to the Texas Health Care
16 Information Council their interest in
17 assisting the transfer of patients in the
18 circumstances described, and is provided
19 for information purposes only. Neither the
20 Texas Health Care Information Council nor
21 the State of Texas endorses or assumes any
22 responsibility for any representation,
23 claim, or act of the listed providers or
24 groups."

25 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 166, Health and Safety
26 Code, is amended by adding Section 166.102 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 166.102. PHYSICIAN'S DNR ORDER MAY BE HONORED BY

1 HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL OTHER THAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
2 PERSONNEL. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a licensed
3 nurse or person providing health care services in an
4 out-of-hospital setting may honor a physician's do-not-resuscitate
5 order.

6 (b) When responding to a call for assistance, emergency
7 medical services personnel shall honor only a properly executed or
8 issued out-of-hospital DNR order or prescribed DNR identification
9 device in accordance with this subchapter.

10 SECTION 8. Subdivision (1), Section 166.081, Health and
11 Safety Code, is repealed.

12 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.