
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 97 (S.74). Health; patient choice at end of life; immunity

An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws

This act allows a physician to use telemedicine to interact with a terminally ill patient who is requesting a prescription for medication to be self-administered to hasten the patient's own death if the physician determines the use of telemedicine to be clinically appropriate. The act continues to require that the physician's determination that the patient was suffering a terminal condition be based on a physical examination of the patient and review of the patient's relevant medical records, but it allows the physical examination to have been conducted by a physician other than the prescribing physician. The act eliminates a 48-hour waiting requirement after the last to occur of the patient's written request for medication to be self-administered to hasten the patient's own death, the patient's second oral request for the medication, and the physician's offering the patient an opportunity to rescind the request, before the physician can write a prescription for the medication. The act also specifies that no health care professional will be subject to civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action for acting in good faith compliance with the statutes regarding patient choice at end of life.

Effective Date: April 27, 2022