

1 H.690

2 Introduced by Representatives Haas of Rochester and Pugh of South

3 Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Health; advance directives; DNR/COLST orders; clinicians; hospitals;

7 nursing homes

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to identify  
9 additional individuals who may explain the nature and purpose of an advance  
10 directive to persons who are being admitted to or are residents of a nursing  
11 home or residential care facility or who are being admitted to or are patients in  
12 a hospital, and it would require nursing homes and residential care facilities to  
13 designate individuals for this purpose. The bill would specify that a do-not-  
14 resuscitate (DNR) order or clinician order for life-sustaining treatment  
15 (COLST) to be used in Vermont may be signed by a licensed clinician  
16 practicing in another state if the clinician was treating the patient in the other  
17 state at the time the DNR/COLST was issued.

18 An act relating to explanation of advance directives and treating clinicians  
19 who may sign a DNR/COLST

20 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

1 ~~Sec. 18 V.S.A. § 9703 is amended to read:~~

2 § 9703. FORM AND EXECUTION

3 \* \* \*

4 (b) The advance directive shall be dated, executed by the principal or by  
5 another individual in the principal's presence at the principal's express  
6 direction if the principal is physically unable to do so, and signed in the  
7 presence of two or more witnesses at least 18 years of age, who shall sign and  
8 affirm that the principal appeared to understand the nature of the document  
9 and to be free from duress or undue influence at the time the advance directive  
10 was signed. A health care provider may serve as a witness to the principal's  
11 execution of the advance directive under this subsection. If the principal is  
12 being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home or is being admitted to or  
13 is a patient in a hospital at the time of execution, the individual who explained  
14 the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal pursuant to  
15 subsection (d) or (e) of this section may also serve as one of the witnesses to  
16 the principal's execution of the advance directive under this subsection.

17 \* \* \*

18 (d) An advance directive shall not be effective if, at the time of execution,  
19 the principal is being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home as defined  
20 in 33 V.S.A. § 7102 or a residential care facility, unless an ombudsman, the  
21 State Long-Term Care Ombudsman or a representative of the Ombudsman's

1 ~~Office, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7501; a patient representative; a recognized~~  
2 ~~member of the clergy; an attorney licensed to practice in this State; or; a~~  
3 ~~Probate Division of the Superior Court designee; or an individual designated~~  
4 ~~under subsection 9709(d) of this title by the nursing home or residential care~~  
5 ~~facility or by a hospital signs a statement affirming that he or she has explained~~  
6 ~~the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal. It is the intent~~  
7 ~~of this subsection to ensure that residents of nursing homes and residential care~~  
8 ~~facilities are willingly and voluntarily executing advance directives.~~

9 (e) An advance directive shall not be effective if, at the time of execution,  
10 the principal is being admitted to or is a patient in a hospital, unless an  
11 ~~ombudsman, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman or a representative of the~~  
12 ~~Ombudsman's Office, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7501; a representative of the~~  
13 ~~Office of the Health Care Advocate; a patient representative; a recognized~~  
14 ~~member of the clergy; an attorney licensed to practice in this State; a Probate~~  
15 ~~Division of the Superior Court designee; or an individual designated under~~  
16 ~~subsection 9709(e) 9709(d) of this title by the hospital signs a statement~~  
17 ~~affirming that he or she has explained the nature and effect of the advance~~  
18 ~~directive to the principal.~~

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9708 is amended to read:

21 ~~§ 9708. AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS OF HEALTH CARE~~

1 ~~PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND RESIDENTIAL~~

2 ~~CARE FACILITIES REGARDING DNR ORDERS AND COLST~~

3 ~~(a) As used in this section, "clinician" shall have the same meaning as in~~  
4 ~~section 9701 of this title and shall also include a duly licensed medical doctor,~~  
5 ~~osteopathic physician, advanced practice registered nurse or nurse practitioner,~~  
6 ~~or physician assistant who treated the patient outside Vermont and held a valid~~  
7 ~~license to practice in the state in which the patient was located at the time the~~  
8 ~~DNR/COLST was issued.~~

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9709(d) is amended to read:

11 (d)(1) Every nursing home and residential care facility shall designate an  
12 adequate number of individuals to explain the nature and effect of an advance  
13 directive to patients as required by subsection 9703(d) of this title.

14 (2) Every hospital shall designate an adequate number of individuals to  
15 explain the nature and effect of an advance directive to patients as required by  
16 subsection 9703(e) of this title.

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 ~~This act shall take effect on passage.~~

*Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9701 is amended to read:*

*§ 9701. DEFINITIONS*

*As used in this chapter:*

\* \* \*

(21) "Ombudsman" means:

(A) an individual appointed as a long-term care ombudsman under the program contracted through the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman or a representative of the Ombudsman's Office, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7501; or

(B) a representative of the agency designated as the Office of the Mental Health Care Ombudsman pursuant to section 7259 of this title.

\* \* \*

(34) "Patient Mental health patient representative" means the mental health patient representative established by section 7253 of this title.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9703 is amended to read:

§ 9703. FORM AND EXECUTION

\* \* \*

(b) The advance directive shall be dated, executed by the principal or by another individual in the principal's presence at the principal's express direction if the principal is physically unable to do so, and signed in the presence of two or more witnesses at least 18 years of age, who shall sign and affirm that the principal appeared to understand the nature of the document and to be free from duress or undue influence at the time the advance directive was signed. A health care provider may serve as a witness to the principal's

execution of the advance directive under this subsection. If the principal is being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home or residential care facility or is being admitted to or is a patient in a hospital at the time of execution, the individual who explained the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of this section may also serve as one of the witnesses to the principal's execution of the advance directive under this subsection.

\* \* \*

(d)(1) An advance directive shall not be effective if, at the time of execution, the principal is being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102 or a residential care facility, unless ~~an~~ ~~an~~ ~~ombudsman, a patient representative, a recognized member of the clergy, an attorney licensed to practice in this State, or a Probate Division of the Superior Court designee~~ one of the following individuals explains the nature and effect of an advance directive to the principal and signs a statement affirming that he or she has explained the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal provided the explanation:

(A) an ombudsman;

(B) a recognized member of the clergy;

(C) an attorney licensed to practice in this State;

(D) a Probate Division of the Superior Court designee;

(E) an individual designated by a hospital pursuant to subsection 9709(d) of this title;

(F) a mental health patient representative;

(G) an individual who is volunteering at the nursing home or residential care facility without compensation and has received appropriate training regarding the explanation of advance directives; or

~~(H) the principal's primary care clinician, if the clinician is not employed by the nursing home or residential care facility at the time of the explanation.~~

(H) a clinician, as long as the clinician is not employed by the nursing home or residential care facility at the time of the explanation.

(2) It is the intent of this subsection to ensure that residents of nursing homes and residential care facilities are willingly and voluntarily executing advance directives.

(e) An advance directive shall not be effective if, at the time of execution, the principal is being admitted to or is a patient in a hospital, unless ~~an~~ ~~ombudsman, a patient representative, a recognized member of the clergy, an attorney licensed to practice in this State, a Probate Division of the Superior Court designee, or an individual designated under subsection 9709(c) of this title by the hospital~~ one of the following individuals has explained the nature and effect of an advance directive to the principal and signs a statement

~~*affirming that he or she has explained the nature and effect of the advance directive to the principal provided the explanation:*~~

~~*(1) an ombudsman;*~~

~~*(2) a recognized member of the clergy;*~~

~~*(3) an attorney licensed to practice in this State;*~~

~~*(4) a Probate Division of the Superior Court designee;*~~

~~*(5) an individual designated by the hospital pursuant to subsection 9709(d) of this title; or*~~

~~*(6) a mental health patient representative.*~~

\* \* \*

*Sec. 2a. 18 V.S.A. § 9706(c) is amended to read:*

*(c) Upon a determination of need by the principal's clinician, or upon the request of the principal, agent, guardian, ombudsman, a mental health patient representative, health care provider, or any interested individual, the principal's clinician, another clinician, or a clinician's designee shall reexamine the principal to determine whether the principal has capacity. The clinician shall document the results of the reexamination in the principal's medical record and shall make reasonable efforts to notify the principal and the agent or guardian, as well as the individual who initiated the new determination of capacity, of the results of the reexamination, if providing such notice is consistent with the requirements of HIPAA.*

*Sec. 2b. 18 V.S.A. § 9707(h) is amended to read:*

*(h)(1) An advance directive executed in accordance with section 9703 of this title may contain a provision permitting the agent, in the event that the principal lacks capacity, to authorize or withhold health care over the principal's objection. In order to be valid, the provision shall comply with the following requirements:*

*\* \* \**

*(D)(i) An ombudsman, a mental health patient representative, attorney licensed to practice law in this State, or the Probate Division of the Superior Court designee shall sign a statement affirming that he or she has explained the nature and effect of the provision to the principal, and that the principal appeared to understand the explanation and be free from duress or undue influence.*

*(ii) If the principal is a patient in a hospital when the provision is executed, the ombudsman, mental health patient representative, attorney, or Probate Division of the Superior Court designee shall be independent of the hospital and not an interested individual.*

*\* \* \**

*Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9708 is amended to read:*

*§ 9708. AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND RESIDENTIAL*

*CARE FACILITIES REGARDING DNR ORDERS AND COLST*

(a) As used in this section, "clinician" shall have the same meaning as in section 9701 of this title and shall also include a duly licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician, advanced practice registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who treated the patient outside Vermont and held a valid license to practice in the state in which the patient was located at the time the DNR/COLST was issued.

\* \* \*

*Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9709(d) is amended to read:*

(d)(1) Each nursing home and residential care facility that chooses to use volunteers to explain to residents the nature and effect of an advance directive as required by subsection 9703(d) of this title shall ensure that the volunteers have received appropriate training regarding the explanation of advance directives.

(2) Every hospital shall designate an adequate number of individuals to explain the nature and effect of an advance directive to patients as required by subsection 9703(e) of this title.

*Sec. 4a. 18 V.S.A. § 9718(a) is amended to read:*

*(a) A petition may be filed in the Probate Division of the Superior Court under this section by:*

*(1) a principal, guardian, agent, ombudsman, a mental health patient*

*representative, or interested individual other than one identified in an advance directive, pursuant to subdivision 9702(a)(10) of this title, as not authorized to bring an action under this section;*

\* \* \*

*Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE*

*This act shall take effect on passage.*