

be periodic or irregular. Whether or not any motor propelled vehicle is operated by any auto transportation company "between fixed termini or over a regular route" within the meaning of this section shall be a question of fact, and the finding of the commission thereon shall be final and shall not be subject to review.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. There is added to chapter 82.04 RCW a new section to read as follows:

This chapter does not apply to any funds received in the course of commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for the elderly and the handicapped in accordance with section 1 of this 1979 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. There is added to chapter 82.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

This chapter does not apply to any funds received in the course of commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for the elderly and the handicapped in accordance with section 1 of this 1979 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. Sections 1 through 3 of this 1979 act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 46 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. Sections 4 through 10 of this 1979 act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 81 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 21. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the House March 8, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 2, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1979.

---

## CHAPTER 112

[Substitute House Bill No. 264]

### NATURAL DEATH ACT

AN ACT Relating to health; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Natural Death Act".

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature finds that adult persons have the fundamental right to control the decisions relating to the rendering of their own medical care, including the decision to have life-sustaining procedures withheld or withdrawn in instances of a terminal condition.

The legislature further finds that modern medical technology has made possible the artificial prolongation of human life beyond natural limits.

The legislature further finds that, in the interest of protecting individual autonomy, such prolongation of life for persons with a terminal condition may cause loss of patient dignity, and unnecessary pain and suffering, while providing nothing medically necessary or beneficial to the patient.

The legislature further finds that there exists considerable uncertainty in the medical and legal professions as to the legality of terminating the use or application of life-sustaining procedures where the patient has voluntarily and in sound mind evidenced a desire that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn.

In recognition of the dignity and privacy which patients have a right to expect, the legislature hereby declares that the laws of the state of Washington shall recognize the right of an adult person to make a written directive instructing such person's physician to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining procedures in the event of a terminal condition.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions contained in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Attending physician" means the physician selected by, or assigned to, the patient who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(2) "Directive" means a written document voluntarily executed by the declarer in accordance with the requirements of section 4 of this act.

(3) "Health facility" means a hospital as defined in RCW 70.38.020(7) or a nursing home as defined in RCW 70.38.020(8).

(4) "Life-sustaining procedure" means any medical or surgical procedure or intervention which utilizes mechanical or other artificial means to sustain, restore, or supplant a vital function, which, when applied to a qualified patient, would serve only to artificially prolong the moment of death and where, in the judgment of the attending physician, death is imminent whether or not such procedures are utilized. "Life-sustaining procedure" shall not include the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to alleviate pain.

(5) "Physician" means a person licensed under chapters 18.71 or 18.57 RCW.

(6) "Qualified patient" means a patient diagnosed and certified in writing to be afflicted with a terminal condition by two physicians one of whom shall be the attending physician, who have personally examined the patient.

(7) "Terminal condition" means an incurable condition caused by injury, disease, or illness, which, regardless of the application of life-sustaining procedures, would, within reasonable medical judgment, produce death, and where the application of life-sustaining procedures serve only to postpone the moment of death of the patient.

(8) "Adult person" means a person attaining the age of majority as defined in RCW 26.28.010 and 26.28.015.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 4. (1) Any adult person may execute a directive directing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures in a terminal condition. The directive shall be signed by the declarer in the presence of two witnesses not related to the declarer by blood or marriage and who would not be entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarer upon declarer's decease under any will of the declarer or codicil thereto then existing or, at the time of the directive, by operation of law then existing. In addition, a witness to a directive shall not be the attending physician, an employee of the attending physician or a health facility in which the declarer is a patient, or any person who has a claim against any portion of the estate of the declarer upon declarer's decease at the time of the execution of the directive. The directive, or a copy thereof, shall be made part of the patient's medical records retained by the attending physician, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the health facility upon the withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures. The directive shall be essentially in the following form, but in addition may include other specific directions:

**DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS**

Directive made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (month, year).

I \_\_\_\_\_, being of sound mind, wilfully, and voluntarily make known my desire that my life shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, and do hereby declare that:

(a) If at any time I should have an incurable injury, disease, or illness certified to be a terminal condition by two physicians, and where the application of life-sustaining procedures would serve only to artificially prolong the moment of my death and where my physician determines that my death is imminent whether or not life-sustaining procedures are utilized, I direct that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die naturally.

(b) In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of such life-sustaining procedures, it is my intention that this directive shall be honored by my family and physician(s) as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and I accept the consequences from such refusal.

(c) If I have been diagnosed as pregnant and that diagnosis is known to my physician, this directive shall have no force or effect during the course of my pregnancy.

(d) I understand the full import of this directive and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this directive.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

City, County, and State of Residence

The declarer has been personally known to me and I believe him or her to be of sound mind.

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Prior to effectuating a directive the diagnosis of a terminal condition by two physicians shall be verified in writing, attached to the directive, and made a permanent part of the patient's medical records.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) A directive may be revoked at any time by the declarer, without regard to declarer's mental state or competency, by any of the following methods:

(a) By being canceled, defaced, obliterated, burned, torn, or otherwise destroyed by the declarer or by some person in declarer's presence and by declarer's direction.

(b) By a written revocation of the declarer expressing declarer's intent to revoke, signed, and dated by the declarer. Such revocation shall become effective only upon communication to the attending physician by the declarer or by a person acting on behalf of the declarer. The attending physician shall record in the patient's medical record the time and date when said physician received notification of the written revocation.

(c) By a verbal expression by the declarer of declarer's intent to revoke the directive. Such revocation shall become effective only upon communication to the attending physician by the declarer or by a person acting on behalf of the declarer. The attending physician shall record in the patient's medical record the time, date, and place of the revocation and the time, date, and place, if different, of when said physician received notification of the revocation.

(2) There shall be no criminal or civil liability on the part of any person for failure to act upon a revocation made pursuant to this section unless that person has actual or constructive knowledge of the revocation.

(3) If the declarer becomes comatose or is rendered incapable of communicating with the attending physician, the directive shall remain in effect for the duration of the comatose condition or until such time as the declarer's condition renders declarer able to communicate with the attending physician.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. No physician or health facility which, acting in good faith in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, causes the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from a qualified patient, shall be subject to civil liability therefrom. No licensed health personnel, acting under the direction of a physician, who participates in good faith in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to any civil liability. No physician, or licensed health personnel acting under the direction

of a physician, who participates in good faith in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of any criminal act or of unprofessional conduct.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 7. (1) Prior to effectuating a withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from a qualified patient pursuant to the directive, the attending physician shall make a reasonable effort to determine that the directive complies with section 4 of this act and, if the patient is mentally competent, that the directive and all steps proposed by the attending physician to be undertaken are currently in accord with the desires of the qualified patient.

(2) The directive shall be conclusively presumed, unless revoked, to be the directions of the patient regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures. No physician, and no licensed health personnel acting in good faith under the direction of a physician, shall be criminally or civilly liable for failing to effectuate the directive of the qualified patient pursuant to this subsection. If the physician refuses to effectuate the directive, such physician shall make a good faith effort to transfer the qualified patient to another physician who will effectuate the directive of the qualified patient.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 8. (1) The withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from a qualified patient pursuant to the patient's directive in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall not, for any purpose, constitute a suicide.

(2) The making of a directive pursuant to section 4 of this act shall not restrict, inhibit, or impair in any manner the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life insurance, nor shall it be deemed to modify the terms of an existing policy of life insurance. No policy of life insurance shall be legally impaired or invalidated in any manner by the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from an insured qualified patient, notwithstanding any term of the policy to the contrary.

(3) No physician, health facility, or other health provider, and no health care service plan, insurer issuing disability insurance, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, or nonprofit hospital service plan, shall require any person to execute a directive as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 9. Any person who wilfully conceals, cancels, defaces, obliterates, or damages the directive of another without such declarer's consent shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Any person who falsifies or forges the directive of another, or wilfully conceals or withholds personal knowledge of a revocation as provided in section 5 of this act with the intent to cause a withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures contrary to the wishes of the declarer, and thereby, because of any

such act, directly causes life-sustaining procedures to be withheld or withdrawn and death to thereby be hastened, shall be subject to prosecution for murder in the first degree as defined in RCW 9A.32.030.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. The act of withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining procedures when done pursuant to a directive described in section 4 of this act and which causes the death of the declarer, shall not be construed to be an intervening force or to affect the chain of proximate cause between the conduct of any person that placed the declarer in a terminal condition and the death of the declarer.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing, or to permit any affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life other than to permit the natural process of dying.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Sections 1 through 11 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Passed the House February 5, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 2, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1979.

## CHAPTER 113

[Substitute House Bill No. 195]

### SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

AN ACT Relating to savings and loan associations; amending section 95, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as amended by section 22, chapter 130, Laws of 1973 and RCW 33.04.020; amending section 10, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 and RCW 33.08.090; amending section 35, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as last amended by section 2, chapter 71, Laws of 1953 and RCW 33.12.060; amending section 28, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 and RCW 33.16.130; amending section 54, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as amended by section 5, chapter 71, Laws of 1953 and RCW 33.20.150; amending section 58, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as last amended by section 7, chapter 246, Laws of 1963 and RCW 33.24.010; amending section 67, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as last amended by section 5, chapter 107, Laws of 1969 and RCW 33.24.100; amending section 69, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as last amended by section 26, chapter 130, Laws of 1973 and RCW 33.24.120; amending section 74, chapter 235, Laws of 1945 as last amended by section 6, chapter 280, Laws of 1959 and RCW 33.24.170; amending section 7, chapter 49, Laws of 1967 as amended by section 24, chapter 130, Laws of 1973 and RCW 33.24.230; amending section 8, chapter 49, Laws of 1967 and RCW 33.24.240; amending section 27, chapter 130, Laws of 1973 and RCW 33.24.295; amending section 2, chapter 130, Laws of 1973 and RCW 33.24.360; amending section 5, chapter 122, Laws of 1955 and RCW 33.48.040; and adding new sections to chapter 33.24 RCW.