



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 2305	House Committee: PASSED 2/3/26 (20-0)
Committee:	Health and Human Services	House Floor:
Floor Manager:	Rep. Michael Bergan	Senate Floor:
Date:	March 5, 2026	Governor:
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (281-7479)	

End-of-Life Decision Making

- This bill makes the following changes regarding end-of-life care:
 - Allows PAs and ARNPs to be attending providers regarding hospice and palliative care
 - Provides a hierarchy of individuals that can approve hospice and palliative care for a comatose patient that has not completed proper paperwork prior to being in a terminal condition

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 (Iowa Code 135J.1)

Revises the definition of “attending physician” to “attending provider” to allow for PAs and ARNPs.

Defines “attorney in fact”, “close adult friend”, “durable power of attorney for health care”, “serious illness”, “terminal condition”, and revises the definition of “palliative care”.

Section 2 (Iowa Code 135J.3)

Conforming code changes based on definition changes in Section 1

Section 3 (Iowa Code 135J.3A) – New Section

Allows a comatose, incompetent or incapable of communicating individual with a terminal condition to be placed in a hospice program by the following individuals in priority order even if the patient had not prior expressed their desire for palliative or hospice care:

1. Patient’s attorney in fact
2. Appointed guardian or majority of the guardians
3. Patient’s spouse
4. Adult child or majority of adult children
5. Parent(s)
6. Adult sibling or majority of adult siblings
7. Majority of the patient’s relatives
8. Close adult friend

Section 4 (Iowa Code 144A.2)

Makes similar definitional changes as section 1 of the bill.

Sections 5-8, 10, 12-16 (Iowa Code 144A.3, 144A.4, 144A.5, 144A.6, 144A.7A, 144A.8, 144B.1, 144B.5, 144B.6, 144C.2)

Conforming change based on allowing for an attending provider rather than attending physician.

Section 9 (Iowa Code 144A.7)

Provides for the same hierarchy of decision makers as Section 3 of the bill for withdrawing life-sustaining procedures. Clarifies that the witness present must be an adult who is not related to the patient and is not a health care provider involved in the patient's care.

Section 11 (Iowa Code 144A.7B) – New Section

Provides for the same hierarchy of decision makers as Section 3 of the bill for withholding resuscitation.

Section 17 (Iowa Code 633.635)

Allows a guardian to complete the duties in this bill without court approval regarding hospice care, withdrawing life-saving procedures, and DNR unless there is a court order otherwise.

Amendment Analysis

H-8020 by Bergan – Makes technical corrections to ensure PAs and ARNPs are listed in all locations, clarifies that it only applies to adult relatives, and strikes provisions related to the witness. **Revises the title.**